



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

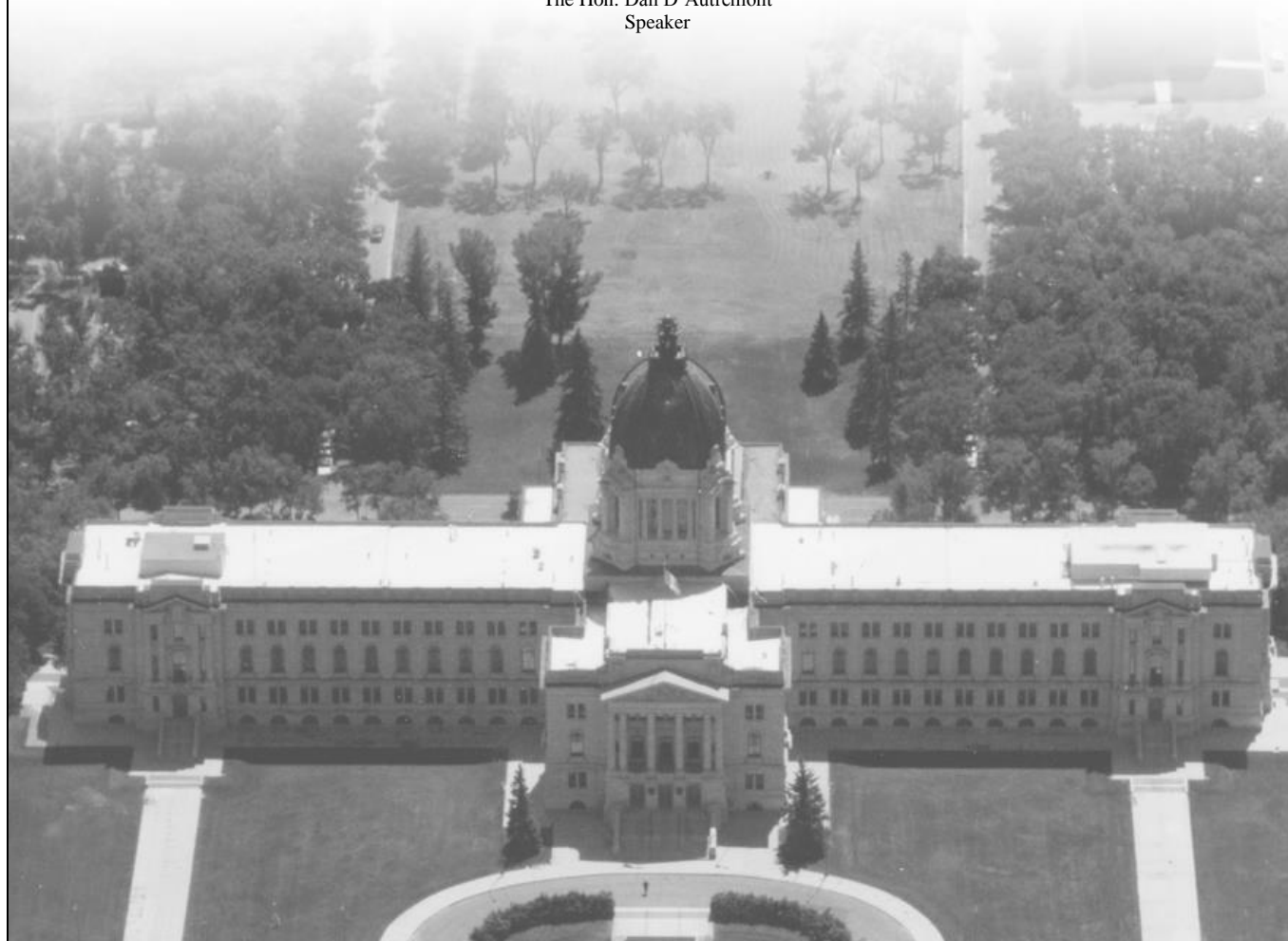
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Pursuant to section 39, I wish to table the Advocate for Children and Youth report.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a busy day at the legislature as we wind down this spring session. And I have some guests that I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, in no particular order, we had an event this morning where we were able to give about five completely signed Grey Cup footballs to community-based organizations and other champions of local and provincial efforts who will now use these footballs as leverage to raise a little bit of money for their cause. I want to highlight Major Mike Hoelt from the Salvation Army. He's the commander for the Saskatchewan area. And he's joined by Julia Wyeth. She handles government relations, and they're seated in your gallery.

In a moment in a more formal way, the Saskatoon Kinsmen will be introduced. They were one of the groups as well this morning. I note there's Kerry Heid and his team from Magna here, and SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] board members as well. Mr. Speaker, we want to welcome them.

But even more important than all of these very important people are some constituents from Swift Current. Sixty-two students from Ashley Park School, Mr. Speaker, in my hometown are here, and I want to welcome them through you to the Legislative Assembly today. They are joined by their teachers: Lynn Anderson, Mark Siemens, Jobi Regier, and Alice Hardowa; and educational assistants, Tina Smart and Angela Sauder. Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to meeting with all of the students just a little bit later on, and I would ask all members of this Assembly to please welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have individuals from two distinguished groups of work that's being undertaken here within the province. I'd like to start by recognizing those with Magna Electric and those associated with SIAST to begin.

So Dr. Larry Rosia is here as well as our Chair, Ralph Boychuk. Kerry Heid, as the Premier has already highlighted, is here; Erick Erickson; Brent Waldo; Donna Birkmaier; Arlene Unvoas; as well, Pam Schwann. And I'd also like to recognize Kerwin Boser, Jarret Solberg, and Curtis Brandt. And we know that there's also a champion of SIAST, and that's one Mr. Curtis Kimpton who's here as well, already recognized.

To this list, I would ask as well that we be able to recognize and say thanks to a number of promoters who are here to help ensure that SAGES [Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings], the provincial RESP [registered education savings plan] that we've just announced, will be a success and ensure that post-secondary education will be increasingly affordable and accessible to Saskatchewan families.

And so from the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, Peter Lewis; from AGF Investments, Chris Haines; RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] has Pamela Bryden here; Scotiabank has Jane Button, as well as Maureen Kayter; BMO [Bank of Montreal] has Trevor Philp and Robert Armstrong; and Concentra has Ken Kosolofski, the president and CEO [chief executive officer]. And I'm delighted to be able to recognize groups from both distinguished communities who are helping to ensure the success and excellence of post-secondary education in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask all members to help me welcome them here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister and certainly the Premier in welcoming the guests here today, in terms of the folks from SIAST, Dr. Rosia, Chairman Boychuk, the other folks from SIAST; those from Magna Electric; and also the representatives from throughout the financial services sector here in the province here to see the launch of the provincial RESP, making sure that gets under way in a good way. Good to see them here today.

And I'd again join with the minister and the Premier in thanking these individuals for their good work in the province and to welcome them again to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Mr. Speaker, in your gallery today we have some people I'd like to introduce to their Assembly. And they're real pillars of the community of Saskatoon, and I'm lucky enough to call them friends as well. With us today we have Adam Wolf — if you can stand, give me a wave — he's our current president of the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon. Chad Empey is the past president of the club. Jae Malinowski is the current director of the club, and with them is Curtis Kimpton, past national Kin president.

I have a member's statement a little bit later on that's going to highlight some of the fundraising that they have been doing in Saskatoon, and I'd invite everyone to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the folks from Kinsmen here and salute their good work that they do in our communities, and I know particularly in Saskatoon. I ask members to join with me and us in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery, I've got a group from Dr. Hanna School in Argyle Park in my constituency. And with us today is a teacher, Miranda Field, music teacher. Give us a wave. I've got Alyssa Ballan. I've got Daniel Oduwole. I've got Anastasia Vaksman, and I've got Kiara Cellar.

Also with them today is Carl Flis, and Carl is the Electronic Products Recycling Association. And I'm going to talk a little bit more about an event I attended last week, but I'd ask all members to join me, welcoming this group to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the guests, a couple of guests in your gallery, to you and through you and to the members of this Legislative Assembly. Honouring a veteran, a First Nations veteran of Montreal Cree Nation, Norman Henderson. Give us a wave, Norman. It's an honour to have a veteran here that have served for our province and our country. In so many way, he's given so much. I want to thank you for that. But to his wife of 46 years, Myrna, please give us a wave and be recognized for the good work and support you've given Norman and your family.

I just want to ask all members to give them a hand and welcome to their Legislative Assembly. Honouring our veterans is so important. And we'll be doing a member statement and a few other things for them. Anyway I'd ask all my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Norman and his wife to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the east gallery is a group of very special people. They're from Vanier Collegiate, 19 grade 12 students from Vanier Collegiate. What makes them so special, Mr. Speaker, is that they don't have to have a chaperone; they just come with their teacher, Mr. Panko. So very good to have them.

We met with them a little bit before, this morning, and answered their questions. They were quite interested in the dome of this building. So I'd ask all members to welcome the grade 12 class of Vanier Collegiate from Moose Jaw.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a few individuals seated in the east gallery: first Vice-chief Kimberly Jonathan of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, also along is Tribal Chief Gwen O'Soup with us, and a delegation, I believe, from the Yorkton area. And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the Assembly today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a word of thanks to an individual who is seated in your gallery, and that's Mr. Kyall Glennie who has served in our caucus office for some time in a staff position. Kyall's going on to some other adventures for a period of time, but I want to express on behalf of the NDP [New Democratic Party] team our appreciation for what he has done and, more importantly, our appreciation and thanks for his friendship. We wish him all the best with his next steps and look forward to his return to the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming a number of individuals from the Yorkton Tribal Council and from the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] to the Assembly. We have with us today Chief Isabel O'Soup from the Key First Nation, YTC [Yorkton Tribal Council] and family services director Raymond Shingoose, Mary Culbertson also from YTC. I'm not sure if Chief Whitehawk is here. We have Elder Sam Isaac who is joining us, as well as Chief Norman Whitehawk from Cote First Nation. And from the FSIN, we have FSIN's first Vice-chief Kimberly Jonathan and executive assistant Josephine Williams.

All of these individuals have worked tirelessly to protect our children in care, and I value the relationship they have with our government. We realize there is always a lot more work to do when it comes to protecting our children, but I appreciate the hard work they do, and I ask all my colleagues to join with me in welcoming them to this Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce a couple of delegates that are here in Regina this week for the 94th annual Rural Municipal Administrators' Association annual conference.

Mr. Speaker, in your gallery — and I'd ask them just to give a quick wave — we have Jennifer Thompson who is the administrator for the RM [rural municipality] of Lake Lenore and also Joni Mack who is the administrator for the RM of Prairie Rose.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak to the delegates yesterday during their opening luncheon, and I'll have an opportunity again tonight at their annual banquet. I very much appreciate the fact that these delegates took time out of their schedule to watch the proceedings today, and I'd ask all

members to please give them a warm welcome to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite and welcome these leaders to their Assembly, these leaders within municipalities in our province, these rural administrators. And I thank them for joining us here today. I thank them for what they do on a day-to-day basis, and I thank all of the rural administrators and municipal administrators across this province. Of course they provide a very important role and service to the people of this province and their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my colleague from Cumberland in welcoming Mr. Norman Henderson and his wife, Myrna. And obviously as a show of respect to Norman and many of the veterans that served for our country, it's also important to recognize his heritage, his language. So I want to say in Cree to him:

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

Welcome to your Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I would like to join with the Premier in welcoming the group from Swift Current. I had the opportunity to visit Ashley Park School for a presentation in February with the classes, grade 4 and 5.

As well I'd like to welcome Mr. Doug Panko from Moose Jaw here, who is a committee member on the social studies teachers' institute. So I'd ask members to welcome them to the Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition calling for real action on climate change. We know that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada and that the Saskatchewan government has failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions to the province's own targets, or put in a real plan to protect the natural environment.

We know that slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and the EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency program set the province on a backwards course, and that since 2009 the Government of Saskatchewan has reduced climate change funding by 83 per cent, including another 35 per cent cut in the 2014-15 budget.

[13:45]

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real

plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, people signing this petition come from 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, the need to reroute the heavy-haul truck traffic from Dewdney Avenue. They note that any further delays from that government to address a problem that was created by that government are entirely unacceptable. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and the 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 and Humboldt. I so submit.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand to present a petition from residents who are concerned about the lucrative lean contracts that this government has signed. And they highlight in the petition, Mr. Speaker, about a \$40 million contract with the US [United States] consultant and the fact that this government's flying in Japanese senseis at \$3,500 per day, all at the same time as ignoring the basics. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to cancel its lucrative contracts with out-of-country lean consultants and instead focus its resources on actually listening to front-line health care workers and fixing the basics in health care and seniors' care.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from all over Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on

behalf of residents of La Ronge. The northern road, Highway 102 north of La Ronge, is used in many different ways: the mining industry; the forestry sector; residents use it for trapping, fishing, to gather mushrooms, blueberry picking. We also have tourists using that road to go into our beautiful North and some of our lakes to do fishing and everything else. And that road provides them . . . and they would like to have that road a safe road to travel on. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize the repair and maintenance on the La Ronge northern road, Highway 102, 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 present a petition in relation to this government's choice to kill the opportunity for people to own their own homes in northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition for a residents-in-care bill of rights. The signators point out 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. It reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request 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. This petition is signed from people all across Saskatchewan including Carrot River, Carnduff, Maple

Creek, Canora, Saskatoon, Regina, Meadow Lake, Vanscoy, Preeceville, La Ronge, Estevan, Wadena, Melville, Humboldt, Martensville, and Muenster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 between Regina and Balgonie. The petitioners, in the prayer that reads as follows:

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 the speed limits are enforced.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by a great many citizens throughout Saskatchewan. This particular batch represents citizens from Vibank, Regina, Qu'Appelle, Emerald Park, White City, Pilot Butte, Sedley, Balgonie, Kipling, Silton, Francis, Odessa, McLean, Edenwold, Craven, Grand Coulee, Lebret, Davin, Copper Sands, Southey, Dysart, Gray, Fort Qu'Appelle, Yorkton, Pense, Rouleau, Milestone, Lipton, Regina Beach, Kronau, Duval, Lumsden, Indian Head, Wolseley, Cupar, Riceton, Zehner, Stoughton, Lajord, St. Joseph's Colony, Buena Vista, Hudson Bay, Blaine Lake, Moose Jaw, Canora, Kendal, Stone Point, Fleming, and Neudorf. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition from Saskatchewan residents who are opposed to the correctional service job privatization, especially as it relates to food services. The costs will escalate. The safety of staff, inmates, and the public will be put at risk. Local businesses will lose contracts. Inmate training and rehabilitation will be undermined, and the entry of full-scale privatization of the corrections system will be opened if the government goes ahead with this plan. And these 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 offenders facilities in Canada.

And these petitions are signed by people from Buffalo Narrows, Prince Albert, White City, and Regina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition to properly address the grain transportation crisis. And the undersigned residents bring to our attention a few things. First, that the grain transportation crisis is hurting many producers across the province as last year's record crop sits in bins, causing a huge financial crunch on producers who have limited cash flow to pay their many bills and loans; that even

under proposed emergency federal legislation, the requirements for the volume of grain to be shipped and penalties put on the railways for non-compliance are too weak; that the Government of Saskatchewan has supported the federal government instead of standing up to their weak and slow action; and there's no real strategy put in place by this government to get the system ready for this year's crop.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan push for the federal government to require the railway companies, by law, to have the capacity to handle large volumes of grain like this year's crop in a timely and efficient fashion, and to push for open running rights on the railway system to ease future backlogs and introduce more competition into the grain transportation system.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of the city of Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Alumni Award Winners Donate to Electrical Engineering Technology Program

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to thank Kerry Heid, Kerwin Boser, Jarret Solberg, and Curtis Brandt, founders of Magna Electric Corporation, for their service to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Magna Electric Corporation is a leading Canadian electrical power system, engineering, testing, construction, manufacturing, and commissioning service company. The company was recently acquired by Shermco Industries, North America's leading independent provider of electrical services of energy, utility, infrastructure, and industrial companies.

Mr. Speaker, on April 26th this year at the SIAST President's Gala in Saskatoon, President Larry Rosia presented the inaugural Alumni Award to these four Saskatchewan entrepreneurs for their outstanding contribution to SIAST. All four honourees graduated from electrical engineering technology at SIAST Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw and started Saskatchewan-based Magna Electric Corporation, which has grown from a very modest beginning to produce revenues of 121 million in 2013 with over 500 employees in this province. As Kerry Heid said to me, "That's not too bad for a couple of local boys."

Mr. Speaker, after hearing the founders of Magna Electric Corporation being honoured by SIAST, Shermco Industries Canada decided to contribute \$100,000 to the electrical engineering technology program at Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Honouring Aboriginal and First Nations Veterans

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize the contributions of Canada's Aboriginal and First Nations veterans, which cannot be overstated. Aboriginal and First Nations Canadians have demonstrated their great service and sacrifice for our country through their participation in all of Canada's major conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, many of the Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis who served in World War I, World War II, and Korea came from isolated areas of our province. The reasons for enlisting are many, but patriotism and protection of their country are first and foremost. Large numbers of Aboriginal and First Nations soldiers served this province with pride and distinction. Many were highly praised for their skill, for their bravery, and decorated with honours and awards. Unfortunately many also paid the ultimate price for our freedom today: they lost their lives and never came home.

Mr. Speaker, today the member from Cumberland and I had the opportunity and honour to share a meal and a great conversation with Norman Henderson and his wife, Myrna. Norman is the P.A. [Prince Albert] branch vice-president of the First Nations veterans of Canada, and he stated the following concern: "First Nations veterans are only seeking the same level of compensation as other Canadians who have defended their country."

Mr. Speaker, we owe all those that served their country a huge debt of gratitude, and that includes First Nations and Métis soldiers as well. Their contributions, their courage, their sacrifices, and their accomplishments will never be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today was the launch of the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings. SAGES allows our government to provide a grant of 10 per cent on contributions made to a registered education savings plan to a maximum of \$250 per child per year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that Saskatchewan families can now apply for SAGES through the following promoters: Raymond James Ltd., Global Growth Assets Inc., Global Educational Trust Foundation, Heritage Educational Foundation, and Credential Securities Inc. As well, Mr. Speaker, Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, Invesco Canada Ltd., Royal Bank of Canada, NEI Investments, and AGF Investments Inc. will be ready to deliver SAGES in the coming months. There are also many other financial institutions that will be ready to offer the program next year.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada administers SAGES on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. People with new and existing RESPs can apply for SAGES through the participating financial institutions. Contributions made to eligible RESPs will receive the SAGES grant retroactively to January 1st, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note that the first SAGES grants were paid in January 2014. As part of the Saskatchewan plan for growth, our government wants to ensure that more students are able to participate and complete their post-secondary education. SAGES is one of the many initiatives we invested in to make this possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

A Million Acts of Friendship Donation to Regina Humane Society

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to thank the teachers, students, parents, and the school communities of Ruth M. Buck and W.H. Ford for their incredible work coordinating a fundraiser for the Regina Humane Society. I am pleased to announce classes from W.H. Ford and Ruth M. Buck have completed their fundraising projects for the Regina Humane Society as part of the let's be compassionate initiative as part of A Million Acts of Friendship.

A Million Acts of Friendship is a program working to end bullying and create networks in schools to promote and reinforce positive social behaviours. Alongside the incredible leadership of the students, teachers Ms. Acton and Ms. Blake helped coordinate local bake sales that raised a total of \$705. Mr. Speaker, it's encouraging to see kids becoming engaged in bettering their communities at such a young age, and I was pleased to join with them, celebrate, and witness the cheque presentation at the Humane Society last week.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the team at the Humane Society, including education coordinator Ms. Kristin Folk who went out of her way to accommodate this important contribution and project. I ask all members to join with me in recognizing the incredible community service of Ms. Acton, Ms. Blake, the students, parents, and school communities of Buck and Ford as well as the Regina Humane Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Fundraising by Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in the House today to recognize the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon. The Kinsmen Club has done an amazing job in raising funds for the enrichment of our communities. To date they have raised over \$20 million through several different initiatives in Saskatoon.

One of the largest fundraisers is the Kinsmen Home Lottery, which is currently under way. The Home Lottery was the first home lottery of its kind in Canada and the world, and has raised over \$10 million in proceeds alone. These proceeds help us feed Saskatoon's hungry; sponsor the dreams and aspirations of bright young scholars, athletes, musicians, artists; ensure safety at schools; care for the elderly and for those with special needs; build parks; and support local festivals. They are very proud to continue to give back and serve the community's greatest need,

and are very appreciative by the support they have received over the years from Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. Right now the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon is embarking on a shared learning centre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join me in recognizing and thanking the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon for all that they have done and continue to do to raise money for our community. Their efforts are greatly valued and results can be seen city wide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Voices of Nature Event

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Thursday I had the great opportunity to attend the Voices of Nature concert event at Dr. L.M. Hanna School. Sponsored by Carl Flis of Electronic Products Recycling Association, this event promoted recycling and environmental awareness to young people through music and songs that were produced by the Artist Response Team.

Mr. Speaker, over 100 kids from Dr. Hanna School spent weeks learning lyrics and actions to songs such as "Big Change Starts Small" and "My Roots Go Down." On May 8th in front of family and friends, these students had the opportunity to perform their songs while accompanied by the Artist Response Team members: Holly, Kevin, and the Wilds band.

Mr. Speaker, this event was a fun and creative way to teach children about the importance of recycling and environmental sustainability as a whole. Saskatchewan has plenty of space, clean air, land, and water, and an abundance of natural resources that contribute to our good fortune, but it is our responsibility to ensure we protect our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in thanking Carl Flis of Electronic Products Recycling Association for sponsoring this event; the Artist Response Team for producing the songs and performing them with the children; to Principal Karen Burns, Miranda Field, and the rest of the staff for their support. I'd also like to commend the students of Dr. L.M. Hanna School for the hard work that they put into learning the songs, and congratulate them on a wonderful performance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

New Democratic Party Policy

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, if anyone in Saskatchewan was expecting innovation and new ideas from the NDP during this spring session, they must be sorely disappointed. They may have a new leader, but it's the same tired, old NDP. After 14 months as NDP leader, he still has no position on anything. There have been no new ideas. And if anyone else has a new idea, that NDP leader is firmly against it.

The NDP leader says he wants new schools, but he opposes the nine new schools we are building including one in his very own

constituency because they're P3s [public-private partnership]. He talks about improving efficiencies in the health care system, but he opposes all the service improvements and cost savings achieved through lean. The NDP talks about helping vulnerable people, but when our government gets together with the private sector to help single mothers using Canada's first social impact bond, the NDP are against that too.

The NDP leader talks about a smart growth plan but he hasn't offered a single idea on what should be in that plan. He even opposes private liquor stores, including a very successful new co-op liquor store right in Saskatoon.

That NDP leader has no idea what he stands for. He has no policy, no new ideas, nothing new to offer the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the NDP can continue to live in the past. They can continue to offer nothing and cling to their failed ideology. On the other hand, our government will continue to work for the Saskatchewan people to offer new ideas and innovation that'll keep Saskatchewan moving forward.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

University of Saskatchewan Review Process

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Robert Buckingham raised very serious concerns yesterday about the implication of TransformUS for the University of Saskatchewan, particularly with respect to the school of public health, the school that he played a major role in building.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Buckingham was called into an office, was fired, was escorted off the campus by police, and was told that he was banned from the University of Saskatchewan forever. It's absolutely unacceptable and it's absolutely appalling.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: does he share this view? And when will he finally start asking some tough questions about what is happening at the University of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan, the university that I went to, is at the very top of the priority list for the Government of Saskatchewan, as is the reputation of the University of Regina and all of our post-secondary institutions. Witness, Mr. Speaker, the fact that we have as a government increased significantly investments on that campus in particular and across the post-secondary sector in Saskatchewan. We've increased funding for capital. We've increased funding for operating.

Mr. Speaker, the recent events at the University of Saskatchewan, including the ones highlighted by the Leader of the Opposition today, are of concern. I can inform members of the House that the minister has been engaged in this particular issue on a regular basis with the chairman of the board. In fact a letter today to the chairman of the board, asking with respect to

the school of public health, asking as to accreditation questions, and seeking assurance that short-term decisions taken as a result or in part attendant to the TransformUS are not getting in the way of the long-term objective that the board would have, I would expect the university senior management would have, senior leadership would have, and that the Government of Saskatchewan has, which would be that this university continue to be the pre-eminent institution that it is across the country.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier says that the minister is engaged on this file. I'm told that he told the media that he found out about Dr. Buckingham's firing through Twitter. That's hardly being engaged, hardly knowing what's going on on campus.

My specific question to the Premier was whether or not he thinks it's acceptable that Dr. Buckingham was fired. Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, or other post-secondary institutions don't check with the minister with respect to human resource decisions they're making on a day-to-day basis. Maybe he's advocating that that's the kind of government he envisions for the province of Saskatchewan. On this side of the House, notwithstanding concerns, we respect the independence of post-secondary institutions in the province of Saskatchewan, and are going to continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note in the letter which has now been made public to Dr. Buckingham, there is a reference in fact to an already decided upon administrative leave that was scheduled to begin July 1, 2014. Mr. Speaker, I'm reading that in the letter. I have no idea what the nature is or the cause for that administrative leave is, Mr. Speaker, to speak to the hon. member's question. Does he know?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the question was whether or not the Premier thinks that it's acceptable that Dr. Buckingham was fired. And then he starts talking about the details of his contract. The fact is Dr. Buckingham was called into an office, was there with police, was fired and escorted off campus. And that's the answer that we get from the Premier of the province?

People in the province and especially people in our university campuses are concerned about this. Max FineDay, the president of the USSU [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union], is calling the situation deplorable, and he says this: "The university is going in the wrong direction." My question to the Premier: does he share this view?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, a letter has been made public to Dr. Buckingham. And to answer the Leader of the Opposition's question I guess, that he started with in that most recent question, that particular letter says the following, and I

quote: “This letter is also to advise you . . .” This is from the vice-president academic, Brett Fairbairn, to Dr. Buckingham: “This letter is also to advise you that the administrative leave scheduled to begin July 1, 2014 is hereby revoked.”

We don't know the nature of that leave. We don't know the nature of the personnel file. Are we concerned, Mr. Speaker, with the events there? Are we wanting there to be the freedom at least on the academic side, certainly, for those to speak out who have concerns about TransformUS at that campus or other concerns in other campuses? Yes. Are we also respectful of the fact that in institutions like the Government of Saskatchewan and like universities, if you're part of administration, you may forfeit a chance to do certain things in terms of being outspoken?

Mr. Speaker, I do not know the details of that administrative regime at the University of Saskatchewan. We're not going to interfere with its independence though. We're concerned about the reputation of this institution, all of our post-secondary institutions, and that's why the minister is going to be in constant contact with the chairman of the board.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, administrative leave is not punishment. It's not like the probation that the Premier put the cabinet secretary on. Administrative leave is what's built into contracts for academics in this situation, where they write a book and do what academics do at the completion of a contract. And for the Premier to confuse that with some sort of punishment that was coming down is absolutely strange, and shows a complete misunderstanding of what is going on.

Dr. Buckingham raised concerns. He said that due process must be followed and that there must be open debate. For that he was fired, taken off campus with police, and banned for life.

Here's what the Canadian Association of University Teachers says about academic freedom as it applies to academic administrators, as the Premier was just commenting. They say:

The exercise of academic freedom serves the common good of society and should not be constrained by appeals to such notions as loyalty to administrative leadership, cabinet solidarity, management rights, commitment to a team, or speaking with one voice.

That's the CAUT [Canadian Association of University Teachers] policy on academic freedom for administrators such as Dr. Buckingham. My question to the Premier, and to the minister as well because he was fuzzy on this yesterday in the scrum: do they agree? Does the Premier agree with this definition by the CAUT on academic freedom for administrators?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, does the Leader of the Opposition know every single detail around this particular case? Does he know the entire file? I don't, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Advanced Education will not know every single detail of a human resources file at the University of

Saskatchewan. So if he's looking for some declarator from this side of the House about whether this firing was just, we're concerned about it. We want to find out more information.

The minister is in contact with the Chair. We will find that out. But we are not prepared, we're not prepared to take the irresponsible leap that the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to take, apparently, which is to say out of hand and categorically that the actions that the university have taken in this regard are fundamentally wrong. They are a source of concern. We need to get to the bottom of it. But if the member's got details that we do not have, that other members of the House do not have, that has led him to this conclusion that this firing was wrong, and perhaps he's advocating somehow we move to overturn it, I'd be interested in hearing that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the responses by the Premier are absolutely pathetic. He doesn't even know what administrative leave is, Mr. Speaker. I question if he's read the letter. It is so clear in the letter that Dr. Buckingham was fired for speaking out. Anyone that reads the letter will clearly see that, and that Premier and that front bench can see that.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers says it doesn't matter how a decision was reached, whether it's consensus, majority vote, or through the exercise of legitimate authority; it is unacceptable to have academic freedom constrained. It's unacceptable to have academics muzzled and put in a position where they cannot criticize a decision.

Dr. Buckingham raised concerns. He was fired and given a lifetime ban from the university. It's unacceptable, and the Premier should stand up and clearly say that. My question to the Premier: what is he going to do about this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, on this day the minister has written to the chairman of the board of the university and is in constant contact with Ms. Milburn on this matter and on other matters related to TransformUS. He's going to continue to do his work, and we'll continue to ensure both the independence of the university and also work to do our part in ensuring its reputation, Mr. Speaker.

But I will just say quite candidly, and I guess it's an agreement here to disagree, that based on . . . as concerning as the events of today are, based on what we know, based on what the government knows, what the minister knows, and I dare say based on what the member knows, to stand up and categorically say that the decision is fundamentally wrong is a little premature.

We need to find out all of the details. We are concerned about all of these details, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to get to the bottom of the situation through the minister and work with the university accordingly.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, getting the details by Twitter is hardly staying on top of things. And this Premier and this government doesn't know what's going on, Mr. Speaker, because they have refused, absolutely refused, to ask the tough questions over the past months.

They should've been asking questions when respected academics were coming forward, when the USSU had a motion of non-confidence in the TransformUS process. They should have been asking the right questions a long time ago, like whether or not deans and executive directors are being silenced. They should've been asking whether or not open debate is actually being encouraged on campus. They should've been asking whether or not due process is being followed. And they should've been asking whether or not academic freedom is being protected and is enshrined at the University of Saskatchewan.

This government didn't hesitate to condemn things going on at First Nations University of Canada, didn't hesitate to condemn and then speak out of what was going on at the University of Regina, but they have been silent and have refused to take a stand when it comes to the University of Saskatchewan.

My question to the Premier, and he shouldn't pass this off to the minister. My question to the Premier: why is it that he'll speak out at other universities but he won't pay attention to what's going on at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, prior to this morning's event, what was going on at the University of Saskatchewan, if we can remember it in a calm way, Mr. Speaker, is something called TransformUS, which had the concern of some people on campus, Mr. Speaker.

The principle of TransformUS though, as I understand it, was about the long-term sustainability of the institution. It was also about that particular institution wanting to make sure it was providing for its future reputationally, from a financial standpoint, and from a stability standpoint. That process we support.

We also want to see those who are opposed to TransformUS, and my understanding is that staff at the university were certainly involved in the process, that the process itself is the source of some accountability on campus. We would want that people would be able to speak out with respect to the process, including to be critical of it. That's all the while remembering that this is an independent university, Mr. Speaker, and has earned its independence.

Now this morning the minister was talking to the chairman. Over the last number of days the minister has been talking to leadership. I believe late last week the minister met with the president of the university. So I know that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is excited about some political points he thinks he can score on this file by somehow depicting a disinterest on the part of the government. I want to assure the member opposite and all of those now heckling over there that we have

been on top of this from day one, Mr. Speaker. The minister has been in constant contact with the leadership of the university. We will continue to support the university financially and want to see that all public institutions in the province are being accountable, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier and this government have not been on top of what's going on at the University of Saskatchewan. Clear evidence is the Premier comes into question period today with lines prepared to slag Dr. Buckingham with respect to administrative leave and saying somehow this was already in the works. Completely unacceptable, completely inappropriate, and shows how closely they're paying attention.

Administrative leave, Mr. Speaker, is built into contracts, as the past president of the University of Saskatchewan had at the end of his contract. Dr. Buckingham, Mr. Speaker, spoke out because he was concerned about the accreditation of the school of public health, a school of public health that he helped, with colleagues, build to the reputable school that it is today.

It's significant, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier was not concerned about accreditation around the program. Well now we have a situation where the executive director is being fired and is given a lifetime ban from the university for the school of public health. My question to the Premier: does he think this will affect the accreditation of the school of public health?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know the answer to that question. Neither does the hon. member, whether or not a change in personnel is going to affect the accreditation. But just in a general sense we are concerned about the accreditation of the school of public health. And that is the nature of the minister's letter that he sent this day to the chairman of the board of the University of Saskatchewan. We want to get to that answer very, very specifically.

I will note that when the Leader of the Opposition has asked this exact question here in this Assembly, the minister has been able to indicate that, first of all, this is a top priority for the government, the accreditation issue. He has sought assurances, over and above the letter that went today, prior to the events of this morning with respect to Dr. Buckingham.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are very much concerned about the accreditation issue. We've demonstrated that both in terms of a liaison, a constant liaison between the minister and leadership at the university, and most recently this morning with a letter directed to the chairman of the board.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier continues to ignore the concerns that are heard from campus, and we see it by their lacklustre response here today in the approach that they're taking.

I asked the Premier, Mr. Speaker, whether or not he thinks it's

appropriate that Dr. Buckingham was fired. I don't think it's appropriate. He refused to answer. I asked the Premier, Mr. Speaker, whether or not he thinks academic freedom is important on campus and whether the violation of academic freedom is something to be concerned about. No concern coming from the Premier on that file. I asked the Premier if he's listening to student leaders about whether or not the university is going in the wrong direction. No comment on that, Mr. Speaker.

Successive university presidents and leaders in this province have built up the University of Saskatchewan to the proud institution that it is. And when we have a decision, Mr. Speaker, that fires an executive director who calls into question academic freedom for administrators and all academics on campus, when the campus community is in an uproar and concerned about this, the president of the university is off meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, all this government does is fires off a letter, makes no statement on whether or not it's appropriate to fire someone, no statement whether or not academic freedom is sacrosanct. My question to the Premier: when will he pull his head out of the sand and start to take this seriously?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the more my friend gets excited, the more he's fast and loose with the facts. That has been the case in this spring session day after day. Because the fact of the matter is that since TransformUS and before TransformUS became public, the Minister of Advanced Education, this minister and the previous minister, have been involved with the University of Saskatchewan. There is a regular relationship, a regular liaison, Mr. Speaker, and there has been about this particular issue. Now this hasn't been shouted across the floor of the Chamber perhaps when the minister meets with the president, as he did last Friday, or during the countless conversations that happen via telephone or the other meetings that occur.

So, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the Leader of the Opposition's attempts to depict this as something other than it is, this is the overall issue: the Government of Saskatchewan is very concerned about any reputational risk to any institution, Mr. Speaker. Witness the fact that we have invested record dollars into this specific post-secondary institution, post-secondary institutions in general. Witness the fact that our government moved very, very quickly to deal with a number of issues left behind by members opposite on the campus, Mr. Speaker. On this issue, as in many other issues, there is a great deal of talk from members opposite, but when they had the chance to actually walk the walk and provide funding and that kind of fiscal support to these institutions, they were missing in action, Mr. Speaker.

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

Coverage for Surgery

Ms. Chartier: — Laura Cone has joined us today. She has endometriosis, a painful condition in which tissue that normally lines the inside of the uterus grows outside of the uterus and ends up becoming attached to other organs. For Laura, the pain

has been constant and debilitating. She has had four surgeries. The last time was emergency surgery because her internal organs were shutting down.

At the recommendation of her specialist from Saskatoon and another specialist in Alberta, Laura has booked herself for a different kind of surgery in June in Atlanta. With this surgery she has less than a 5 per cent chance of any reoccurrence of endometriosis. But this government has denied the application for out-of-country coverage. To the minister: why?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for raising this issue. I don't have the details of this particular case and I won't be able to speak to them on the floor of the Assembly this afternoon. I'd certainly be willing to follow up with the critic opposite, or as well I believe the family is here this afternoon, to further discuss this. I'm not sure whether or not this has gone through the health review process that's been set up, but again I would offer to meet with the family to find out more information on this particular case.

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

Ms. Chartier: — I know Laura will be pleased to have that opportunity, Mr. Speaker. The government has told Laura they won't cover the Atlanta treatment because they want her to see surgeons in Canada. But here's one of the problems with that. She was put on the wait-list for two surgeons in BC [British Columbia] only to hear recently that they are no longer taking out-of-province patients. The other surgeons have expected waits of over two years.

After her request for coverage was denied last summer, Laura made the decision to try and wait out on the time it would take to see a Canadian surgeon, but that didn't work. Only a month after her claim was denied, Laura was rushed to RUH [Royal University Hospital] needing emergency surgery that required a team of specialists.

To the minister: Laura's health and quality of life are in rapid decline. Why won't this government cover this desperately needed surgery?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again, not knowing all the particulars, but I would certainly again as I did in my previous answer, offer to the family and to the critic opposite to meet with Laura and to discuss this issue with her.

Certainly what we have tried to do as a government is invest in a surgical initiative which is premised around three ideas: sooner, safer, and smarter surgery. Obviously the sooner part of that is very important as well as the safer and the smarter. We've invested nearly \$200 million to date in that, and knowing there are still some cases that we need to work on.

I don't know all the particulars of the case. I don't know if this individual has gone through the health services review

committee. I'll certainly be finding that out. If that has not been the case, that is a tribunal that this government has put in place to assess these types of situations where coverage is denied, but certainly again I would make the offer to meet with the family.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister should be aware of this. This was actually reported in *The StarPhoenix* just a few short weeks ago. This government released its hot-spotting program to help high-risk and high-use hospital users that are not well served by the current system. Laura pointed out that she is one of these people.

I've been on numerous drugs which qualified for exceptional drug status because they were so necessary and so expensive. Add this along with the cost of hugely numerous emergency room visits, X-rays, ultrasounds, colonoscopies, tests, and physician time, I can't imagine the cost I've had on this province.

This government should listen to the specialists, save health resources, and give a young woman her quality of life back. That seems like the common sense and the decent thing to do. Laura is in no position to wait any longer.

To the minister: will he listen to the specialists and listen to Laura and cover the costs of this desperately needed surgery?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, and the member hopefully will forgive me for not remembering what was in *The StarPhoenix* a couple of weeks ago, but this is an issue that I will, as I have said before, I will offer today to meet with the family, to meet with Laura in this respect.

I think members will know that we have certain criteria for when out-of-province coverage is approved and then the next step is out-of-country coverage. We'll work with the specialists to determine whether or not all of those options have been exhausted before out-of-country is approved. I can't speak to whether or not that has in fact taken place, but certainly through what the ministry may know of this issue, what the specialists — and of course first-hand from Laura — what they know of what has already transpired, I'd be happy to look at the case.

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

Response to Children's Advocate Report

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Children's Advocate released a special report today on the tragic death of a child in the care of Social Services. His first recommendation is that the government develop and implement well-resourced early childhood development and poverty reduction strategies. And we've been calling on this government to take action when it comes to a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy. This is now the second time in a week that the Children's Advocate has formally called for this.

To the minister: will she finally stop with the excuses and

finally listen?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have a chance to speak about the tragedies today, and I understand what the child advocate has been saying. I also have had the chance to talk to groups like Poverty Costs, and we've discussed the fact that there's a 50 per cent reduction in percentage of people who live in low income in our province. We know that there's always more to do, Mr. Speaker, but that's between 2006 and 2011, there was a reduction of people that are living in low income. Saskatchewan's actually tied with Newfoundland for the second-lowest percentage of people living in poverty in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, other provinces have strategies and Saskatchewan is outperforming all of those other provinces. What we're trying to do is make sure that we put action with our words, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that we have people that are ready to go to school, we have an education system that's available for them, that we are working to support families, Mr. Speaker. I know that the issue is something that we tie under our growth strategy, Mr. Speaker, and where all the work that we're doing add together to make sure people are pleased to be in our province.

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

[14:30]

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Children's Advocate says, and I quote, "It is clear that more urgency must be placed on the need to move forward on child welfare reform." He makes a total of 18 recommendations. To the minister: will this government be implementing all of those recommendations, and can we expect to see more urgency on child welfare reform?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just had an opportunity to talk about the report that Bob Pringle brought forward, and I accepted the findings, all 18 findings that were brought forward. In fact we have the Yorkton Tribal Council is with us and the representative from the FSIN that know that when we talk together about what we should be doing in this province to ensure that our children are safe, it's our common goal. Mr. Speaker, we don't want tragedies like this, and we know that it's going to take partnerships to ensure that we can work together and look at all the issues.

We have things like the child and family agenda, the Hub and the COR [centre of responsibility], even things like the social impact bond where we can start doing things different, Mr. Speaker. Of course our goal is to do things differently, and we do accept the findings.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 139, *The Election Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 139, *The Election 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 402 through 406.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 402 to 406.

Members, I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:35 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

Bill No. 108 - *The Athletics Commission Act*

Bill No. 106 - *The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 113 - *The Powers of Attorney Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 2002 sur les procurations*

Bill No. 114 - *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 115 - *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 101 - *The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 118 - *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*

Bill No. 119 - *The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Saskatchewan Polytechnic Act*

Bill No. 120 - *The Lobbyists Act*

Bill No. 100 - *The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 116 - *The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Bill No. 117 - *The Municipalities Consequential Amendment Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Bill No. 122 - *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2013 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

Bill No. 112 - *The Accounting Profession Act*

Bill No. 129 - *The Executive Government Administration Act*

Bill No. 130 - *The Executive Government Administration Consequential Amendments Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Executive Government Administration Act*

Bill No. 123 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Bill No. 124 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal (Consequential Amendment) Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Bill No. 127 - *The Mental Health Services Amendment Act, 2013*

Bill No. 125 - *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2013 (No. 2)*

Bill No. 132 - *The Public Guardian and Trustee Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*
Bill No. 133 - *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*
Bill No. 98 - *The Child Care Act, 2013/Loi de 2013 sur les garderies d'enfants*
Bill No. 128 - *The Saskatchewan Employment Amendment Act, 2013*
Bill No. 136 - *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2014*
Bill No. 99 - *The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2013*
Bill No. 134 - *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2014*
Bill No. 135 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2014*
Bill No. 139 - *The Election Amendment Act, 2014*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

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

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:41.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:42.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris

Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General