



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

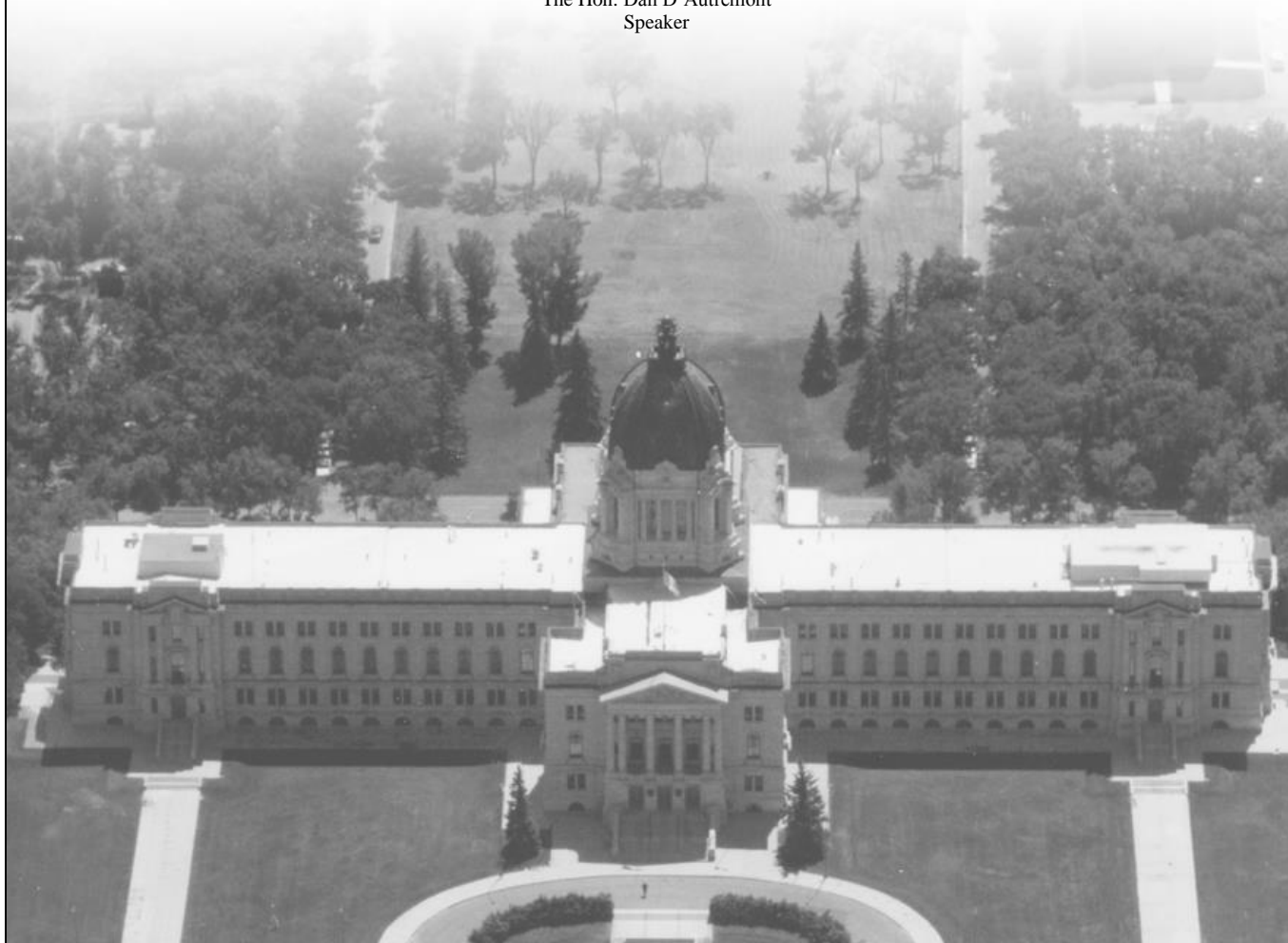
of the

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
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Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
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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]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of guests are seated in your gallery and it is my pleasure to introduce a very special guest, His Excellency Vadym Prystaiko, ambassador of Ukraine to Canada. Mr. Prystaiko was born in the southern Ukraine oblast of Odessa but spent most of his life in Kiev, where he received a master's degree from the Ukrainian Academy of Foreign Trade. Before he became a diplomat, he was co-founder of one of the first Ukrainian Internet providers and electronic media outlets called Electronni Visti.

In 1994 he accepted a position with the Ukrainian government, following in his family's long tradition of public service. Since then Mr. Prystaiko has served in diplomatic positions in both the United States and Australia and as deputy director general of NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was first appointed the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada in November of 2012. And, Mr. Speaker, this is his first actual visit to Saskatchewan, even though I can tell the members in this Assembly that he has participated by way of conference call with my advisory committee once before.

And now we're very, very pleased to have him in the Assembly. Also seated beside him is Mr. Gerald Luciuk who is the Chair of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations advisory committee. I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming His Excellency to Saskatchewan as well as Mr. Luciuk.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Deputy Premier in extending a welcome to His Excellency as well as Mr. Luciuk, and to thank His Excellency for the work that he has been doing on behalf of the people of Ukraine but also of the important work that he has been doing in sharing information and communicating with the people of Canada. And as we've all watched very closely our TV screens, as we're concerned about what is happening in Ukraine, I know His Excellency has done a fine job in speaking through the media in clearly expressing the views of his country, the views of his government and doing it with such great conviction.

And I do want to compliment His Excellency on that and let him know that everyone in the province is concerned about the future of Ukraine. We all stand united with our allies in Western Europe for a peaceful and democratic future for the country of Ukraine, and thank His Excellency for the work in fostering that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I would like to recognize this year's Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship recipients seated in your gallery. For the past four years, the Ministry of Agriculture has offered the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship to grade 12 students and recent graduates who are pursuing agriculture-related post-secondary education. Each year a variety of talented youth with bright futures in the agriculture industry apply, and this year was no different.

We received 33 applications and the Ministry of Agriculture staff had the difficult task of choosing one winner and three runners-up. I would ask the scholarship winners to please wave as I announce their names.

Josée Monvoisin of Gravelbourg has been awarded the grand prize scholarship. Josée submitted a video about her family farm, along with other farmers and ranchers are growing safe, healthy food in an environmentally friendly way. In the fall, Josée will begin a Bachelor of Science program in agribusiness at the University of Saskatchewan. As winner of this scholarship, Josée will be awarded \$4,000 to help with her studies.

Three runner-up scholarships valued at \$2,000 each were also awarded to Sara Grassick, Miranda Heidecker, and Hannah Friesen. Sara Grassick of Prince Albert lives on a mixed farm with both cattle and grain. For her scholarship application, Sara submitted a video about how the agriculture industry is a foundation of opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Miranda Heidecker is from Middle Lake. For her submission, Miranda wrote about sustainable agriculture that makes us a global leader in feeding the world.

And last, we have Hannah Friesen from Laird. Like Sara, Hannah chose to submit an essay about agriculture as the foundation of opportunity in our province.

Mr. Speaker, all of these students have shown pride in the agriculture industry with their willingness to speak up about what makes it one of the best industries in the province. I'm sure that each of these students have bright futures ahead of them. Thank you to all of the scholarship winners for your hard work, dedication, and passion for agriculture. I look forward to hearing of your contributions to this exciting industry in the coming years. I would ask all members to join me as I congratulate this year's Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship winners, wish them all the best in their future endeavours, and welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you to the rest of the Legislative Assembly and on behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to extend my congratulations to these four young women who have successfully received these scholarships, and particularly to Josée Monvoisin — félicitations — from Gravelbourg is very near to my hometown of Lafleche. So I know that country very well, and some great farming goes on down there. The folks from French Canada certainly know how to farm. So I'm sure that the scholarship will be well used on her part.

And for Sara, Miranda, and Hannah as well, it's nice to see four young women representing the youth and the young farmers of Saskatchewan and I am very certain that you will do an excellent job as you go forward into your chosen career in agriculture. So on behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to welcome all of you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce, in the west gallery, 54 grade 5 students from St. Luke School. For those of you that are not familiar with that area, St. Luke School is actually about five doors down from where Sandy and I live, and these students, a lot of them, walk past my house. So I met with them earlier today. They were exceptionally polite, courteous, shook hands, and we were able to give them a bit of a brief tour around the building. Mr. Speaker, these are not only good-looking students, but they're exceptionally bright and hard-working.

They are joined today by their teachers, Curtis Wagner and Cari Karakochuk, and a number of parent chaperones: Leslie Schriener, Colette Berg, Colette Janes, Jason Deline, Lorne Knihniski, Karen Johnson, Patti Glow-Meyer, Albie Malan, Janice Fox, Sandra Weinheimer, Sheri Lerat, Rob Hurd, and Carol Mailloux.

Mr. Speaker, I told these folks earlier that this is their legislature, that they are citizens of Saskatoon, owners of this. And I would like to ask all members to welcome them to their legislature today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had a lot of special guests in this Assembly over the years, but I don't think any more special than I have here today. Mr. Speaker, I have three fantastic moms that have joined us and a brand new young son, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome to this Assembly, seated in your gallery, Stephanie, my wife, who many of you know, who of course is so important in everything within our family and our life; as well my mother, Faye Wotherspoon who's been introduced before; and my mother-in-law, Barb Willows. But I am particularly proud today to introduce William Gregory Craik Wotherspoon to the Assembly at only seven days old here today. I ask all members to welcome my son to his Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you, I'd like to introduce some special guests in the legislature today. First I'd like to introduce Carla Fenton Katchmar. Carla has been very prominent in the media recently, getting signatures on a petition to create better treatment for youth who are addicted to drugs. Her daughter Chantaey had died at an overdose at the age of 16.

Attending with her today are good friends Christine Devine, Shreya Shah, Yvonne Estey and her son Justin and his girlfriend, Wray Griffiths. And they are here to watch their petition be presented today. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Carla and her friends here to their legislature. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, I'd like to introduce two individuals who are important particularly to one of the Pages here in the Assembly. That would be Wes and Candace Topal from Fort Qu'Appelle that are here today. And they're observing some of the final days of their son's service as a Page.

They can be very proud of their son. I know that Dylan Topal has certainly proven himself a diligent young man, a thoughtful young man with a great sense of humour, and certainly a bright future ahead of him. So I ask all members to welcome Wes and Candace Topal to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater services for young people dealing with addictions. And this has been a major issue for folks right across the province as they come to terms with how they can serve young people better. I'd like to read the petition:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: the definition of child in provincial legislation limits the ability of law enforcement and social service agencies to intervene to help children between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age. The result is that parents are often unable to assist teenagers with serious addiction problems because their children decline voluntary help.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan take the necessary steps and actions to improve access to addiction programs for children between the ages of 16 and 18 years, including extending the power toward involuntary committals at treatment facilities and extending the time for involuntary treatment.

I do so present. Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition are right across this province, largely in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, right across the province. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the lack of safety on Dewdney Avenue. They're calling on this government to fix a problem that that government created. They're calling on that government to act immediately, as any further delays, they note, are entirely unacceptable, placing people and lives at risk. The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina, actually in this case all located directly on Dewdney Avenue. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the 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 this 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again standing today to present a petition to build a second bridge from Prince Albert. And, Mr. Speaker, we have presented petition after petition, day after day, and the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to guarantee that a second bridge that serves central and northern Saskatchewan, as well as the city of Prince Albert, will receive a commitment from

senior governments.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the most amazing thing about this petition I'm presenting page after page here today, is that the number of support that they're getting from a number of communities. And people that have signed the petition include Carrot River, Saskatoon, Rosetown, Humboldt, La Ronge, Wadena, Herschel, and the list goes on and on. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to present this petition calling for a second bridge for Prince Albert.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present a petition today for a residents-in-care bill of rights. The signatures recognize or acknowledge that residents in care have the right to dignity, respect, and safety; that residents in care deserve basic guarantees of the quality of care they ought to receive; that residents in care have the right to individualized care that meets or exceeds minimum quality of care standards; that it is the responsibility of the provincial government to ensure consistent standards of care in facilities throughout Saskatchewan; and that requiring each care home to post a residents-in-care bill of rights will guarantee that senior residents have individualized care plans and minimum quality of care standards.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan adopt Bill 606, *The Residents-in-care Bill of Rights Act*, which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with the right to quality, high-level standards of care in seniors' care homes.

I so submit, Mr. Speaker. And this petition is signed by individuals from across the province, but Carrot River, Hepburn, Kindersley, Herschel, Indian Head, Nipawin, Saskatoon, and Tisdale are just a few of the places, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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 east of Regina. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that the 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.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners:

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 No. 1 between Regina and Balgonie, (2) immediately reduce speed limits to appropriate levels within this corridor, and (3) take

steps to ensure that the speed limits are enforced.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is the latest instalment of a great number of petitions that have been signed. This one in particular has been signed by citizens from Regina, Emerald Park, White City, Pilot Butte, Glenavon, Moose Jaw, Balgonie, Edenwold, Carlyle, Lumsden, Qu'Appelle, Leslie, Odessa, Montmartre, Fernwood, Melville, Chaplin, Grayson, and Zehner. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition opposed to the correctional service job privatization. There are a number of jobs within the correctional service right now in the food services but also in some other areas where there is concern that these jobs will be privatized. And so in this petition:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan may be pleased to cause the government to cancel its privatization in the corrections and young offender facilities in Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am rising to present a petition which is opposed to government cuts to the harness racing industry. And the undersigned residents wish to bring to your attention the following: in 2012 the government stubbornly cut the grants for Yorkton's harness racing industry, and the government has failed to properly listen or consult with the residents of Yorkton. The government's cuts towards harness racing will continue to negatively impact breeders, trainers, and other employees as well as destructively impact the economic spinoffs of the horse racing industry. These cuts will continue to have a great negative economic impact on the city of Yorkton and the surrounding communities. The prayer reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan may be pleased to call on the government to immediately reinstate the grant funding for harness racing in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's over 1,000 signatures on this petition that I'm submitting today, and this is from people mainly from the Yorkton area but definitely from the communities surrounding Yorkton. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatoon School Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the history of an important school in my constituency, Buena Vista School. It turns 100 this year and to

celebrate, the community has planned a three-day celebration.

The school has a long history starting in 1910 when the Saskatoon School Board purchased a city block in the new Buena Vista neighbourhood. In March of 1912, a petition came from the community for a school to be built on that location, and by October of the same year the school board had agreed. Architect David Webster and contractors Shannon Brothers and Cassidy were hired to build the historic 12-room school.

The cornerstone was laid on June 1913 by W.P. Bate, secretary of the board, and in April 1914, only two years after the petition, Buena Vista School opened with six rooms in operation. The space was expanded in September with two more classrooms for students, and another four rooms that were rented to the Normal School. William H. Holliston was the very first principal at Buena Vista and remained at the post for more than 25 years.

I'm looking forward to celebrating Buena Vista School's centennial celebrations, including school performances, a 100th anniversary program with band and choir, and I have the honour of being among the special guests. An old-fashioned carnival, antique auto show, children's activities, and horse and buggy rides are also in the lineup for the three-day event.

I'm pleased to be part of the Buena Vista centennial and ask all members to join me in congratulating the students, teachers, and administrators for recognizing 100 years of colourful history at Buena Vista elementary school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hopes for a Peaceful Resolution in Ukraine

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada to our legislature today.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine has recently been in crisis, fighting for its identity and survival against Russian invasion and infiltration. On May 25th the country will hold an important presidential election in hope of moving towards a peaceful resolution.

Mr. Prystaiko's visit to Saskatchewan during this critical time in Ukraine demonstrates the importance of our province's relationship with his country. While here, Mr. Prystaiko will speak to the Saskatchewan Ukrainian community and meet with several government organizations. His visit will allow Saskatchewan residents to learn the latest about the situation in Ukraine. It will also give us a chance to reaffirm our support for that country.

Saskatchewan has extremely close ties and an important shared history with Ukraine. In the early 20th century, many Ukrainian people braved the ocean to start new lives in our province. Today around 13 per cent of Saskatchewan's population is of Ukrainian ancestry.

Since 1990 our province has signed 14 various agreements with

Ukraine and also established the Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations advisory committee. Mr. Speaker, in March we also provided \$60,000 for humanitarian assistance. We look forward to continuing to work with His Excellency and the Ukrainian community to support the people of Ukraine towards a peaceful resolution.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Regina Runner Coordinates Royal Road Race

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise and recognize and thank Ted Jaleta for his leadership in coordinating this past weekend's fourth annual Royal Road Race.

The Royal Road Race is a family event that promotes wellness and the sport of running, and the proceeds go to local charities. Hundreds of people participate in the family fun run, the 5-kilometre fun run, and the 10-kilometre road race on Mother's Day weekend each year. Ted's competitive running club, the Jaleta Pacers, partner with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] to hold this event. This year's race was another great success and raised \$24,000-plus to go towards Chili for Children and the Regina United Way, two very worthy causes.

This is one more example of the incredible leadership of Ted Jaleta and the Jaleta Pacers throughout the community here in Regina and beyond. Jaleta's active participation and role in coordinating community events better the quality of life for Saskatchewan citizens. Not only that — gathering in our communities for events like the Royal Road Race increases the opportunity for engagement of children, youth, and families in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say thank you to the event sponsors, volunteers, and the RCMP for contributing to its success. In particular I'd like to recognize the Royal Road Race planning community and the Jaleta Pacers for their commitment to fostering inclusive opportunities. And finally I want to say a very special word of thanks to Ted Jaleta. I thank him for not just being an athletic legend here in Saskatchewan, I thank him for his leadership and its expression through events such as the Royal Road Race and the Pacers. And I thank him for being a living, breathing, inspiring embodiment of the spirit of Saskatchewan's motto, "from many peoples, strength." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Yorkton Youth Honorary Chair of Gutsy Walk

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize a special young man in my constituency. Andrew Ross, an 11-year-old from Yorkton, is the honorary Chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Canada's Gutsy Walk in Regina coming up on June 8th.

Andrew was diagnosed with Crohn's when he was only 18 months old. Despite his age, Andrew has been making a large

impact in tearing down the stigma surrounding Crohn's and colitis. He and his family have raised more than \$20,000 in the past five years. Andrew says that while it is sometimes hard to live with Crohn's disease, he still feels very lucky that he can be active and never has had any surgeries or spent long periods of time in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, we look up to citizens like Andrew for taking such initiative to raise awareness and funds for research to help better the lives of those it affects. According to Crohn's and Colitis Canada, there are more than 233,000 Canadians living with Crohn's and colitis, about half with each.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members of the Assembly to join me in recognizing the efforts of young Andrew Ross and wish him success as the honorary Chair of the upcoming Gutsy Walk in Regina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Tourism Leader Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Ms. Jurgens: — I am honoured to rise in the House today to recognize a constituent and friend of mine, Ms. Mona Selanders. Mona was named the inaugural recipient of the Prince Albert Tourism and Marketing Bureau Lifetime Achievement Award last Friday.

Despite only being a resident of Prince Albert for 16 years, Mona has had a tremendous impact on the community. In addition to her day job as general manager of the Prince Albert Travelodge, Mona has long served the city's tourism centre, leading the organization in its many different forms over the years. Mona was also instrumental in forming the Destination Marketing Fund which has been key to attracting a number of significant events in recent years, bringing millions worth of economic spinoff into the area.

Mona is a tremendous leader and ambassador for the city of Prince Albert. We are so lucky to have her in our community. Her passion for tourism, vision for the future, and ability to see potential where others may not are just a few of the qualities that make her so special. Here is a good example. One year, on Remembrance Day weekend, a young hockey team was staying at the Travelodge. They were getting on the bus for their game when Mona stopped their coach and said, "It's Remembrance Day. They can't show up without poppies." She stood at the door with a bucket of poppies and pinned one on each player as they left the hotel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mona Selanders on her well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award and thank her for being such an excellent ambassador for Prince Albert and Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Saskatchewan Athlete in Training for Paralympics

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to acknowledge the grandchild of two of my

constituents, Leroy and Carol DeMong of Cudworth. Their grandson, Mitch Bossaer, was born and raised in Saskatoon and currently is a student at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Mitch's goal is to make it on Team Canada for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Speaker, even at the young age of eight, Mitch knew that he wanted to play basketball. He was enrolled in Saskatoon Minor Basketball Association until the age of 13 when he was diagnosed with cancer. As part of his treatment his leg had to be amputated, but this did not diminish his passion for basketball.

He was later introduced to the wheelchair basketball community where he quickly became a star player. Mitch has played with the Saskatchewan team in the 2011 Canadian Winter Games. He played for the Canadian under-23 team in the World Junior Championships in Turkey and was also on the team that won gold in Mexico City, qualifying for the world championships. More recently he played for the Saskatchewan team at the 2014 Junior National Championships, where they took home the gold.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mitch Bossaer on his many accomplishments, and wish him luck as he trains to be selected for the national team for the 2016 Paralympics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Remote Presence Technology Pilot Project

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our government announced a new, pioneering way to deliver health services to remote communities. A remote presence technology pilot project will be launched in Pelican Narrows to help improve access to timely health care for patients. This technology is an advanced robotics telemedicine platform. It enables a physician or specialist to instantly connect with a patient remotely and perform real time assessment, diagnosis, and patient management.

Mr. Speaker, our government is pleased to provide \$250,000 in funding to introduce remote presence technology as a two-year pilot in Pelican Narrows. This pioneering technology will virtually eliminate distance and time barriers. It will bring health care to patients within their own community. This is especially important in rural and remote areas like Pelican Narrows.

[14:00]

Dr. Mendez, unified head of the department of surgery at the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Health Region, will lead the Pelican Narrows pilot to partnership with northern medical services and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. Dr. Mendez brings a wealth of experience in the health care field and is a pioneer in using remote presence technology in Canada.

I want to thank all the partners for engaging in a project that will truly benefit people in northern Saskatchewan. Initiatives like this will help us build a responsive, more accessible patient-centred health care system. Our government will

continue to promote innovative health care solutions and improve access to quality care for people in our province, no matter where they live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

University of Saskatchewan Review Process

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moments before question period, the Premier and I both received an email from the executive director of the school of public health at the University of Saskatchewan. In his email, he raises very significant concerns about what is happening at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. And he writes, "Hopefully the board and the province's political leaders will ask probing questions and ensure that due process is followed."

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: has he read the email? Does he share Dr. Buckingham's concerns? And is he finally willing to ask some probing questions about what is happening at the University of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that the University of Saskatchewan is one of the best-funded, in fact it is the best-funded medical doctoral universities in the country. And, Mr. Speaker, what we also know, as an independent medical doctoral university, is that key issues of organization and renewal are the purview of the University of Saskatchewan.

To ask a very legitimate question about our level of engagement regarding TransformUS, that is this process of renewal, we have been engaged as appropriate in dialogue, in discussion for months. Certainly issues around accreditation, especially accreditation regarding health sciences and health services have been part of an ongoing dialogue and discussion. We have received reassurance from the board Chair and from the president that accreditation is not an issue under the reorganization. In fact what we've been given word is that we're going to see the strengthening of the health sciences and health services as a result. Thank you, sir.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to be listening to all of the respective voices that are coming from campus. And here's what the executive director of the school of public health has to say:

In December 2013 the president of the University of Saskatchewan called a meeting of the senior leadership team (deans and vice-presidents) to discuss the TransformUS process. Her remarks were to the point: she expected her senior leaders to not "publicly disagree with the process or findings of TransformUS;" she added that if we did our "tenure would be short." With that meeting there was the "silence of the deans." Never in my 40 years of academic life have I seen academics being told that they

could not speak out and debate issues.

This is incredibly concerning to me. Does this concern the Premier?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a recent email from the president of the University of Saskatchewan, I'll just quote directly because it relates to these very questions. Again they're legitimate questions, fair questions. The president says:

Nothing is decided until it goes through our governance bodies. This is an internal matter that the university must manage, that we believe the restructuring will make health care provision better, not worse, and that it will force better accountability and collaboration and that we would . . . never jeopardize accreditation.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Dr. Buckingham says in his email, "Never in my 40 years of academic life have I seen academics being told that they could not speak out and debate issues."

The executive director of the school of public health of the University of Saskatchewan is speaking out because he and many of his colleagues throughout the university have major concerns with what is happening at the U of S. He says:

Major changes with long-term ramifications have been planned behind closed doors, with little or no opportunity for faculty or students to respond. The major recommendations have been released in May when some of our faculty and most of our students are not even on campus.

Again, this is incredibly concerning to me, and it ought to be of major concern to the Premier. And I agree with Dr. Buckingham that it's important for political leaders to be asking probing questions and to ensure that due process is followed. So again my question to the Premier: is he concerned, and will he start asking probing questions that demand to be asked?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I think, importantly to the member's premise of the question, we've been engaged in questions and conversation and dialogue for many months regarding TransformUS. This email comes from the board Chair. It says:

School of Public Health. It is the program that receives accreditation and that is not influenced by a reporting structure, therefore the School of Public Health can control its own accreditation, no matter where it is housed. A comparative example is the School of Physical Therapy. While they may report administratively to the College of

Medicine, there is no impact on accreditation.

She goes on to say, "There is no reputational or accreditation risk to a change in the reporting structure and, as a result, no implications to the health service delivery in our province." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the school of public health at the U of S is an incredible success story. In five years, its enrolment has gone from 17 students to 238. It has the largest international student body of a school of public health in Canada, and in January of this year it became the first school of public health in North America to receive international accreditation for its master's program.

But Dr. Buckingham says, "Much of what has been built over the last five years is threatened by the TransformUS plan to place the School of Public Health under the College of Medicine." Coming from the executive director who has built the school with his colleagues over the last five years and who is an expert on its accreditation, this is hugely concerning to me. My question to the Premier: is it a concern for him?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government invests this year more than \$350 million in the University of Saskatchewan. Since assuming government, having the privilege of assuming government, we've seen an increase of 65 per cent to the University of Saskatchewan's operating increase and operating budget.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that it's not simply rhetoric, but reality. This government cares deeply about our students, about our researchers, and about our faculty. We have been engaged in dialogue, discussion, and discourse with the university administration and with stakeholders right across that campus. Mr. Speaker, again to quote the board Chair: "There is no reputational or accreditation risk to a change in the reporting structure and, as a result, no implications to the health service delivery in our province."

Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to support the University of Saskatchewan. We'll also continue to support the independence of the University of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about the long-term well-being and future of campus. Dr. Buckingham received an email at the end of April from university leadership saying:

You are in an especially tough position and are subject to the expectation the president has of all leaders, that you will support TransformUS and the university's messaging.

My expectation is that there will be no mention in public or to government that changes to our internal structures will endanger anyone's accreditation.

So Dr. Buckingham, who's worked with his colleagues, worked with staff, worked with students to build a highly reputable school of public health, Mr. Speaker, the first in North America to receive international accreditation, yet Dr. Buckingham is now being told to shut up and to not express concerns to public or to government about the likely consequences of the TransformUS process. I don't think that's acceptable, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I think that's outrageous.

My question to the Premier: does he think that's acceptable, or does he share my very deep concern about this?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again the University of Saskatchewan is the best-funded medical doctoral university in the country per student. Mr. Speaker, we've seen a 65 per cent increase in funding under this government. In fact this year alone, we will invest more than \$350 million a year in the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, what I will reassure people is that we have been in dialogue and discourse and conversation, including questions, Mr. Speaker. And again to quote the president: "This will never jeopardize accreditation. That is the process."

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raises a very interesting question. What we do know about the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, when they were in government, when they were in government, when it came to the University of Saskatchewan and the success of students, they didn't make it any easier by having a 175 per cent increase in tuition, Mr. Speaker. That's their track record, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue with record investments at the University of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can go on and on if he wants but the question was whether or not this government thinks it's acceptable that academics would be told to shut up and to not speak to the public or to government.

This government had no problems expressing its concerns when things were going on at the University of Regina. So it's baffling why it refuses to express any sort of concern with what is happening at the University of Saskatchewan, especially when well-respected academics like Dr. Eric Howe, like Dr. Jim Miller, and now Dr. Robert Buckingham are raising major concerns.

And now we have confirmation, Mr. Speaker, that debate is being stifled and academics are being told to shut up and to not raise concerns. My question for the Premier: what will it take, what will it take for this Premier to express concern about what is going on at the University of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, this government has a track

record of making sure that we're investing in the University of Saskatchewan as well as \$5.5 billion of investment right across our post-secondary sector. In fact, Mr. Speaker, what we're working to do is make sure that we are attuned to and making sure that we remain in dialogue with the University of Saskatchewan.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'll quote from the board Chair, and that is regarding the issue of TransformUS and medical accreditation: "These changes simply reduce costs by combining administrative function, and that would be consistent with our expectations as a board."

Mr. Speaker, what I do have concerns about, Mr. Speaker, is when the member opposite begins to offer opinions about the operations of the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we all have a vested interest in the success of this institution. That's why we're investing record investments, a 65 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. The questions are fair and valid; the premise that we are not concerned or engaged, simply incorrect.

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

Support for Addicted Youth

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, Chantaey Katchmar was 16 years old when she died from an overdose in July 2012. Her mother, Carla, has joined us today along with family and friends. Because of her tragic experience, Carla has had many thoughts to share with this government about how to prevent youth addictions and how to help young people who are struggling with addictions.

Carla's had a difficult time getting a meeting with the mental health and addictions commissioner, but I think she deserves to be heard. To the Minister of Health: will he meet with Carla today to hear her thoughts? And will he also ensure that Carla gets a one-on-one meeting with the mental health and addictions commissioner?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, I want to express my sympathy to the family in this case. Certainly I know personally the devastation that addictions can cause to a family and what that means for a family.

Mr. Speaker, I can say today that both myself, I believe the Minister of Social Services, will meet with the family if they so want to meet with us. As well, we will be putting in a call to the commissioner. We've often referred, after meetings in the last six months, in meeting with families and other providers regarding mental health and addictions, we've often referred them to meet with the commissioner because we do want that input. And certainly I would extend that offer as well and be contacting the commissioner about this case as well.

[14:15]

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

Funding for Meewasin Valley Authority

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, our province's urban parks conserve and protect the natural environment in the hearts of our cities, but this government is underfunding them. We've heard significant concerns about the implications of this underfunding on the Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon.

The authority states that funding has declined from \$33 to \$9 per capita, making it impossible to keep up with the needs of a rapidly growing city. Because of the funding crunch created by this government's underfunding, the MVA [Meewasin Valley Authority] has had to make substantive cuts. To the minister: why is this government failing to properly fund our urban parks like the Meewasin Valley Authority?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for the question. We discussed this during our estimates earlier this year and had a discussion about the funding of the seven urban parks in the province of Saskatchewan.

As members will know, this government has a statutory responsibility for funding Meewasin Valley Authority in the city of Saskatoon. We've maintained that statutory funding on a consistent basis since coming to office, Mr. Speaker. As well, since 2010 this government has provided \$1.9 million in additional capital funding for trails building through the Meewasin Valley Authority, which the hon. member never seems to refer to when talking about funding for the Meewasin Valley Authority, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that the Act stipulates that statutory funding be reviewed every five years for these urban parks in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That will take place later this year.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, Paul Hanley wrote in today's *StarPhoenix*, and he said:

If we want to maintain Meewasin, it is important that statutory funding be increased. The city and the university have implemented small funding increases this year, but the province has not.

Mr. Speaker, as Hanley says, Meewasin boosts an incredible value to Saskatoon's culture and conservation efforts. And the ROI [return on investment] is significant; the return to taxpayers has been 5 to 1. But why is this minister walking away, yet again, from another great return on investment for the taxpayers of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, I think, in response to the question from the hon. member, this is exactly the line of

questioning we had during estimates. I would point out, in the same article that the hon. member refers to by Mr. Hanley, he also says:

With just 18 per cent coming from local tax dollars [that being in Saskatoon property taxpayers, Mr. Speaker], the return to Saskatoon taxpayers has been five to one.

I would remind the hon. member that since this government has taken office and introduced revenue sharing with the urban and rural municipalities in this province, Mr. Speaker, that this government has increased funding to the city of Saskatoon by 159 per cent while maintaining our statutory funding responsibilities to the urban parks and massively increasing our investment in provincial parks in this province, Mr. Speaker. We stand by our record with the \$1.9 million in additional funding to the Meewasin Valley Authority for the trail building in that particular area, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Well, Mr. Speaker, yet again, it sounds like this government is not ready for growth, it's ready for more excuses. Over 1 million people per year visit the beautiful 64-kilometre Meewasin trail system in Saskatoon. This is an incredibly valuable urban park. The CEO [chief executive officer] of the MVA, Lloyd Isaak, has expressed concerns that the MVA's mandate, which is a provincial legislative mandate to conserve and protect the natural environment in the heart of Saskatoon, is stymied by this government's refusal to step up to the plate.

To the minister: why has this government flatlined funding for the Meewasin Valley Authority for the last four years?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if anybody knows about flatlining funding to our urban parks in this province, it's the NDP [New Democratic Party]. In the last seven years of their time in office, Mr. Speaker, they did not increase urban park funding by so much as a dime. In the last seven years, Mr. Speaker, we have increased funding to our urban parks, Meewasin Valley Authority in particular, by over 48 per cent, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how she equates that to flatlining.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, we have increased revenue sharing to the city of Saskatoon, that particular municipality that benefits the most from the beauty of the Meewasin Valley trails, by some 159 per cent over the last seven years, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, we have provided \$1.9 million in capital funding for the construction of trails with the Meewasin Valley Authority, Mr. Speaker. I think that's not flatlining.

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

Activities of Community-Based Organizations

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the cabinet committee on CBOs, community-based organizations, recently did a review of government processes related to agreements

with CBOs and is now requiring CBOs to actually have policies and guidelines in place in regard to political activities. Could the Minister of Social Services outline if there were any specific problems that led to this requirement for CBOs to have political activity policies in place?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very delighted to be able to talk about our community-based organizations and the great work that they do right across the province, whether it's in the ministry that I'm responsible for or Health or the other human services ministries. Mr. Speaker, we can't do what the community-based organizations do. On the ground, they have a chance to deal with people first hands-on and know their unique situations.

Mr. Speaker, I think when it comes to community-based organizations, we're always making sure that they can provide the information not only to us but for the citizens of the province when it comes to whatever program that we've been talking about. Mr. Speaker, we've had the chance in the last number of years to meet with many of them. We have well over 200 community-based organizations in the province. Just about \$400 million is spent on those CBOs, and they do a great job when it comes to dealing with people with disability, our children in care, our seniors. And, Mr. Speaker, I've got to tell you, as a province, we thank them wholeheartedly for the work that they do.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Social Services agree that it would be highly inappropriate to ask a community-based organization to use its resources to support a political party or an individual candidate?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not really sure where the member opposite is coming from. I know that CBOs have a task to do, that they are, that their work is for individuals on the ground. I'm not really sure if there's a political purpose with that.

But I assure you that when it comes to making sure that our vulnerable individuals are looked after, regardless of the party that is in government in this House, I think that we would ensure that their work is to look at everybody across the province. We won't put a political hat on anybody.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. The Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre receives provincial government funding, and it therefore follows very strict rules about how it uses that funding. And the food bank is also a charity, so it also has to follow strict rules that are laid out by the Canada Revenue Agency to not use its resources for political purposes.

But we recently have learned that the Sask Party was involved in asking the Saskatoon Food Bank to use its resources to support the election campaign for the member of Saskatoon

Sutherland by paying him during the campaign period. Wisely, the food bank refused to do that, but it is incredibly concerning that they were even asked to do that. To the minister: will she agree that an independent investigation is needed into this matter?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, the allegation he has just brought up is something that of course we would be concerned about. But at the same time, Mr. Speaker, we know the good work that they are doing. I've had an opportunity to meet with the CEO of the food bank here in Regina and talk about not only the work that they're doing for people that are using the food bank but the added opportunities to talk about skills and training.

Mr. Speaker, there are individuals on both sides of the House — but I can tell you specifically on this side of the House — that are really concerned about it and have a passion for ensuring that work happens for our vulnerable individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I know that we all have friends on one side of the ... In various organizations, the community-based organizations that we rely on, this government, are lots of times are not only our friends but they are our family members, and we have the opportunity to work with them.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of questions that I'm sure the member opposite would like to ask, from using everything as a political football, as he normally does. But my question to him is making sure that the services that are provided for people that are vulnerable are something that they are providing. That's my goal, and it's the goal of every member on this side of the House.

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

Mr. Forbes: — I think, Mr. Speaker, the question when it speaks to transparency and accountability and ethics of this House is, does she think that this deserves or warrants an investigation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — We're going to take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Health Care and the Lean Initiative

Ms. Chartier: — In the basic criteria for a contract with John Black, the \$40 million US-based [United States] consultant, requires the development and implementation of a policy for anchor draggers. It's right on his website, Mr. Speaker, and it's listed as a requirement for any organization with whom John Black has a contract. To the minister: what is an anchor dragger?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Many people would assume that that would be an NDP government, but that's not the case in this respect. I know the members opposite have brought up a number of things in relation to the John Black contract and what John Black asked for in terms of what's the information on his website. We've been able to, I think, talk publicly and talk with the members opposite that a number of the things that they've brought up in terms of the JBA [John Black and Associates] contract actually haven't taken place here in Saskatchewan. With respect to this, I'm not aware that this term is used in our contract or has ever been used in Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Chartier: — We know that one of the biggest problems with the Premier's lean pet project is the fact that many health care workers are afraid to speak out because of the culture of intimidation over lean, and that is because this government is treating them like anchor draggers. In his book, John Black says dealing with anchor draggers is an essential step for implementing lean. It's number 11 of the 13 steps that John Black says are essential to lean implementation. He writes:

Deal with excess people at the onset. Devise a growth strategy, and remove the anchor-draggers and managers who won't give new ideas a fair trial. Recognize the early leaders who can change others.

To the minister: how can he justify this kind of treatment of our hard-working and dedicated health care professionals?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly talk to our growth strategy within the Ministry of Health and the entire health care system: for the first time ever, Mr. Speaker, 11,000 RNs [registered nurse] licensed to work in the province — the first time we've ever in fact been over 10,000, Mr. Speaker, well over 1,000 under this term of this government being in office — 423 more physicians practising in Saskatchewan. That's about the Saskatchewan growth plan when it comes to health care, a 24 per cent increase in just seven years.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've talked a lot about some of the work, the good work that lean has accomplished. This was just put out a week ago by Sunrise Health Region with respect to mental health services, which I think are important. Some of the work of lean, this has been the results: they reduced patient treatment appointment wait-lists from over 100 in the months prior to lean being implemented down to 18 and now down to zero, a wait-list of zero. They reduced quality defects by 58 per cent in notes being transcribed. These are just two examples, and there are much, much more examples of where lean is being effective in the health care system.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 99, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered 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 consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 99, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 99 — *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 99, *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

[14:30]

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Crown and Central Agencies.

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. 134, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2014*

without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered 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 consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 134, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 134, *The Financial Administration Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Crown and Central Agencies.

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. 135, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 135, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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. 135, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Social Services has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it gives me great pleasure to introduce a school group from my hometown of Kelvington. We have 17 grade 4 students from the Robert Melrose Elementary School in Kelvington that have driven here today. I know it's a two and three-quarter hour drive and I'm really delighted to see you here today.

With them is their teachers, Monique Gollings and Jessica Welder, and we have parent chaperones Jelaine Donald, Ken Radke, Sara McChesney, David Mennie, Kelly Onyskiw, Dion Patenaude, Kelsey Robinson, Denita Taniskishayinew, Tracey Ziola, and Troy Lockie. I'm going to be really delighted to meet with you in a few minutes and answer any questions you may have. And welcome to your legislature. I'm asking all my

colleagues to join with me and asking them to welcome you to your legislature here in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask for leave to move a motion for an address to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move a motion regarding the Information and Privacy Commissioner. No, introductions? Okay, to do introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Me? I didn't hear what you said. Well thank you, Mr. Government House Leader, for giving me the opportunity to introduce guests.

We have seated in the Speaker's gallery Mr. Ron Kruzeniski and his wife, Yvonne, and unseen by members is his second best friend, Dane. Mr. Kruzeniski is the recommendation of the Board of Internal Economy to the appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. I would ask all members to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask for leave to move a motion for an address to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave for a motion of address to the Lieutenant Governor, which is what I was expecting earlier. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Appointment of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor recommending that the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoint Mr. Ronald J. Kruzeniski, Q.C., S.V.M., of the city of Regina in the province of Saskatchewan, as Information and Privacy Commissioner pursuant to section 38 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor recommending that the Lieutenant

Governor in Council appoint Mr. Ronald J. Kruzeniski, Q.C., S.V.M., of the city of Regina in the province of Saskatchewan, as Information and Privacy Commissioner pursuant to section 38 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 347 through 352.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 347 through 352. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 353 through 356.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 353 through 356. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 357 through 401.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 357 through 401.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 139 — *The Election Amendment Act, 2014*

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2014*. Mr. Speaker, this bill will implement a series of amendments proposed by the Chief Electoral Officer that have been agreed to by the members of this Assembly.

These amendments will do the following, Mr. Speaker: they will establish a permanent voters registry in Saskatchewan and remove the requirement for door-to-door enumeration subsequent to the next provincial election. It will provide for homebound voting. It will allow qualified voters to vote at

advance polls.

It will remove the requirement for a voter who is not on the voters list to swear a statutory declaration in addition to completing a registration form and showing photo identification. It will permit a voter to deposit their own ballot.

It will allow the Chief Electoral Officer to waive the requirement to set up a polling place in remote locations with 25 or fewer voters, and instead use mail-in ballots provided by the returning officer in that area. It will ban the use but not possession of cameras and phones in polling places.

It will remove the requirement for election officers to necessarily be resident in the constituency in which they are to serve. It will remove the RO's [returning officer] duty to transport candidate scrutineers.

It will provide that the term of the returning officer will expire six months after the return of the writ for a general election, subject to reappointment by the Chief Electoral Officer. And it will provide that election clerks be appointed by the CEO [Chief Electoral Officer] rather than by the returning officers and be made subject to term limits like those of a returning officer.

Mr. Speaker, again with the support of the opposition members, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014* will also provide for amendments to improve voter access for voters with disability, including defining a friend to include the spouse, child, or other relative of the voter in order to broaden the pool of who may assist the voter with a disability.

It will allow a polling place to be held in the location with a liquor licence. Often such a location provides the best voter access in a particular community.

It will broaden the availability of the voter assistance provisions to apply to any voter who has a disability that significantly restricts the ability of the voter to vote. And it will allow an individual to act as a friend to assist two voters and provide that a deputy returning officer may use a sign language interpreter to translate any oath or declaration and to ask any question that the deputy returning officer is required to put to the voter and to translate the voter's answers.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will also adopt the Uniform Law Conference of Canada's recommendation that military voters be provided special ordinary resident recognition similar to that provided for students so that active members of the military retain their residence when they are out of the province or are immediately recognized as ordinarily resident when serving in Saskatchewan. We in this Assembly recognize the sacrifice that our military makes to protect our democracy and we are proud to be the first jurisdiction in Canada to make these amendments to better facilitate their ability to participate in that democracy by voting in Saskatchewan elections.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Election Amendment Act, 2014*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014*. Is the

Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and join debate on Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act*.

I guess off the top, I'd like to say thanks in a couple of instances, Mr. Speaker. As the minister has outlined quite ably, there are a number of points of origin for the different components of this legislation. Certainly the work here is very much informed by good advice on the part of our Chief Electoral Officer. It's been informed by work ushering forth from the Human Rights Commission and certainly from the Uniform Law Conference of Canada. And we thank those institutions for the work that we see reflected here today.

I also want to thank the minister and I want to thank the Government House Leader for taking great, going to great lengths to ensure that the opposition was well consulted on the items considered here today and that that consultation was fulsome and ongoing. And I think when you can have that co-operation in the legislature, Mr. Speaker, it can be productive and lead to a good result for the people of Saskatchewan.

So in terms of the actual items in the legislation, in terms of the provisions made for the permanent voters registry, I'd note that this is a mechanism that has been called for with bipartisan support in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, since at least 2004. And the way that it is proceeding now will enable Elections Saskatchewan to take advantage of enumeration work that is being conducted in preparation for the federal election and will see us go into that next election with that permanent voter registry.

I'm really glad to see the provisions in this as regards homebound voters, as regards improvements for voters with disabilities, Mr. Speaker, and I think those are ones that again make a lot of sense. And we look forward to having a greater discussion of the particulars of them in committee in the not too distant future, Mr. Speaker.

But in the main, I think this is a good piece of legislation. And certainly this is something that has received considerable scrutiny from the official opposition and that we're glad to see good ideas ushering forth from the Chief Electoral Officer, from bodies like the Uniform Law Conference, and bodies like the Human Rights Commission being presented here today.

And I think this will improve the access available at our polls, not just for folks with disabilities, Mr. Speaker, but clarifying various procedures around the appointment of election officials and the establishment of polling places, but also the provision that is made, again responding to the Uniform Law Conference, for those men and women that serve in uniform so that their access to the ballot box, to this most fundamental aspect of our democracy that they indeed are putting their lives on the line to defend, that that access will be a better . . . [inaudible] . . . for them, Mr. Speaker. We're glad to see that step being taken here.

So we look forward to the broader discussion in committee, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the particulars presented here. But again

we thank the different sources that have seen this work go forward, and again I would thank my colleague, the Government House Leader for his work in ensuring that the opposition had opportunity to have input for this, and the Minister of Justice as well. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks and enable this piece of legislation to move on to committee.

[14:45]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Clerk: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — Okay. I call the committee to order. The business before the committee are resolutions for final supply. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'll move directly to resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, the sum of \$57,241,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

I so move.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on the account of certain charges and expenses for public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, the sum of \$57,241,000 be granted out of the General

Revenue Fund.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015, the sum of \$11,453,418,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015, the sum of \$11,453,418,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

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

motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting. In accordance with rule 32(1)(d), the minister shall now move first reading of the Appropriation bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:53.]

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 140 — *The Appropriation Act, 2014 (No. 1)*

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 140, *The Appropriation Act, 2014 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 140, *The Appropriation Act, 2014 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, by leave and under rule 32(1)(e), I move that the bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 140, *The Appropriation Act, 2014* be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second and 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, I move that this House do now

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President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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