



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

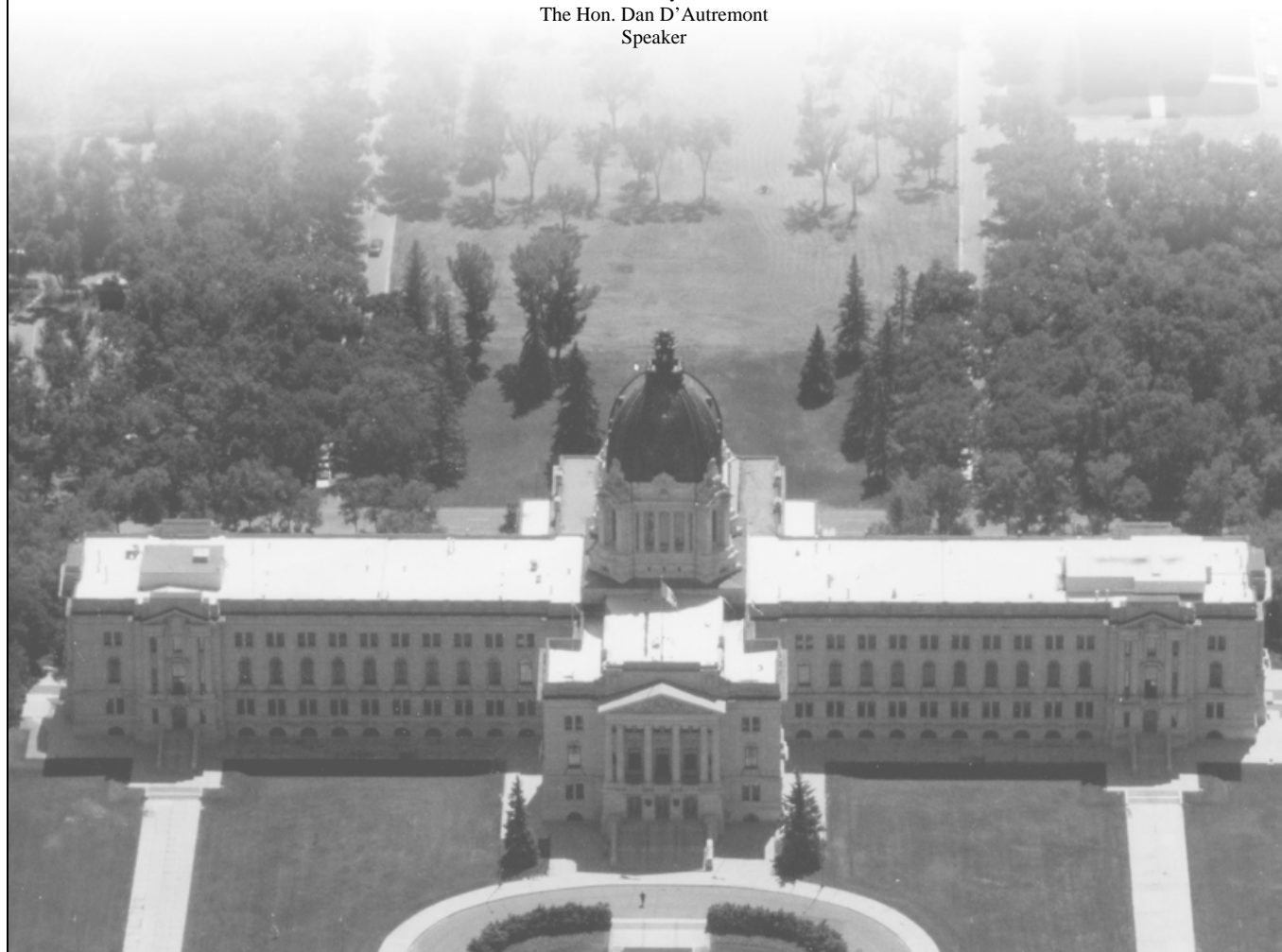
of the

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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure this morning to introduce a school group from my constituency, the Hillmond Central School. The grade 7's, 8's, and 9's made the long trek up from the Northwest, and I would like all members to join with me and with you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce my Saskatchewan legislative intern, Kaytlyn Criddle from Balgonie. She is my fourth intern and she plans on spending some time in beautiful Saskatchewan Rivers next week. Please welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — I would also like to, Mr. Speaker, introduce my legislative intern to the Legislative Assembly, and that's Ms. Taylor Yee, sitting up beside Kaytlyn. And I've only been working with Taylor for a couple of weeks now and I'm already overwhelmed and impressed by the quality and the quantity of the work she can produce. So I'm looking forward to working with her for the next few weeks. And I would like everyone to welcome Taylor Yee to the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the people who work in visitor services. They have joined us today and are seated in the Speaker's gallery. On Saturday, May 17th, extended hours for the summer will go into effect at the Legislative Building. Tours of the building will be offered every half hour, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

And these are the people who will welcome visitors to the Legislative Building and show them around. Working the front line with the visitors is an important, interesting, and rewarding experience. Our bilingual information officers for the summer are, and if they would give a wave when I say their name: Marie Digney, Rita Gareau, François Hawkins, Alan Chan, Jean-René Robillard, and Brittany Love.

Our casual information officers are: Ted Forrest, Penny Forrest, Edith Seiferling, Gabe Seiferling. And our permanent staff: Arnold McKenzie, senior information officer; Kelly Liberet, bilingual senior information officer; Marianne Morgan, assistant director of visitor services; and Lorraine deMontigny, director of visitor services. I'd ask all members to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Norwegian Constitution Day

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Speaker, that's the national anthem for Norway, and on Saturday it's going to be sung over the whole world because Norwegians and Norwegians' descendants are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian constitution. The Norwegian constitution's main points are power to the people, equality, a declaration of independence, freedom and human rights, and the rule of law. And, Mr. Speaker, Norwegians are proud of 200 years of that perspective on how one governs oneself.

So in Saskatoon on Saturday, there's going to be a major parade and gathering to celebrate this. There'll be other celebrations across the province. So on Saturday, I ask all members to join with the member from Saskatoon Massey Place, the member from Melville-Saltcoats, member from Regina Wascana Plains, member from Regina Northeast, the member from Saskatchewan Rivers, and the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook as we all celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day, the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian constitution. Thank you.

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

Reopening of Big River Saw Mill

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in the House today to announce that the Big River saw mill had its grand reopening last Tuesday. The Premier, the Minister of Economy, and myself all had the pleasure of attending this milestone event.

Mr. Speaker, the Big River saw mill is the largest in the province and will account for more than 40 per cent of Saskatchewan's lumber production capacity. The saw mill produces dimensional lumber and has an annual production capacity of 250 million board feet. It uses scanning and optimization equipment that is among the most advanced technology of any saw mill in North America. Once the mill is running at full capacity, it will directly employ up to 100 workers, and more than 250 additional jobs are expected to be created through contacts in timber harvesting, road construction, and reforestation.

Mr. Speaker, it was an extremely difficult time for the people of Big River and surrounding area when the mill closed in 2006. But thanks to Carrier Forest Products, the mill has reopened and will soon be running at full capacity. This is a wonderful occasion for Big River and surrounding area and all of Saskatchewan. I'd like to congratulate Carrier Forest Products on the reopening of the Big River saw mill and thank them for investing in my community.

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

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, recognized on May 17th of each year. The theme for 2014 is Freedom of Expression, aiming to remind us that the right to freedom of expression of members of sexual and gender minorities should be respected as part of the most fundamental human rights.

Here in Canada, despite protections under the charter of human rights, LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] citizens and their families continue to experience oppression and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender expression. Navi Pillay, the UN's [United Nations] High Commissioner for Human Rights, argues, and I quote, "The fact that so many continue to deny that these abuses are taking place or that there are human right violations makes it all the more important to speak out at every opportunity."

So, Mr. Speaker, today I'm taking the opportunity to speak out, encouraging all members of the Assembly to reach out to those who are particularly vulnerable to homophobic and transphobic bullying. I call on all members to take the opportunity to do so this summer by participating at the upcoming Pride events held throughout Saskatchewan, including this Saturday in Moose Jaw or several Pride parades including Prince Albert on June 8th, Regina on June 14th, or in Saskatoon on June 21st.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities have as much right as anyone to feel safe and free, and we should do whatever we can to secure that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

McArthur River Mine Receives Safety Award

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to share in the Assembly that Cameco was recently recognized for its outstanding safety performance in 2013 by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum.

The McArthur River mine was awarded the CIM's [Canadian Institute for Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum] prestigious John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy for the best safety performance in the metal mine category in 2013. Mr. Speaker, last year the McArthur mine recorded zero reportable injuries for 860,818 working hours. This is the third time the mine has won the national John T. Ryan Award, with previous victories in 2000 and 2009.

In addition to the award, Cameco delivered strong safety performance company-wide in 2013. Several operations celebrated key safety milestones, including Blind River Refinery having seven years without a lost-time injury, Cameco Fuel Manufacturing Inc. having two years without a lost-time injury, and Port Hope conversion facility having one year without a lost-time injury. The Key Lake and Rabbit Lake and Cigar Lake mining operations in northern Saskatchewan also delivered strong safety performance with injury rates on the

downward trend on each site.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Cameco for the commitment to safety in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Teachers of English as a Second Language Conference

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend I had the pleasure of bringing greetings to the 24th annual Teachers of English as a Second Language Conference held here in Regina. As we know, immigration to our province in recent years has changed the need for supports in our schools, and this conference did an outstanding job of helping to understand those needs.

Over 600 delegates gathered in Regina for presentations on supporting English acquisition for second language learners. Delegates were also treated to three phenomenal keynote addresses, one of the key topics being the promotion of multiple literacies in our very diverse classrooms. The mission and focus for the entire conference was to promote excellence in the teaching and learning of English as a second or additional language in partnership with provincial and territorial associations and the world community as a whole.

Saskatchewan welcomed delegates from nearly all the provinces, as well as delegates from Thailand, Colombia, Iceland, United States, Germany, Mexico, Japan, and France. Delegates were also treated to an introduction of First Nations culture with an amazing performance by world-renowned hoop dancer, Terrence Littlelent from Kawacatoose First Nation.

The organizing committee did a fantastic job of planning this conference and of showcasing Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating TESL [Teachers of English as a Second Language] Canada and the organizing committee on a very successful conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Distinguished Realtor Award

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to share with my colleagues that a resident of The Battlefords has just received the Saskatchewan Distinguished Realtor Award. Alexander "Al" White is a very worthy recipient of this honour, which is co-sponsored by the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

This award was presented to him by Bill Madder, the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors CEO [chief executive officer], at the annual Life Legacy Gala held April 8th in Saskatoon.

The purpose of this award is to recognize an active member of the association who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to the real estate industry, both provincially and

locally. Al has been president of the Council of Battlefords Realtors three times, director of the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors for eight years, and was president of the provincial association in 2012. As well he has served on a host of committees and has been very involved in his community.

In making the presentation, CEO Bill Madder had this to say: “It is with great pride that we congratulate Al on being selected to receive this honour.”

The Life Legacy Gala truly turned into the Al White night, as he was also awarded an honorary life membership in the association, and later that evening he raised a significant sum for charity by allowing himself to be auctioned off in the dream date package.

Mr. Speaker, Al was a competitor of mine for many years, but also a good friend who always conducted his business ethically and honestly, and for that reason, has a great respect from his colleagues.

I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating Al White on receiving the Distinguished Realtor Award. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Report Card

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, we’re approaching the end of the school year, and that means the preparation of report cards for students. There was another report card released recently however. The Conference Board of Canada released a report card on the provincial economies, and Saskatchewan’s at the top of the class with an A plus. GDP [gross domestic product] growth got an A plus; employment growth, another A plus; inflation, A; unemployment rate, A. Despite the doom and gloom of the members opposite, people in Saskatchewan are better off today than they ever were under the NDP [New Democratic Party].

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is our government’s report card. All of the credit for this remarkable turnaround in our province goes to the people of Saskatchewan, the entrepreneurs and the employees who have built an A-plus economy after years of enduring an F-minus NDP government. Even today the NDP have nothing new to offer, nothing positive to say. But here’s the good news, Mr. Speaker: the NDP is no longer positioned to hold Saskatchewan back.

Today there are more jobs for our young people. The population is growing. Incomes are rising. Unemployment is lower than it’s ever been, and Saskatchewan is moving forward. Mr. Speaker, we’re never going back to the way it was under the NDP. This is an A-plus province with A-plus people. It deserves an A-plus economy, and that’s exactly what we have today.

[10:15]

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Academic Freedom and University of Saskatchewan Faculty Member

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I came to question period with a lot of concern and a lot of outrage over what is happening at the University of Saskatchewan. And the Premier, Mr. Speaker, came to question period ill-informed and unprepared to answer the questions about what was going on about the fired professor. He didn’t even know what administrative leave means, suggesting somehow that it’s a bad thing. It was absolutely bizarre.

Well here’s what Janice MacKinnon has to say about what’s happening at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]: “I think it’s a huge issue for academic freedom and it’s actually stunning . . . a very, very serious situation at the university.” And Janice MacKinnon goes on to say, “I would say that we are mainly stunned on campus, but there’s a lot of anger as well.”

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: has he finally been briefed on this issue properly, and is he now concerned with what is happening at the University of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what’s been going on at the University of Saskatchewan has had the attention of the government for some several weeks, months since the TransformUS issue started to unfold in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell the House that since yesterday, and in fact before yesterday but since yesterday, I’ve also had the chance to talk to board members at the University of Saskatchewan, including the Chair. I would point out as well for the House that the minister has since spoken to the president of the university and also to the Chair of the board again this morning. Mr. Speaker, I believe the University of Saskatchewan may indeed be issuing a statement today, perhaps very shortly, with respect to actions on this particular matter of Dr. Buckingham. We’ll watch for that statement. We’ll watch for developments carefully.

And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister to convene an urgent meeting of the board. He’s already indicated that request to the chairman of the board. We expect that to happen very shortly, to explore not just this particular issue but, Mr. Speaker, more importantly, the broader issues around the importance of maintaining the reputation, the stability, and, Mr. Speaker, the excellence at the University of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, after months and months of concerns, it seems like this government finally realizes that there’s something they should be paying attention to at the University of Saskatchewan. Here’s what Janice MacKinnon also says:

What’s happening here is really, really concerning. It should be a concern to academics right across Canada. Not only did they fire him from his administrative position, they’re also trying to strip him of his academic position as

a tenured professor and they're doing it because they didn't like what he wrote.

Janice MacKinnon goes on to say, "If you can fire him as a tenured professor for what he said that they didn't like, what about the rest of us?"

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: what's the answer to that? Has this government sought assurances from the University of Saskatchewan that academic freedom is sacrosanct at the U of S?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my friend across the way confuses loud questions in this Assembly for action. Mr. Speaker, it's very important when the issue of the reputation of the university is at stake, or any post-secondary institution, that the government act in a methodical and deliberate way, that the government maintain contact with the board, contact with the leadership of that university or any other institution that is undergoing some changes, as they are, and where there are obviously public issues.

I also find it interesting to note that the Leader of the Opposition is now quoting Janice MacKinnon, Mr. Speaker. It's been a long time since members of the NDP would quote Janice MacKinnon. I think it's appropriate it happened here. It would also be appropriate if he quoted her when she has been commenting on the economic wisdom or lack thereof of the NDP plans for the province of Saskatchewan.

I just want to say to the member in terms of his question, I will repeat what I said. I'll repeat what I said in the first answer. Mr. Speaker, I have chatted with the chairman of the board yesterday, other board members as well, Mr. Speaker. The president was . . . There was a discussion and contact with the president yesterday with the minister responsible for the file, and the minister today has been in contact with the chairman of the board. I have asked the minister to request an urgent meeting with the board, not just to deal with this matter but again to ensure some of the bigger issues are being taken care of with respect to the University of Saskatchewan. In my understanding, arrangements for that meeting are under way.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's puzzling. Just yesterday we have the Minister of Advanced Education saying he finds out about the firing of a tenured professor because of speaking out through Twitter. This is the level of engagement, a level of communication that has been non-existent between this government and the University of Saskatchewan, and it represents, Mr. Speaker, how this government has had its head in the sand as concerns have been raised at the University of Saskatchewan over the past months.

This issue is receiving national attention, and unfortunately it's receiving international attention at the same time. It's embarrassing to our province and it's embarrassing to the U of S. The executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers says:

I'm a little lost for words to describe how outrageous this is . . . It's not acceptable for a university president to behave this way. It's an insult to what universities are. It's an insult to University of Saskatchewan.

He goes on:

What the president of the University of Saskatchewan has done is an embarrassment to the traditions and history of the University of Saskatchewan, and it's an embarrassment to post-secondary education across Canada. It's inexcusable.

My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: does he share these concerns and is he worried about sanctions put on the University of Saskatchewan by this association or the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear about what happened yesterday with respect to minister's comments. The minister did find out about this through social media. That's why he stated his concern yesterday. That's why we were concerned as well. That isn't the level of communication that we would expect, Mr. Speaker, and so we've taken the intervening hours to gather more information, to talk directly with the leadership at the board level and with the president herself through the minister. That is exactly what we've done.

With respect to the comments and the quotes that the hon. member has read, this should be a concern to all of us. I expect there will be in a statement from the University of Saskatchewan soon with respect to the issue, with the potential of a change in direction. I guess we'll wait and see what they have to say, but it would be important for that to occur.

It is also important, I think, for the minister to meet with the board urgently, ASAP [as soon as possible] to talk about this issue and others as we are now all interested. I hope we are motivated by, first and foremost and exclusively, protection of the reputation and the stability of the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I expect that's the case on the part of the hon. members opposite and, Mr. Speaker, we're hopeful, we're expecting that that meeting will occur very quickly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about the tone of the discussion around what's going on at the University of Saskatchewan. This is the Premier yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that came into the Assembly prepared to slag the fired professor and using that somehow as a deflection; a deflection from this government's lack of concern, lack of attention, and lack of action when it comes to the best interests of the University of Saskatchewan.

The grad students' association, Mr. Speaker, the president says, "I'm truly shocked. To not have freedom to express concern over a process that affects the university in such a big way is very shocking." President of the USSU [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union], the students' union says,

“Students are finding this deplorable. This is sort of unprecedented action that’s getting national coverage, and I think as a result is weakening the reputation of the university.”

I share those concerns, Mr. Speaker. But what we haven’t heard from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not he thinks the firing of the professor is appropriate or not appropriate, Mr. Speaker. The university president thinks it does, but academics on campus, national media, student leaders, Janice MacKinnon, many people throughout the province, the majority of people think this is outrageous and ridiculous. Does this Premier think, Mr. Speaker, that it was appropriate to fire Dr. Buckingham?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of gravity and deepening concern that I have made a request to the board Chair this morning, as the Premier has already indicated, to meet with the board of governors forthwith. I anticipate that that will take place, if not tomorrow, then in the coming days.

I want to offer a great reassurance to individuals on that campus and right across the province, and in fact well beyond, that we take the issue of the freedom of expression very seriously. That’s reflected in investments that we’ve made on that campus, and it’s reflected in our continued commitment to excellence for our scholars and for our students, and that is consistent with the legacy and traditions of the University of Saskatchewan.

Very specifically, I have a concern today regarding the actions of the senior administration and whether they may be in compliance with *The University of Saskatchewan Act*, specifically on processes relating to faculty. And so, Mr. Speaker, we take this issue very, very seriously, and I look forward to that board meeting.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the Premier was answering questions about this or giving responses about this, he did not take freedom, academic freedom seriously one little bit, Mr. Speaker. And today, today he continues to sit in his seat and not be willing to stand up and speak out about what is going on at the University of Saskatchewan.

This government, Mr. Speaker, did not hesitate to condemn and to stand up and to speak out when things were going on at First Nations University of Canada. So it’s beyond baffling, Mr. Speaker, why the Premier would pass the baton over to the Advanced Education minister and sit in his chair and be unwilling to stand up and say what is happening at the university is not correct.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: will he stand in this Assembly and say the firing of Dr. Buckingham was inappropriate — yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, we have been crystal clear about our commitment to academic freedom on this campus and others right across this province.

We are also increasingly concerned, as the Premier has stated, about the reputation, the national and global reputation of the University of Saskatchewan. As we know, it’s our only medical doctoral university in this province. We know how important the University of Saskatchewan is, as related to all of the post-secondary institutions across the country. It is among the best when it comes to food security. It offers leading-edge research in health sciences. We take these concerns very, very seriously.

What we want to ensure is that through due diligence that we have accumulated the facts. And these have not just come in a number of hours; we have been in dialogue with the University of Saskatchewan over TransformUS for months. And we will be seeking that meeting with the board forthwith.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it was just I think two days ago in a scrum that the Minister of Advanced Education said he wasn’t even sure if academic freedom applied to the fired professor in this situation. The next day, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Buckingham is fired. That’s how seriously they’ve taken this issue throughout. That’s how seriously they’ve listened to the concerns coming from campus.

And now we have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where the vast majority of Saskatchewan public, the vast majority I think of academics across the country recognize that it’s inappropriate to fire a tenured professor as they have done, bring him into an office with police, fire him, and give a lifetime ban from the university campus.

Now they claim they’re taking this seriously, even though the Minister of Advanced Education said two days ago, not even sure if academic expression applies in this situation. Next day he’s fired. And now we have the situation where the Premier of the province won’t stand up with the concerned people in Saskatchewan and say whether or not it was appropriate for Dr. Buckingham to be fired. I’ll give the Premier another opportunity: will he stand up and condemn what has happened at the University of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member opposite is simply just not accurate. In fact we have here from the Canadian Press, a report entitled: Professor says University of Saskatchewan intimidating faculty over cuts, where I am clearly quoted as saying, and it is very, very clear, Mr. Speaker, that “. . . professors should not be told to keep quiet.” Mr. Speaker, we have been defenders all the way along of academic freedom and that freedom of expression. Not simply in rhetoric, but in fact investments, record investments on that campus and elsewhere. We will continue to defend that, Mr. Speaker.

We will also, also with great urgency seek to meet with the board to ensure that there has been compliance and, if not, there

is an accounting for why there has not been, regarding *The University of Saskatchewan Act*. And we will seek to ensure that the reputation, that is profile and prestige of one of the best institutions, post-secondary institutions in the country will be taken very seriously by the board members and the senior administration.

[10:30]

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

Independent Investigation

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the government took notice of a question on Tuesday about whether or not it believes an independent investigation is warranted into the actions of the member for Saskatoon Sutherland who asked the food bank to pay him to campaign for the Sask Party. To the Premier: what's the answer?

The Speaker: — That question is out of order as it deals with a party matter, not a legislative matter under the competence of the Legislative Assembly.

Next question. I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Membership of Social Services Appeal Board

Mr. Wotherspoon: — In recent weeks we've raised significant concerns about how the poor judgment of the Social Services minister is compromising the independence of the Social Services Appeal Board. The Premier's refused to act. In fact he's doubled down on this.

To the Premier: will he finally do the right thing, restore the confidence and the true independence of the Social Services Appeal Board?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think the members opposite are well aware that the people that are on our Social Services Appeal Board are there because they're professional people, because they understand the issues, and because they care about the issues. Mr. Speaker, the work that we are doing as government to ensure the people who are vulnerable have their thoughts brought forward to our government are very important to us, that we have a professional relationship with the people, and we have an opportunity to gain insight.

Mr. Speaker, when I have had the chance to talk to not only the Chair of the appeal board but other members of the board, we talk about what else we can do to ensure that taxpayers' money is used well and that we can support vulnerable people in this province. Mr. Speaker, that is the goal of the ministry. That is the goal of the government to ensure that people that we put on boards are competent, professional, and give us the information . . . [inaudible] . . . so that we can protect vulnerable people in this province.

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

Travel Expenses

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the Premier is a bit tired today or exactly what's going on, but the question was to the Premier. The government has refused to release the expenses for the Premier's right-hand adviser. We know of at least two inappropriate expenses claimed on behalf of the ministers by that individual, the cabinet secretary. So we need to see the other expense claims.

My question to the Premier: why won't he simply put that information on the table today? What's he afraid of?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked this very question in estimates. The answer was given with respect to the number of requests that the Executive Council freedom of information officer has, by the way, the same individual that was doing the work under the New Democratic government. So when the information's compiled and available, we'll present it.

And while the member is asking questions of travel and expenses, I wonder if he has yet to report to the Assembly, if the NDP have managed to get back the car service money spent by the former premier, or the family travel money spent by the former NDP Health minister when he attended American attorneys general meeting and brought the whole family — thousands of dollars. So if they're going to go down this road, will he turn around and ask the member for Lakeview if he's going to reimburse the taxpayers for those dollars?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as we've said, we'll go all the way back to 1982 if that Premier wants us to. It's not just the expenses of the Premier's right-hand adviser that this government's refused to release. It's also refused to release all staff travel expense claims. And that's a problem because we know the inappropriate expenses from the ministers were buried in staff expense claims.

The Premier says that travel expenses have been reviewed and that there's no other problems, but he's refused to release the information. So to the Premier: why won't he simply do the right thing here today, release that information? Simply what is he afraid of?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, that information will be released. But the truth of the matter is, when we look back we did find some other problems, especially when measured against the standards set by the Leader of the Opposition in his attacks of the Social Services minister this session.

Not very long ago when the NDP were in office, the current member for Regina Lakeview decided he needed to attend I think all of the American attorneys general western conference meetings. And he went to meetings in Juno; in Sun Valley, Idaho; and Monterey, California; and the family came. I'm not sure that's even a problem, but just so you know. This is the

leader's standards, not ours. The family came with him. Twelve thousand dollars over three years for these trips when he wasn't even the Attorney General for the province of Saskatchewan. He was the Health minister.

So again to the Deputy Leader, will he turn around in his chair and ask for that by his own standards — not ours, his leader's standards. Will he turn around in his chair and ask the member for Regina Lakeview to pay the taxpayers back?

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

Costs and Benefits of the Lean Initiative

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, throughout the session this government has also refused to release a lot of information as it relates to its lean pet project, including the breakdown of costs throughout government, the total cost of on-site Japan kanban seminars, the total cost paid to Japanese seminars and to interpreters and so on.

And while we know a fair amount about the lean initiative clawback now that's being foisted onto school divisions, this government's been very quiet about the lean pay bump it's giving to senior health care administrators. I understand this lean pay bump is given to health care administrators simply for holding more lean events, I suspect like the paper airplane folding seminars that front-line health care workers have been forced to attend.

To the Premier: how much are taxpayers paying in total to give this lean pay bump to health care administrators simply to hold more lean events?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a compensation package for senior officials, senior CEOs within the health regions, that is based upon a salary that we do provide to them as well as a paid performance based on a number of measurements that we do have within the system.

My understanding is that the salary is at 90 per cent of what is being agreed to and that they can earn over and above that to a maximum of 110 per cent. This is a long-standing tradition within the management of health care system here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well in this case, Mr. Speaker, Sask Party innovation is giving a pay bump to health administrators for simply holding lean events, lean events, Mr. Speaker, where they watch a video where the Premier is on it praising the benefits of lean that the health care workers have to sit through, where they learn how to fold paper airplanes, Mr. Speaker, and where they learn important words like muda, chaku-chaku, kaikaku, heijunka, and so on, Mr. Speaker. All the senior health care administrators have to do to get their lean pay bump is to hold more lean training events.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: how on earth does it

make sense to give performance bonuses to senior health administrators simply for holding lean events and giving them this lean pay bump?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are certain criteria that senior leaders within the health regions have to achieve in order to achieve any over-and-above payments through their bonus structures.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think that it is very clear that lean is providing a benefit for the entire health care system far and above what we have already invested into the system. For example, this is just from two weeks ago. Sunrise Health Region, they have eliminated the need for clients to wait for callback for mental health follow-up appointments by using a shared appointment calendar, allowing clinicians to book appointments with other clinicians right at the time of the client's appointment. It seems pretty straightforward and a good thing for patients.

They've reduced transcription time, thereby increasing medical record transcription capacity by 46 per cent. They've reduced quality defects by 58 per cent in the transcription notes that arrive between providers. And I think most importantly, they've reduced patient treatment appointment wait-lists from over 100 in the months prior to the RPIW [rapid process improvement workshop] down to 18 and now down to zero. That's just one . . .

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, throughout this sitting we have seen this government continually neglect the basics, all at the same time, Mr. Speaker, as they have been obsessively focused on their pet projects, and lean is the best example.

Now we have the lean pay bump, Mr. Speaker, where senior administrators receive additional dollars simply for holding training events, where participants learn Japanese words and learn how to fold paper airplanes. It's absolutely ridiculous, all at the same time as the government's very own data through the Health Quality Council shows that adverse events are up, mortality rates for major surgery are up, the infection rates are up, and overall patient satisfaction is down. It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that this government and this Premier are not briefed up when it comes to the lean pay bump, and they're just neglecting the basics.

My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: how much is the province paying for the lean pay bump?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend just repeats the same question that the Minister of Health has already answered twice.

You know, it's the end of the session, Mr. Speaker. And the end of a session I think is an important opportunity for Saskatchewan people to do a comparison, to decide between two opposing groups on either side of the House, Mr. Speaker, what side would they like to continue to move the province

forward, admitting that either side, Mr. Speaker, when they have a chance to be in government, aren't going to be perfect. There's going to be mistakes, but they would ask the question after session, who would be better, Mr. Speaker?

Well on the morning the Conference Board of Canada has given this province's economy its highest grade, Mr. Speaker, second highest of all the provinces in the country, and all of the international peers for the province of Saskatchewan; on the morning, I think the day after manufacturing numbers are up in the province, Mr. Speaker; at the end of a session where we have brought down another balanced budget, where we moved the summary financial statements, Mr. Speaker; where we have, Mr. Speaker, announced the largest infrastructure project in the history of the province, of the bypass; our third of a bridge for Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker; twinning in the southeast part of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Well, they're getting excited over there, and I don't blame them. They're excited because they know as long as this is a fact in Saskatchewan, they will stay over there, and we'll continue to move the province forward from this side of the House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 407.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to question 407.

Why is the Minister of Social Services on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

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, and to all my colleagues, thank you. I have the honour of introducing today the summer student in my office. Graham Carver is in the west gallery today. I know that he enjoys his job. He knows it's serious and challenging, but I think he's also kind of glad he's in an office with all women. I know he's delighted about that.

Sitting beside Carver is a lady that used to work in my office that's now in Environment, Amanda Plummer. I'm very delighted you're here today, and please ask all my colleagues to help me welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to make statements. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Expression of Thanks

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With this being the last day of session, I wanted to extend a number of thank yous, as is tradition in this Assembly. Firstly I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the often challenging job that you hold sitting in the Chair. There's obviously some passionate debate that occurs in this Chamber, as we've just seen during question period. And I want to thank you very sincerely for the job that you do in leading this Assembly.

I wish to thank the Clerks, Greg and the Table officers, for the work that you do as well in navigating us through some of the more arcane rules of procedure. So thank you for that. I also want to thank the building staff for the work that they do, broadcast services, library services, journals, Hansard who are often here till late into the evening when we're sitting late. Thank you to them for their work.

I wish to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms for the work that he does and his staff, the commissionaires, for the great job that they do. I also want to thank the cafeteria staff, the Pages for their diligence, the interns, the tour guides, visitor services for all that they do as well.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to our staff in House business, Graham Stewart, Jarret Coels, and Tom Richards, who do an excellent job down there. I thank the media for the work that they do in making sure that the public are informed about what happens in this Assembly and happens in this building.

[10:45]

I also want to thank the Opposition House Leader, my friend who I've developed a very good relationship with. You know, Mr. Speaker, I think people watching the Assembly on television think it's all question period, and it really isn't. There is a great deal of co-operation and discussion that has to occur between the government and opposition in order to make this Assembly function properly. And I want to thank the Opposition House Leader for that.

Also, and I think most importantly, I want to thank our families for the support that they give all of us and allow us to do this job. We're often away for extended periods, there's a lot of travel, and you're always pretty much on duty, Mr. Speaker. So I want to extend our thank you to the families of all the members for their support.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will be moving a motion later on in terms of the adjournment of the Assembly but I just wanted to extend those thank yous to all those folks named.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Government House Leader in terms of the many thanks, the debt of gratitude that we in this Assembly owe so many.

I'd start with yourself first, Mr. Speaker, in terms of demonstrating that leadership from the Chair and the way that you continue to protect the rights and privileges of members in this Assembly to make sure that we might conduct the people's business in a way that we owe such a debt to the democracy that we hold so dear.

I'd like to thank very much the Table officers, the Clerk and the Table. I'll miss not being able to go for daily prayers when the House is not in session, but certainly I guess we'll do that . . . They'll have to feel the disturbance in the force or something like that, Mr. Speaker. But certainly there's a great deal of guidance and wisdom that the Table tries to impart, certainly to myself. I appreciate that very much in terms of trying to do my job, and we try to live up to the good counsel on offer.

And as well to the Clerk and all the folks in the Clerk's office and the great work that they do in supporting this Chamber, everyone in member services, the Legislative Assembly Service of course. There are a lot of people making this Chamber run as well as it does, Mr. Speaker.

The folks in Hansard, journals, audiovisual, for all the great work that they do and particularly when it comes to deciphering some of my speeches, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that's no end of challenge.

I want to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, the security, and the commissionaires. At this moment, Mr. Speaker, I'd wish a happy belated 90th birthday to Joe Deck who served many years in this Chamber, and well, Mr. Speaker. And I think of Joe when I think of the people that, the many people we come into contact and the work that they do, but happy 90th to Joe.

I'd also like to say, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Usher of the Black Rod work that was done by Ben Walsh yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to go on record saying that that's some of the finest Usher of the Black Rod work I think we've ever seen in this Chamber. And I know it's a present, not a permanent appointment, but he did a heck of a job, Mr. Speaker, and it would be great to see him continue on in that role.

In terms of the folks in the library, again information is so critical to what we do and the work that they do. The cafeteria folks, obviously I benefit greatly from the work that they do, Mr. Speaker, and the fuel for the fire.

I'd like to thank the folks in the press gallery for the work that they do in terms of communicating what happens here and on out into the countryside, Mr. Speaker, through the many different channels. It's again that the media provides the oxygen that is vital to the fire of the democracy burning brightly, Mr.

Speaker.

I'd like to thank the caucus members on both sides. You know, I've even got the running commentary going right now from the member from Indian Head-Milestone. I'd like to thank him in particular for all the help he provides as we do this work in this House, Mr. Speaker.

But in very serious earnestness, Mr. Speaker, thanks to everyone in this Chamber for the work that they do and the hours that they put on behalf of the people. The caucus staffs that work very hard, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much to them. To the constituency assistants who are out there holding the fort for all of us as we attend to the people's business right here, thank you very much to them. And in terms of the folks in House business on our side, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank very much Linsay Martens and Katherine Norton for the great work that they've done in terms of House business. But being the relatively small shop that we are, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of other folks that pitch in, but particularly thank you, Linsay and Kat.

And I'd also like to thank Graham and the folks in the government House business office for working in concert with us. And I'd like to thank my colleague, the Government House Leader, for all the work that we get to do together. Again one of the main tasks that we have is to try and make sure that the process runs as straightforward as it can to make sure that the issues are what take centre stage as opposed to the procedural wrangling. And again in terms of the level of communication and trust that we've built up, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that relationship very much and look forward to the work to be continued there. Second to last, Mr. Speaker, the Pages have done a heck of a job this session. We'll see who comes back. But you know, putting up with us is no easy feat but they've done it in fine style.

And very last, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank our friends and family. You know, they do such a . . . They put up with a lot in terms of being involved in the lives of elected officials, but that's what makes this all worthwhile and keeps us going in the work that we do, and we thank them for it. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd say thank you very much, wish everybody a safe changing of the venue.

The Speaker: — In joining with the House leaders I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work this session. Thank you to the members for their many hours of service to Saskatchewan and for the long hours and days away from their families. It is time to return to our homes and spend some quality time with our families. Thank you to the families who stayed at home and support us.

While the Assembly is not likely to sit until the fall, I know the work does not end. Committees continue to work through the recess period. Ministers will continue their duties and meetings in Regina and Saskatoon or across the province. Private members will continue their work on constituency issues and in their roles as committee members, legislative secretaries, and critics. And I'm already trying to organize meetings for those.

I would like to thank the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] staff, the Clerks and officers, the Pages, Hansard,

Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff, the library staff, the interns, caucus staff, cafeteria staff, central service building staff. Their hours are often as long, or in the case of Hansard, even longer than those of the members. Thank you to our constituency staff for their diligence and hard work.

Thank you to my staff, Sheila and Connie, for their support, especially in dealing with the programs and initiatives such as SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] and the educational outreach program, which is run out of the Speaker's office. These programs take a lot of extra time but are well worth the effort.

Everyone, have a safe and fulfilling summer. Thank you. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave to make an introduction of some special guests that have just joined us.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the most successful, the most dynamic international bilateral relationship, I think it's fair to say, in modern history is that of the relationship between Canada and the United States. It's a relationship, Mr. Speaker, that we ought never to take for granted on either side, but certainly from the perspective of Saskatchewan, we ought never to do that.

Mr. Speaker, last year alone, if the measure is only economic, and it's not, last year alone \$21 billion worth of goods from Saskatchewan to the United States, 65 per cent of our exports, and for that we need to say to our guests, the ambassador, and I'll introduce them formally in a moment, we need to say thank you through him to the people of the United States for the relationship.

We are joined in your gallery by the new US [United States] ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Bruce Heyman. He's joined by his wife, Vicki, is with us here this morning, as well as Peter Kujawinski, the American Consul General based out of Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, the ambassador hails from the great city of Chicago. It's very important to us from another perspective, including the trade relationship we have, as an important hub for that relationship. And I'm sure His Excellency is a Chicago Blackhawks fan, and so we've been happy to share some important exports there as well, including the brother of the current Environment minister who spent some time in the front office, Kevin Cheveldayoff, with the Blackhawks. And I think Sheldon Brookbank's from Lanigan, Saskatchewan as well, Mr. Speaker.

So there are many things that connect us as two countries. Mr. Speaker, I think Adlai Stevenson, a US politician who I think

ran for the presidency at one point, he said that Saskatchewan, he thought, was a lot like Texas, except friendlier to the United States.

This is something that we welcome, Mr. Speaker. We are very, very grateful for the relationship. I'm going to be meeting with His Excellency here in just a few moments . . . a few hours, I guess. We look forward to raising some issues. In this good friendship, we from time to time have issues to overcome, and we look forward to discussing those.

And I'll leave us all with what John F. Kennedy said about the relationship when he said, "Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends." Mr. Speaker, this was true when Kennedy said these words. It's most assuredly true today. We welcome His Excellency and his wife, Vicki, and the consul general to the Legislative Assembly here in our capital city.

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

Mr. Broten: — Request leave, Mr. Speaker, to join in the welcome.

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to colleagues. I simply want to join with the Premier in expressing a welcome to His Excellency Mr. Heyman and his wife, Vicki, and the consul general from Calgary.

We absolutely, as the Premier states, value the relationship between Canada, but specifically Saskatchewan and the United States. It's important on an economic front and a social front. And we thank you for the work that you've done already and the work that you'll most certainly do in the years ahead. So on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to the legislature today.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Social Impact Bond

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very honoured to be entering into this very exciting time in the new Saskatchewan, talking about social impact bonds. And I'll be reading the motion at the end of my speech, Mr. Speaker.

But this is something that is extremely exciting certainly for Saskatoon, certainly for Saskatchewan, and for all of Canada because this is the first social impact bond that is going on in Canada. There have been some other ones previously in the United States as well as the United Kingdom, but this is a new and innovative way of dealing with certain issues within the social community that government and the community faces, Mr. Speaker. It's one of those new and innovative things, as

I've said, Mr. Speaker, that this side of the House certainly looks at, trying to use different mechanisms and use different tools to be able to start addressing some of the core needs.

We're trying to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we get to exactly who is going to need this program. And I'll talk a little bit about the specifics of the Sweet Dreams program, but it's a, I don't use this word often, Mr. Speaker, but it is a game changer. It certainly is. We've had, since we've made this announcement on Monday, the Minister of Social Services up in Saskatoon, we've had counterparts from all across Canada, including the federal government, calling and asking, how did we do this? And I think it comes down to very simple terms, Mr. Speaker, on how we were able to achieve this and how the minister was able to work with this, and I think it's straight-up communication.

And I want it on the record for the House that this isn't something that government is driving. This is something that the business community and the service providers approached us on, Mr. Speaker. They were the ones that came and said, how can we help out with what's going on? I think they realized that not all of the responsibility of everything that goes on in the community is the government's responsibility, Mr. Speaker. They feel that they have a vested interest in exactly what is going on within their communities, and they want to be able to help out in any way they can.

Now I want to talk a little bit about local businesses and how they do this on a smaller level. Certainly when I was working at the Saskatoon Food Bank and several other charities in Saskatoon, the local businesses always were there to help out. They were there to help out with an auction, to buy a table at an event, to supply food. Whatever it was, they were there. Now this is taking that idea of just a little bit, but taking it to the next level, Mr. Speaker. The social impact bond is something that is certainly in our future. We are very, very excited about this. And you know what? It just makes sense. And I'll get into some of the quotes from the people involved, but I guess I'll describe a little bit what a social impact bond is.

[11:00]

What a social impact bond is, Mr. Speaker, is when you have an investment from the private sector to help out with a government initiative. They were investing the capital in this project, Mr. Speaker. And I'll get into who the investors are right away. They're investing in this because they want to invest. They don't feel that this is something that the government is driving. They want to make sure that they are able to help out whenever they can.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the social impact bond has some parameters around it, and it has to be very clear on this. We are putting through 23 people through the Sweet Dreams program. Now in order for the social impact bond to actually be paid out for by government — it's on a five-year-plan — we actually will only pay if there is a success rate of 75 per cent.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's an extremely important point on the 75 per cent. We want measurable, attainable outcomes. And we're very excited that people like Egadz are administering or helping us with this program because they are

at the ground level. Egadz has been around for over 20 years, Mr. Speaker, and they are very involved in what is going on in the core within Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, I've worked with Don and Barry, several different charities, as well as I was with the food bank. When I was with SaskEnergy, on the United Way Day of Caring we chose to go over and help out with them on their deck. We rebuilt their deck. We had a bunch of guys there and rebuilt their deck because that was something that they needed.

So again it was government working with the community to be able to address some of their needs. Now it's been flipped around, Mr. Speaker. Now we have these agencies approaching businesses and to partner with the government to be able to help out.

Now this project, specifically about Sweet Dreams, is about helping single mothers. And I don't want that to get lost because I'm pretty sure that the opposition is going to disagree with this, Mr. Speaker, because they seem to disagree with absolutely anything and everything that we do on this side of the House. But the program is designed to be able to bring single mothers into a safe home.

And one of my first questions when I had this debriefing with the people that put together the social impact bond is to make sure that the mother and children are safe, that there are no men allowed in the house. And even though one of the key investors is a husband and wife combo, the gentleman isn't allowed in the house because of the safety of the mothers and the children is the first priority certainly for this government, certainly for Egadz, as well as certainly for the investors.

Now I'm going to talk a little bit about who the investors are, and I think we have an absolute perfect combination here. We have Colleen and Wally Mah of North Ridge Developments. Now, Mr. Speaker, Colleen and Wally are very familiar throughout Saskatchewan. They've been involved with North Ridge Developments. They're involved in Regina, Saskatoon, Martensville, Swift Current. They are trying to build Saskatchewan one home at a time.

But they're not just building homes, Mr. Speaker. They are investing in their community by doing things like Sweet Dreams, Mr. Speaker. They are out there on the front line and want to know what they can do. They've been very successful business people, very successful business partners, Julius Calyniuk also with that. These are the people that just get out and do it.

And I want to talk about a personal example, when I was at the food bank, on how Colleen and Wally actually came out to help us build our garden on 2nd Avenue in Saskatoon, a community garden. This was something that, not just did they help out with some financial money to be able to provide some seed and provide some infrastructure around that, but Wally Mah and Julius Calyniuk were actually out there. Julius was on the tractor plowing it himself.

Now this is an owner of a multi-million dollar business that's not just cutting a cheque to see how he can help out. He's in the dirt on 2nd Avenue in Saskatoon, picking rocks out there with myself and actually some people that were from Urban Camp,

the prison system. Some offenders were out there. So there you have a multi-million dollar businessman, people from the food bank, and you have offenders, all working side by side to help out St. Mary's School.

And that's the kind of people that Wally Mah and his business associates are . . . certainly doing within our community. They're very, very exciting, very energetic people. And whoever has spoken to Wally and had the chance to talk to him and Colleen, they're very much great, salt of the earth people, and they want to be able to help out within the community, Mr. Speaker. So that's a little bit of background about the Mahs, but I want to talk a little bit about the other investor. Colleen and Wally in North Ridge Developments have invested a half million dollars, which is a substantial amount of money, Mr. Speaker.

We also have an investment from the credit union and Eric Dillon at the credit union. This is an extremely important investment from their perspective because they have been out with the Minister of Social Services at Habitat for Humanity. They see the value of being able to invest in permanent resident homes for people with Habitat for Humanity, and now they're taking that one step further in being able to work on what is going on with the Sweet Dreams home.

I just want to read you a little quote from Eric Dillon. It says, "Sweet Dreams empowers families to enhance their quality of life and improve their social situations." That's a very good statement, Mr. Speaker, because it sums it up very quick. We're just trying to improve their social situations. We're making sure that they have the access to all the facilities, that they're close to schools.

And I want to talk just for a brief second about the location that they picked because this just wasn't a random location. It's in the 600 block of Queen Street in Saskatoon, which happens to be about four blocks from an elementary school, and it also happens to be just located right across the street from Saskatoon City Hospital. Again a perfect place that if there was a mother, if there was a situation where they needed to take, they don't have to jump in the car. They can literally walk across the street to the City Hospital and be able to get services for their children.

They have that safety and security of what's going on in their community. And that is a beautiful area. They are three blocks from the river, from Spadina Crescent where they can go see the weir. And those mothers and those children are going to experience a different life. This is absolutely a life-changing event for them, Mr. Speaker.

But I want to touch a little bit about Egadz. Again, it's been around since 1990, and again this is a community-based organization. This is one of those community-based organizations that's well respected in the community. I know my colleague from Coronation Park has dealt with Egadz when he was running programs in Regina. And in his words, other than maybe the programs that he set up, "There's nobody better than Egadz." They are as solid as they come in the community and I think everybody in Saskatoon certainly has a respect for them.

Obviously Wally and Colleen have that respect for them, the credit union because they are prepared to make that investment into their organization. I want to give you a little quote from Don from Egadz.

Don Meikle, executive director of Egadz, says that this house is an extension of the programs that give young women a helping hand:

"Their children will not see what they have endured," Meikle explained. "They're going to be able to provide the things their babies deserve. We all want to provide the best for our kids. These moms are no different."

Mr. Speaker, that's the commitment that Egadz has, not just to be able to help out the community with a downtown centre, but taking a step further — making sure that they have security in their home, making sure that they are able to provide the best. Because as a parent, and as all parents know, this is the most important thing, is what we, the legacy that we leave for our kids.

That's why again, speaking of legacy, I am so proud of the Minister of Social Services for stepping up and making sure that we were the first to do this. And we didn't rush this, Mr. Speaker. We made sure we had everything done. And I think it was an absolute perfect alignment when you have the right people with the right organization and the right government support in that.

Now that support isn't a financial support up front, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that we have our support all throughout this, and the only time that the government will be paying out on this is after the five-year program when we have a 75 per cent return or success rate with the people going through, Mr. Speaker. That's the key, Mr. Speaker. If they do not attain that, the government has no investment in this whatsoever. And it's very, very important that the people understand that this is the government working with the private sector and a community-based organization, and we're doing it for the right reasons.

The government is not doing this to be able to put off debt, as the opposition members will say. The government is doing this for the 23 moms and their kids. That's the most important thing that we're going to do here, Mr. Speaker, is we're going to make a change in their lives. And with the people involved and the credit union and Egadz involved, I would be very surprised, Mr. Speaker, if they don't come in well above 75 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I've only got a couple of minutes left, but I just want to go through some very positive quotes here, Mr. Speaker. One is from Murray Mandryk in *The StarPhoenix*:

It does seem rather difficult to criticize the concept of finding ways to provide single . . . [moms] at risk of requiring services from Child and Family Services with affordable housing while helping them complete their education, secure employment and participate in life skills training and parenting classes.

Murray Mandryk from *The StarPhoenix*, May 13th. Another quick quote is, also from Murray Mandryk:

So what's wrong with business quite literally investing in those at risk? If anything, it might actually help bridge the class divide in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I think it needs to be said just one more time about what the impact of having a social bond is. The social impact bond is a partnership. We are involved with this. We want to make sure that the outcomes . . . Because a lot of the times we invest in programs, but we don't find out what the outcome is. What happens when they leave the program?

We want to make sure that we track the individuals because ultimately, Mr. Speaker, we want them to be successful. Because when they're successful, Saskatchewan is successful. And we can look after the most vulnerable people in Saskatchewan, then I would consider this government extremely successful, Mr. Speaker.

But I will go through the motion. The motion is:

That this Assembly commend the government and its partners for implementing Canada's first social impact bond, a funding model that will enhance the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Sutherland:

That this Assembly commend the government and its partners for implementing Canada's first social impact bond, (SIB), a funding model that will enhance the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to rise today to enter into the last 75-minute debate of this part of the session and am looking forward to the discussion today.

I want to speak to the motion itself, but before I do, I noted that the member opposite took considerable amount of time speaking about the parties involved in Sweet Dreams. And right off the top, I want to commend all the people that got involved in this very important project. Sweet Dreams is a very important project. These are the most vulnerable women and children in our society. And these kinds of projects are incredibly important to move these people along and have the social investment indeed in their success which is a success for everyone.

I know that Wally and Colleen Mah are philanthropists in the city of Saskatoon. They've supported countless projects. And I've been at a number of events in Saskatoon where they were represented at supporting the arts and sports and social enterprise. And it's really wonderful to see individuals like Wally and Colleen participate in the community in the way that they can as philanthropists.

Also Conexus Credit Union and certainly that's not the only

credit union in Saskatoon that supports these kinds of activities. I know I'm aware of Affinity Credit Union also taking care to ensure that community-based organizations get the support they need from the private sector to do the very, very important work that they do. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, Egadz is one of the most important, I think, social enterprises in Saskatoon. It's received all kinds of support over the years from philanthropists, from government, from all levels, because we know that the work that they do is incredibly important. So congratulations to all those partners, and certainly we wish all the best of success to Sweet Dreams because it is a very important enterprise.

Now the motion itself though is talking about a concept. It's a political or a social policy that has received favour in the last few years. And I wanted to take the rest of the time available to me to discuss some of the concerns about social impact bonds, because it's easy to be a cheerleader for it, particularly when you're in a government that's pressed for cash. And we see that this government certainly is pressed for cash.

And typically these types of social enterprises are ones that are supported and funded by governments. But when governments see their public dollars squeezed and not so available, and there's some information here I want to share along that line, then this is kind of a popular alternative for a number of governments today. So rather than subject our members opposite to my opinion on this, I certainly want to share some of the comments that some of the observers and social writers have been talking about.

[11:15]

I guess the first thing I want to talk about is somewhat of a typo error in the motion itself. Because in a report from *The StarPhoenix* . . . And I have to find this, Mr. Speaker. I understand that this isn't exactly the first . . . It says it's Canada's first social impact bond, but there was an article in *The StarPhoenix* that says that actually it is not the first, that the Government of Canada has actually implemented two already in the area of literacy I believe. And I know I had a tag here but it's not coming to me. Literacy and another area. So it's actually the third in Canada. But that's just one small error in the motion itself.

I want to share with you some comments first of all from *The Edmonton Journal*, and this is from May 5th of 2014. And this is, the Alberta government actually introduced a law last year, Bill 1, which was called the Social Innovation Endowment Account. And this was their version of funding the promotion and development of social impact bonds in Alberta. And the critique here, and the concerns that are raised when governments jump on this kind of bandwagon, is that . . . and I'm just going to quote from this article which says:

The truth is that the private money will only flow to those projects which can guarantee success, and leave any innovative or creative projects out in the cold. If one of these projects was to fail, and the investors lose their money, they would certainly pursue any means necessary to get that money back, including suing the implementing agency for mismanagement and failed implementation. How many non-profit agencies have the resources to fight

the likes of RBC or Goldman Sachs in court? Realistically, in Alberta, all it would take is for one high-profile project to fail before money managers flagged them as poor investments.

And the article goes on to say, Mr. Speaker:

In the end, these bonds [will] accomplish none of their promises: There is no risk transfer, because investors will not fund projects that might fail; they accomplish no government savings, because governments remain the only ones willing to fund the truly creative and innovative programs; and they ultimately cost the government more money in the long run because government will still need to pay out a rate of return to investors. What they will accomplish is a change in the delivery of public and human services — to a desire to meet the needs of wealthy investors, rather than a desire to serve the needs of the public, the community, or the province.

So that's some of the concerns that have been identified about social impact bonds.

I'm going to move on now to . . . This is an article from a website called MuniLand, and it's a quote from an article from May 5th, 2014, and it's a blog. The title of the blog is "Social impact bonds are well-intended, but they bloat bureaucracies." And the author is a woman named Cate Long.

And what Cate Long did is outlined . . . This is something that's very popular in the United States right now, and there's some information from the American department of legislative services. And here's the quote:

In January of 2013, the Department of Legislative Services advised against SIBs for the following reasons:

SIBs cause an increase in budgetary pressure compared to direct program financing due to the necessity of funding contingent liabilities and the added expense of features unique to SIBs.

[Inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services is hollering over at me right now, what do I think. What I think is that a government should do a careful analysis of the risks and a detraction from these types of enterprises rather than just jumping on a bandwagon because the government has no money to do these types of programs.

I'll continue on with the quote: "SIBs do not produce cost savings when outcomes are achieved, even under highly optimistic assumptions." And the minister should be concerned about that, Mr. Speaker.

She should also be concerned about this: "SIBs could effectively exclude new providers . . ." She doesn't even want to listen to the concerns about these, Mr. Speaker, and I find that rather disappointing.

"SIBs could effectively exclude new providers and program types that do not have a well-established record of success with investors seeking to minimize risk." She obviously isn't concerned about the problems with SIBs. She's still heckling

from across the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Fourthly, "SIBs potentially distort evidence used in policy decisions."

And so these are very important concerns from the legal services, the legislative services of the United States of America. And the quote goes on to say, or the article goes on to say, this is from the legislative services, they understand that SIBs could leverage public dollars, but the concern is that alternative models already exist. And the conclusion of this article says:

In conclusion, SIBs are well-intended, but they unnecessarily bloat bureaucracies. Moreover, they have the potential of leading to Crony Capitalism, and as the Maryland Department of Legislative Services concluded, they do not save money.

So I would think the taxpayers of Saskatchewan, and certainly this government, should be concerned about those kinds of comments, and maybe just take a little time. Obviously they're jumping into this as sort of a justification of maybe some trips to London to find out what goes on there. We know that the minister could have simply gone to Edmonton, Alberta or even to the Government of Canada if she wanted to find out more about these things.

There's also an article, it's called Nonprofit Quarterly, and this is an article from their website. And I want to quote that as well in the time remaining to me:

The concrete experience that advocates in the U.S. have drawn on to justify their SIB enthusiasm is from the UK, which saw a number of SIBs get underway with the active involvement and promotion of the Tory/Liberal government of David Cameron.

This past week, SIB enthusiasts encountered some reason for nervousness. The *Guardian* published an article titled "Social Impact Bonds: Is the Dream Over?," following up on the news that the UK government's first SIB, the recidivism project of the prison in Peterborough, would be replaced by an "alternate arrangement."

So before the SIB has even got off the ground in London, maybe the minister should have found out that they're actually already replacing it with a different policy arrangement.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I have much more that I'd like to say, but as always there's only 10 minutes available to us for this conversation. I look forward to hearing what other members have to say in the debate, and not just cheerleading for this particular project. This is important social policy that needs to be well debated. Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I'm very honoured to be involved in this debate, this funding model that will enhance the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. And our government is honoured to lead the charge of a new direction,

Sweet Dreams, right here in Saskatchewan for the good of our children. This opportunity, provided by Wally and Colleen Mah, will lay the groundwork for lasting and significant change.

The children and families in Saskatchewan will have better outcomes and quality of life with this particular project. Our hope is that the change is achievable. Families every day experience challenges and often are against great odds, Mr. Speaker. Our government recognizes these challenges and, in conducting Sweet Dreams' project, our wish for Saskatchewan families is a future filled with greater promise, a future life with stability, learning, and fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, having a safe and secure place to live will help families reach their full potential. This particular project, a new formula, allows government and private investors to work together to find ways to make a better quality of life a reality and a possibility. Youth and children here in Saskatchewan are at a high priority in our government, and all children should get a good start in life.

Mr. Speaker, this is a cutting-edge formula, a cutting-edge funding model, the first time in Canada. This model acquires money to achieve that approval, and single mothers and their children will achieve support to secure employment. The goal is to have mothers and children to achieve a desired social income. Services will be measured by independent assessors, and our government will work with the community and the parents and the children.

The social impact for the children will help with foster family involvement, and Sweet Dreams will ensure safety while giving support that the family needs. There will be a better quality of life through the mothers and children, through safe housing, and employment.

Mr. Speaker, as our government develops a benchmark with more efficiencies than the current system in place, the quality of life for these children and families will improve. Mr. Speaker, a real priority is helping those vulnerable and challenged, and I'm encouraged with the direction our government is taking in addressing the families in need. Developing the Sweet Dreams project and other services for families is something that is sorely needed in this province for a number of years, and we are committed to programs that will develop results and success in keeping families together and working in a new direction.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, Sweet Dreams in Saskatoon is a safe haven for at-risk mothers, giving them support for them and their children together. Aligning with the objectives of the Saskatchewan child and family agenda, it assists some of our most vulnerable members of society and gives them a better chance at life while keeping the family together. We also know that this wonderful program was made possible by co-operating with private investors to produce a positive benefit for our society and a lasting impact for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Sweet Dreams is based on a multi-ministry, long-term strategy where Social Services, Health, Education, and Egadz will work together to support single mothers and their children from entering the foster care system, thus hopefully they will reach their full potential. Child and family

services will have active involvement with the children to ensure their safety through an open child protection file and regular visits to the home.

I was listening to the member from Saskatoon Nutana's comments regarding financing, but there is a lot more to this than just financing at stake. It's the lives of children and our future in Saskatchewan. This new funding model has helped to open a new supported living home for at-risk single mothers right here in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The first social impact bond in Canada has partnered the Saskatchewan government, private investors, and the Saskatoon downtown youth centre, Egadz, to open the Sweet Dreams house.

The government's required outcome is to provide single mothers with children under the age of eight with housing and support while they work to complete education or acquire employment skills. They are able to stay in the Sweet Dreams house anywhere from six months to two years, and for this to be a successful investment the government requires that the children in the home stay out of foster care for six months after they leave the house.

This social impact bond is a very innovative funding model that leverages private capital to deliver social and client outcomes. It will provide mothers and children with a safe, secure place to live. It will provide a continuum of care to keep families together. Sweet Dreams living project will enable mothers to achieve an education and employment and increase connections of mothers with the job market and contribute back to society.

The impact on the children is what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker. The value provides stability for our future, and we are hoping to leave a legacy of stability and productivity for the families involved.

The Sweet Dreams project is expected to result in a savings to government of 1.5 million over five years. Now these savings are based on the cost of children in the care of the ministry. The member from Saskatoon Nutana was talking about the anticipated cost savings, so I was just wanting to give you these figures. Now this figure does not take any other potential cost savings related to health, criminal justice, and any other future social assistance into account beyond the five years of this program.

Now I would like to put on record from *The StarPhoenix* of May 13, 2014: "Terry Scaddan, chair of the EGADZ board of directors, described the model as a 'win-win situation.'"

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, I also have a quote by a single mother, Chantal McLaren, from *The StarPhoenix*, May 13, 2014. She said:

Sweet Dreams will give other young mothers the same opportunity.

"They'll be able to keep their children and excel in life, have a way better future."

Again, Mr. Speaker, the social impact bond is an innovative funding arrangement between government, private investors,

and a service delivery organization. In these arrangements, government sets out a specific social outcome it wants achieved and promises to pay the private investors a pre-arranged sum, if and only if the service delivery organization accomplishes the desired social outcome.

This new formula to fund . . . Sweet Dreams is a home for women in crisis, and it combines government and private investor cash. It's meant to be a safe landing for families with no place to go. The Sweet Dreams project is a home for women and their children at risk of being separated. The goal is to give them parenting and life skill classes and keep them out of the foster care system, Mr. Speaker.

The money behind Sweet Dreams is very groundbreaking, an agreement between the province and private investors that is based on results. It's a very new supportive living facility, but again it will provide at-risk single mothers with a safe place to call home. Through the social impact bond, Egadz will get \$1 million from private investors that include the Conexus Credit Union and Wally and Colleen Mah. At-risk single mothers have a new supported living home in Saskatoon, again due to its first-of-its-kind funding model in Canada. So therefore I do support this very important strategy.

The Speaker: — The time has expired. Next member. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this debate on this topic. It's an important topic that we have before us, and it's one that's being debated around Canada, around North America, and Europe for sure.

And I find it ironic that in our dying moments of this session, the final moments, that we've not had the opportunity other than today to really talk about this. This wasn't in the Throne Speech. It wasn't in the budget. It wasn't raised in estimates. So we've really not had the opportunity to really fully discuss this, and here we are at the end.

And I do want to say as well right off the bat that I agree with my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana who said that we fully support the idea of Sweet Dreams. It's a wonderful idea. It's a great, great program. Egadz, and I'm very familiar with Egadz in Saskatoon. Of course they are actually in my riding, and I know the folks involved with Egadz quite well. Great work, great work they do for vulnerable families, parents, young teens, and children. And they do deserve so much support from us as a province in terms of thinking upstream and thinking about, how do we prevent the kind of tragic circumstances where children become vulnerable and we have to intervene.

Clearly with the Children's Advocate special report yesterday, we saw the kind of circumstances we're seeing too often in this province, too often because this government has not made it a priority in the number of years that it's been in government to actually fully fund, to fully fund the kind of work that needs to be done. So why isn't this happening? Why isn't this happening? And so here we are today debating the merits of this kind of project.

Now it would be interesting if it would have been highlighted earlier on, and we could have had that full debate and that full

discussion about what the processes are going to be. What are the processes of applying? What are the processes around the benchmarks? That type of thing. But instead we see this in the last week of session.

And in fact we didn't get notice of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't know if you know this, but we didn't get notice until Friday night at 7:30 that something was going to happen Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Can you believe that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we would get notice Friday night, not before 5 o'clock, not during regular working hours, but actually at 7:30 in the evening that there was an embargoed session Monday morning on this? And I think this seems like a kind of a rushed job. Why is it that we are doing this at such a late, late time? And we've never had the opportunity to fully discuss this. It wasn't profiled in a way that would allow for good public debate on this. And I think that we have a lot of questions.

We only have to look next door to our neighbours in Alberta about what's happened there around this. And of course we look at the news stories, and this one's dated actually January 30th, 2013 — well over a year ago, well over a year ago — when Premier Alison . . . And I'll quote this into the record so people have this.

Premier Alison Redford's suggestion Monday that Alberta will introduce "social infrastructure bonds" has ignited a heated debate among politicians, investment experts and social service workers.

Supporters of social bonds say they are an innovative and progressive way to fund money-saving social programs that wouldn't otherwise exist, while detractors call them a "slippery slope" toward privatization of public [social] services.

And we know the article goes on to talk about "Canada's federal Human Resources Minister Diane Finley announced in November [of 2012] the Harper government will start issuing social impact bonds this year." And in fact I understand that they have actually entered into two contracts.

So this is something that's happening across Canada, and maybe we should have had time to properly, properly take a look at what was happening. In fact it actually did stir quite a bit of opinion in Alberta. And I'm just going to quote from an article from Ricardo Acuña, who is executive director of the Parkland Institute, a non-partisan public policy research institute in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. So it's a well-respected institute. It's placed within an academic setting.

And so he has some real, real concerns about this, and I don't necessarily go through the whole article, but clearly he talks about how this has a lot of questions and we should really be talking about this. So we're missing an opportunity that we should've had during session to have the full conversation because we know, we know there are many, many important jobs that we should be doing out there, and if the government is not making those things a priority and fully funding them, then we have an issue with that.

So I'd like to just quote from *The Edmonton Journal*, and this is

actually from March 4th, 2014, and I quote:

The Alberta government's Bill 1, introduced Monday in the provincial legislature, carves out \$1 billion from the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund to create something called the Social Innovation Endowment Account. This account is designed, among other things, to fund the promotion and development of social impact bonds in Alberta.

If you've never heard of social impact bonds, you are likely not alone. Although Alison Redford has been talking about them since the 2011 PC leadership race, nobody has been paying much attention [to them] until now.

And of course here we are in Saskatchewan, and it's coming to our attention. At least in Alberta they had the wherewithal to introduce a bill so we could have proper debate and there would be some profile of this. Because we don't want to mix two important issues here together: one, Sweet Dreams, which I think we can all support; and the other about social impact bonds, which we need to know much more about, we need to know much more about.

And we need to know what is it exactly the government's willing to invest. Is this a pilot project that had no funding from the budget, or some? We hear maybe it did, but it wasn't profiled in the budget. And we have some real concerns because as we see and we heard yesterday and a week ago the Children's Advocate calling for a poverty reduction strategy, and government saying, no, everything's good; we've got a good plan happening. But then we see these things here where we have some real questions.

I have some questions about what kind of impact this has on philanthropy in the province. What does this mean for foundations, whether they be hospital foundations or the Saskatoon foundation that depends on the goodwill of people who are in a fortunate position that they can make donations? Now I know this is an investment but still, money is limited, and whether you invest it or you donate it is the question. And those people do very, very good . . . Those foundations do very, very important work.

I have questions about situations like Station 20 West, where this government callously shut down the funding that we had provided for them and they had to go out and had to raise between 4 and \$5 million. Maybe that would have been an opportunity for this kind of bond. But the question then becomes, that's a little riskier because you're investing in a grocery store and a community centre. So then it becomes, what are the processes here? Are these things going to be used for things where there's not as much risk, or should they be used for things that are outside the normal bounds of what government usually funds?

This kind of thing, Sweet Dreams, would be I think something that government should typically fund, particularly when we see them funding to the extent of some \$51 million — \$51 million — for their Linkin system. That was at first, four years ago, was scheduled to cost \$15 million, \$15 million. At Christmas it was 37 million. Now it's 51 million.

So they seem to have money for some of their pet projects, and we could talk about lean as well. And today we talked about bump-up pay for executives who participate, and here we have a situation where we have money for that. But apparently the government does not have money for Sweet Dreams, does not have money for Sweet Dreams, which I would argue they should have.

So we have a lot of questions. We have a lot of questions about this. And we think the government should be thinking innovatively. We should all be thinking in an innovative way, but we should make sure we have our priorities straight, what are priorities. And our priorities are looking after vulnerable children, and they should be a number one priority, not after our Irish computer systems like Linkin. I think we really need to make sure that Social Services has their priorities straight.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of questions about this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm happy and honoured to enter into this debate. And I've been listening carefully to what the members opposite have had to say, and it's interesting.

But I'm going to start with a couple of quotes. They seem to be using quotes, so I'll use a couple too. And this one comes from an author, Steve Jobs, and you guys may have heard of him. I see some of you guys have used some of his equipment over there. And this is what Steve Jobs had to say:

We know that governments can't afford to do everything these days, but fortunately there's a revolution in how we tackle social needs. Citizens and businesses are creating a 'solution economy' that blends market forces and altruism to get good things done.

So you know, we hear from them across the way that it's not that Sweet Dreams is a bad idea, not that Egadz is a bad NGO [non-governmental organization] to work with or CBO [community-based organization] to work with; it's just the way that we've chosen to work them.

And the reason we chose to work with them, as one of our other members stated, was because they came to us. They had an innovative idea. How can we do this? How can we work together? How can we take this idea and move it forward?

Their argument against this is that government should just write the cheque, pay for it. Not a priority. Government should fund. Money is limited. Well here's what it comes down to: if that's really what they feel, I'm not sure . . . The first member that stood up, well she did a bunch of quotes, but she didn't really say anything other than we need to take a look at it. And they're really good at that. They're really good at that. They step back and they take a look. And that's all they do. They look and they go, oh that's bad.

[11:45]

So we go, what's your plan? We go to their website and go, what's your plan? We take a look. Where's the orange book that used to be on their plan? Where's the *Regina Manifesto* that used to be on their website? That's not there.

We talk about a new innovative way to fund a social program. I've personally worked with foster kids. I've had them live in my house. So if there's some way that we can keep them in their homes with their moms, working with a group outside of what we do as government, that's not a bad thing. You agree with that, that that's not a bad thing. You just think we need to write the cheque up front.

So we actually want to do something that's based on results. We set goals. If we don't attain those goals . . . Okay, if 75 per cent isn't attainable, if 90 per cent . . . If we change the life of one of those children, is it good enough? Is 10 good enough? Is 15 good enough? Is 25 good enough?

The thing that it comes down to is, what's your plan? We have a plan. We're going forward with it. We ask what your plan is and it's like, well silence, the sound of silence. What's your plan? Well we don't have a plan. Your plan is just bad.

So I'm going to quote a single mom that will be acting as a mentor in the new home because this is people that have been affected by these lifestyles and we're trying to help out. So this is from CJME:

Chantal McLaren said she had to work twice as hard because she is a single mom. The 23-year-old will be moving into the Sweet Dreams home to be a mentor for other women living there. "I've been at the bottom and I've worked my way up and they can too."

So again that's not a bad thing. Again it comes down to, the government needs to write the cheque first. Really? That's your argument against this is the government needs to write the cheque first? That just doesn't make any sense.

Another quote by Ms. McLaren. She said Sweet Dreams will give other mothers the same opportunity. And the quote is, "They'll be able to keep their children and excel in life, have a way better future." That's not a good thing; that's a great thing. That's what the new Saskatchewan is all about. It's having a way better future. It's having a plan.

What's your plan? Silence. Silence. That's the sound of silence. Wow. I think that's a Simon and Garfunkel song — isn't it? — sound of silence. That's got to be your new theme song when you have your next convention.

They talk about jumping on a bandwagon. Well we're not necessarily jumping on a bandwagon. We're not taking and throwing \$1 billion at a project. We're moving forward on one small project because if we can affect the lives of 11 to 13 moms and 22, 23 kids, that is amazing.

But it's the funding model that's wrong. That's your argument. The funding model's the wrong way to do it.

So we as government want to ensure the best possible use of tax dollars and provide a new degree of financial stability to

community-based organizations. I've worked with a few community-based organizations in the past, and the funding model of year to year sometimes becomes onerous. So they actually have a funding model for five years. Do you think that gives them the ability to create a stable environment for these moms, these moms and these kids?

You guys want us to stop moving forward. Just stop. Take a look at it. Let's debate it for three, six months, a year and then maybe move forward. Well you know, three months, six months, a year down the road will make a huge difference in the lives of these moms and these kids. That's what's important. You're missing the point. The point is about those moms and those kids, not about how we fund that, the fact that somebody wants to step up and take a shot at investing in moms and kids.

And I've seen enough studies out there. If we can get help to these folks upfront — and you know this — if we can get help to them upfront right away, the long-term cost that it's going to save the taxpayers . . . not the government. The government doesn't save money. The taxpayers of Saskatchewan are the ones that provide us with money to spend on the infrastructure and the things that we need to spend money on, including the people here in Saskatchewan, our most vulnerable citizens.

And you want them to wait. You want them to wait. Point your finger at me, shake your head, do what you've got to do. I've been there. I've been there. I've been a foster parent. I've worked with these moms. I've worked with these kids. I know what they do. So the fact that you want to wait some more . . .

That's your mantra — hurry up and wait. There's a reason there's nine of you guys over there and 48 over here. Because you're really good at stepping back, taking a look at a situation going, that's a bad situation, and doing absolutely nothing about it.

We take action. So we take action, and you don't like the way we take action because we expect results. What's wrong with expecting results? If it keeps one kid out of foster care, it's worth it.

So I will be supporting this motion 100 per cent and those guys, well we'll hear the sound of silence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this debate this morning is about the fundamental question of how one uses the public money to provide services to important issues. And there's no question that the Sweet Dreams project is an important issue; it's an important way of providing these services.

The question revolves not around that particular project, which we all support, Conexus Credit Union, many of us. It's our money that's going there. We support Lamaze and the work that they do. We support Egadz. But, Mr. Speaker, the question is about how government uses the money that they have, what choices do they make around how that money is spent.

And, Mr. Speaker, this particular project around a social impact bond is effectively another way of borrowing money. And, Mr.

Speaker, the reason that Goldman Sachs, which is one of the largest lenders in the world, if I can put it that way, the largest deal makers, has been so involved in all of the social impact bonds that exist so far — they're not involved in our little one in Saskatchewan but they've involved in the ones in England; they're involved in the ones in New York; they're involved in ones that are in a number of other states in the United States — it's because they see it as a way to make money on lending money.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the factors involved in all of these particular social impact bonds is some kind of a guarantee or some kind of a payment from government for use of money. And I think the common factor, both with social impact bonds and the P3s, the public-private partnerships, is that there's a guarantee of payment to the lenders in the project, or the investors. And so, Mr. Speaker, really the question becomes, how much are we paying? What kind of guarantees are there?

Now what we do know is that when you end up with a social impact bond, they're really no different than a P3. And so you have to look at, how do you figure out how much risk transfer there is? What is that risk transfer? What are the service cost reductions that are going to be the back end of this that will justify the kind of payment that's made? And Mr. Speaker, what we have here is another way of borrowing money.

And so, Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I asked the Minister of Finance what his policy was on dealing with these social impact bonds. And they scrambled a bit, but basically the answer was, well we don't know yet because we haven't really seen them. And I think that's one of the fundamental questions about social impact bonds is, how much are they going to cost to use? What kind of examples are there? When we look at the information from around the world, there haven't been social impact bonds that have actually gone through the full cycle of their lending to tell you whether they're actually going to work.

Now earlier, like I think last week — and I'm specifically speaking here to the Minister of Finance — last week the British government ended up changing some of the parameters around the Peterborough project in a way that has scared a lot of financiers around how this particular issue and how the lending goes. And so all of a sudden you have a broad discussion right across North America, England, other places, Australia, where these kind of bonds are being used. Well if that flagship lending process around the Peterborough project is being changed in some fundamental ways, what does this mean for other projects that we're trying to design across the world?

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we have is an innovative idea that is in the same ilk as a P3. P3s, at least we have a longer history at knowing what they're there. Now actually if you look at legislation which this party introduced in the House just last fall, and in fact the government voted against it, we had a bill brought forward that's *An Act respecting the Transparency and Accountability of Public-Private Partnerships*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we could just add the words “and social impact bonds” and you can actually use every part of this bill to get at the issue that's really the issue here: how much is this costing the public to borrow money? Why wouldn't we set out how much it costs to borrow the money directly, how much it

costs to use it through a public-private partnership, how much it costs to use a social impact bond to assess the back end of it? Because all of those things go right to the heart of this bill which we introduced and which was defeated by the government.

You look at the purpose of the bill. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that an independent evaluation and public reporting of value for taxpayers in public-private partnership projects — then we add, and social impact bonds — and to introduce transparency and accountability to the public-private partnership method and the social impact bond method of building capital projects.

So, Mr. Speaker, one of the questions that I had for the Minister of Finance the other day, which he didn't have an answer for — he says, oh this is innovative; we're just trying to figure out how to do it — is that people in the Department of Finance haven't figured out yet how this is going to work. What I know when I asked some questions in some other areas, and some my colleagues asked some questions, is that there are some people hired to work on developing some of these kinds of projects. But once again they're working in an area where they don't have all of the examples. And when we review the literature worldwide, there isn't a single social impact bond which has actually gone through a full cycle to actually see how people are being paid out.

And so, Mr. Speaker, why are we debating this particular issue? Because it relates to the fundamental question of governance. It relates to the responsibility of the Minister of Finance to be accountable to the people of Saskatchewan of how money is being spent. But practically, when I asked him the question of how, what he's going to do to deal with this particular issue, he said he doesn't have the information. He doesn't know. He doesn't know what the Ministry of Finance is going to do.

[12:00]

Now, Mr. Speaker, that raises another question, which is when the auditor steps in to take a look at how this money is being borrowed, they are going to have to give a report to the people of Saskatchewan about how this whole system works. And, Mr. Speaker, the auditors are always very careful when governments borrow money, and especially when they borrow money in ways where they don't know how much it's going to cost them to borrow that money.

And that becomes the fundamental question when we talk about social impact bonds. Nobody knows here how much it's going to cost to do this particular project. So we don't have a comparison with just a straight donation by different groups working and building a project and then government putting money in as a part of that. We don't have a comparison of how much that's going to cost versus this new innovative thing.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that the literature also points out that the United Kingdom got really interested in this kind of a bond about four years ago when they came, the new government came into place, and basically they said, we have to live on an austerity diet. We don't have enough money to do a lot of things. Let's figure out some other ways to borrow creatively where we can't really tell how much it's going to cost us in the

long run. And, Mr. Speaker, every one of these projects that you look at around the world have that aspect to it, that nobody can say at the front end how much it's going to cost government. They know how much Goldman Sachs is going to make on a base because they have a backstop. They also know that there's going to be a whole number of issues that are not resolved, and they're not resolved in Saskatchewan either.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, the Minister of Finance shouts out about track record on innovation, and I was listening to the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow talking about results-based funding, that type of thing. And I just have a question about, here we have a computer system, the Linkin computer system costing \$51 million. It started out with 15, now 37 at Christmas, now \$51 million. The question I have is, only 2 per cent, \$1 million from that computer program could be real, a real priority for this government. Does the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow think that it would be better spent spending on foster children than on a computer system, that \$51 million?

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

Mr. Lawrence: — I'm pretty sure that the members opposite have read some of these reports by the Children's Advocate, and one of the things that was recommended by him was that we do better tracking of our kids. So this is one of the things that this program can do. However the real question is why you're afraid to have a plan, why you're afraid to have results-based outcomes. You know, they talk about that they don't know what it's going to cost. Well it's a bond. It's a five-year investment, a five-year agreement with \$1 million investment. Success is determined by an independent assessor — independent, so that's outside of government — and payment is the initial investment plus the 5 per cent annual rate of return. So I'm sure . . .

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This social impact bond is about using innovative ideas to improve the lives of at-risk children and mothers. The Sweet Dreams program is saving children from having to be separated from their mothers and living in foster care. And our government's committed to effective initiatives that reduce the number of children in care and end the cycle of poverty for more children in the future, unlike the NDP who let the number of children in welfare cases grow by 53 per cent from 2000 to 2007.

To the member from Saskatoon Centre who was a former Social Services minister that saw this rise under his reign: how can he not support a program that will improve the lives of children in child welfare?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. Just for the record, I was never the minister of Social Services. I was Labour, Environment, and proud ministers of that. So fact checking

there. But that's okay, that's okay. And also for the record, for the record, and I think I know two of us have said that we support the Sweet Dreams initiative, Egadz does great work and we think this is an important thing.

Our question really is about priorities for this government. Why wasn't this mentioned in the Throne Speech, the budget speech, estimates, where we could have a much fuller discussion about this? We think it's important to have innovative thinking but the problem is, here we are, in the last moments, the last moments of the session, and this is the time we're talking about it. So, Mr. Speaker, I think the government needs to make a real priority out of vulnerable children and that should be something that they plan for.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In terms of picking up where my colleague from Saskatoon Centre left off, if this was such a vital initiative on the part of this government — and, you know, there's some pros and cons to social impact bonds — but if this was such a vital initiative on the part of this government, where was it in the Throne Speech? Where was it in the budget? And where was it in terms of the Minister of Social Services' estimates?

And I guess my question to the member from Saskatoon Sutherland, or the Premier who's like shouting out encouragement from his seat, my question to the member from Saskatoon Sutherland: if this was such a great idea, how come it didn't show up on the landscape until after the Minister for Social Services needed to justify a trip to Europe?

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

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why the NDP are so concerned with the process. What we're concerned with over on this side of the House is the 23 women and their kids that are going to be helped by this program. They always want to know, what was the process? What happened? When did you know this?

Social Services has been working with the stakeholders. This again is driven by the stakeholders, Colleen and Wally Mah. This is on their timelines. We are a partner with them. We aren't dictating things like the NDP used to do and just throw cash out. We're actually putting money out on a five-year program to be able to get results, Mr. Speaker. That's what they don't understand is, we are doing . . . We're result-based on this, Mr. Speaker.

And the NDP are so stuck in their own ways. They just want to keep doing things the same old way. They don't want to try anything different. They completely fear change, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, our government isn't afraid of setting targets and implementing policy and programs to help achieve these goals. That's why one of our government's goals

is to build a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people, especially our more vulnerable.

The recent introduction of the social impact bond is just one example of how our government strives to help out these troubled demographics and end the cycle, but yet we continue to hear negative rhetoric from the members opposite. To the member from Regina Lakeview, who has been around for a long time: your caucus continues to disregard and criticize our actions and make our province a better place, but has yet to produce any solutions of your own. What is your policy or plan to help these disadvantaged groups in our province?

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the issue here today is about choices by government, by that Premier and by that Finance minister around how they provide services to the public of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, when they seem to run out of money, then they come up with these schemes that actually cost more money for the public.

And when I hear a member opposite saying process is not important, checking out how you borrow money to do things is not important, that gets me very concerned. So my answer is, we really want all of these services provided for people in this province, but we want to do it in a way that we can account to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think we heard the speakers opposite say that there was no federal or provincial money going into this, but according to *The StarPhoenix*, there will be a reimbursement by interest by the provincial government if this project is successful. So there is public funds involved. And certainly there's a lack of public funds from this government for supporting single mothers.

We know that SIBs imply a cost of borrowing to the public sector which is well above the cost it would incur if it's borrowed directly. In this respect, SIBs are no different from P3s. This is nothing but privatization, Mr. Speaker.

The question I have for the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow is this: first of all, will they be booked, these SIBs be booked as future contingent liabilities on the books? And how will they affect debt and credit ratings? And where is the government going to put aside money they save when the services become funded by outsiders?

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

Mr. Lawrence: — I thank the members opposite for the question. And you know, I'm not an accountant. I'm an old SaskTel guy, so I would have to ask the Finance minister how, in five years time if they meet the target, how that's accounted in the budget five years from now.

But I also heard the members complain that 7:30 on a Friday evening they found out. Well since I've been an MLA [Member

of the Legislative Assembly], I've got contacted way later than 7:30 in the evening. So I don't have a nine-to-five job anymore. I've got pretty much a 24-7 job. So if I've got to work on a weekend, I work on a weekend, and I don't complain about it. I do as much as I can from 9 to 5, try and spend as much time with my family, but I don't complain about when the government contacts me and says we've got some work to do.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little bit lost for words here, trying to figure out how the members opposite could possibly be against this. I for one have probably been involved in creating an awful lot of resources and facilities and programs around this province for vulnerable youth, their parents, their families, their communities, and I have absolutely zero problem with this initiative. I have no idea, since this is my life's work, I have no idea how you could possibly be against this.

But regardless, I mean . . . Here, I'll make up a word: disirregardlessly, which is an adverb for the purposes of this, as we're making things up. Sweet Dreams, I'm wondering here, so you're against P3s. So you've got no plan. You've got no policy. You've got no platform.

The Speaker: — Time.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 606

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Chartier that **Bill No. 606** — *The Residents-in-care Bill of Rights Act, 2014* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — It is my duty pursuant to rule 56(3) to warn the Assembly that the hon. member is about to exercise her right to close the debate, and afterwards all members will be precluded from speaking to this question. Therefore if any member wishes to speak, let him do so now. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today here to speak to Bill 606, *The Residents-in-care Bill of Rights Act*, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, to talk a little bit about what this bill means.

I think personally for me, I think about my parents. This is the context through which I see this bill. My parents are in their early 80s, Mr. Speaker, and still live in their own home, and in fact provide more care to me than the opposite direction, Mr. Speaker. But I think about them, and I think about their cohorts and some of the friends and the stories that they say. And I think about what I'd want for my own parents if they were living in long-term care or in a private care home. And I think that I would want that for all citizens, Mr. Speaker, and that is

dignity, respect, and safety.

So I think it's important to provide a little bit of context to this bill. The reality is this government just a few short years ago quietly cut the minimum quality of care standards in regulations and removed any reference to appropriate levels of staffing. The minister's justification has been that those levels had been set, I believe he said in the '50s, and they were not adequate. Well instead of removing them, you'd think that you would in fact assess and enhance them, Mr. Speaker.

What has this cutting of the minimum quality of care standard meant to seniors' care in this province? The reality is seniors' care in this province has declined in recent years. And how do we know this, Mr. Speaker? Frankly we've heard shocking stories from residents, from families, from front-line staff over the past year, stories of woefully inadequate care for our seniors, those who helped make the province what it is today.

When the minister finally admitted last spring that there was perhaps a problem, he sent health region CEOs on tours of their facilities to learn the state of care here in Saskatchewan. The fact of the matter is some of the things that this tour discovered, I think it's important to read into the record just a few of the things that this tour discovered, Mr. Speaker.

At the Central Parkland Lodge in Lanigan, it was identified that staff members commented that they sometimes struggle with priorities. For example when feeding one resident and another rings to be toileted, they don't know if they should interrupt the meal, which in turn gets cold for that resident, or if they should go to toilet the person who may soil themselves.

[12:15]

Stensrud Lodge in Saskatoon, they can hear people crying for help in the evening because of staffing shortages — 1 to 25 care aid ratio on evenings. Another issue, Mr. Speaker, at the Spruce Manor Special Care Home, staffing levels are inadequate to meet the needs of residents due to the increased level of acuity.

And one more here, Mr. Speaker, at the Goodwill Manor in Duck Lake, residents noticed staff shortages and often have to wait up to 30 minutes after they ring their call bell. Continent residents have soiled themselves because of it. So those are some of just a few of the snippets, Mr. Speaker, that the minister's own CEO tour discovered.

Maura Davies, the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region, last fall identified publicly that one of the core issues with the inability to deliver high-quality seniors' care is in fact a lack of staff, Mr. Speaker. In fact, one of the business . . . In the Saskatoon Health Region business plan that they put forward to receive urgent action money, they identified that in the Saskatoon Health Region alone they need 450 care aides. They asked for 38, I believe, and only received 19, Mr. Speaker.

Four hundred and fifty care aides to ensure that our seniors get the proper level of care, and this government has chosen not to acknowledge that short-staffing is at the core of our seniors' care crisis, Mr. Speaker. How can you fix a problem if you refuse to acknowledge that there is a problem and that that problem is understaffing? You can't fix a problem if you don't

acknowledge that that problem exists, Mr. Speaker.

So what does Bill 606 set out? This private member's bill sets out that residents in care in fact have the right to dignity, respect and safety; that residents in care deserve basic guarantees of 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 finally, 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 was interesting, Mr. Speaker, that in a response to a question last week about this particular bill and if the government would support it, the minister actually said, well in fact your bill is deficient and it doesn't lay out quality of care standards. And all of the seals on the back benches said, yes Danielle, it doesn't lay out the quality of care standards.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if they read in the bill:

What a Bill of Rights Must Contain

Each Residents in care Bill of Rights must, at a minimum, reflect the following principles.

If you look to number (iii):

comply with the minimum quality of care standards established by the provincial government through regulations.

Mr. Speaker, so in fact this bill does compel the government to lay out minimum quality of care standards in regulation. This own government ignored its Law Reform Commission that said that Saskatchewan would benefit from a legislated bill of rights. The Law Reform Commission, this government's own Law Reform Commission says, "A legislated bill of rights has "official status" that emphasizes the importance of the document and encourages compliance," Mr. Speaker.

This minister has also gotten to his feet on many occasions and says that the government has program guidelines for special care homes already and has regulations, personal care home regulations. But clearly, Mr. Speaker, what this government is doing now is not working. We continue to hear story after story of woefully inadequate care in our seniors' care homes, Mr. Speaker, which is completely unacceptable, and it is rooted in a lack of staffing, Mr. Speaker.

This bill will help address that. So I trust that, again, adopting Bill 606, *The Residents-in-care Bill of Rights Act*, would provide seniors with the right — the right, Mr. Speaker — to quality, high-level standards of care in seniors' care homes.

I know the minister has had ample time to review it, and clearly missed a few things when he reviewed it because it in fact compels the government to lay out minimum quality of care standards. I hope that this government will co-operate with the NDP on this bill. This is about the care of our seniors, Mr. Speaker, in long-term and personal care homes and ensuring

that they have the high-quality level of care that they deserve, and I look forward to the vote.

The Speaker: — The member has moved Bill No. 606, *The Residents-in-care Bill of Rights Act, 2014* be now read the second time.

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.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:21 until 12:22.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour, please rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Vermette	Belanger	Chartier
McCall	Nilson	Sproule

The Speaker: — All those opposed, please rise.

[Nays — 37]

Wall	Morgan	Draude
Duncan	Krawetz	Eagles
McMorris	Toth	Huyghebaert
Doherty	Reiter	Heppner
Harrison	Tell	Weekes
Hart	Bradshaw	Bjornerud
Hutchinson	Makowsky	Ottenbreit
Wilson	Marchuk	Ross
Kirsch	Doke	Cox
Merriman	Jurgens	Steinley
Hickie	Lawrence	Tochor
Moe	Parent	Phillips
Docherty		

Principal Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 9; those opposed, 37.

The Speaker: — The motion fails.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

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

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 22nd, 2014, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government, and if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

The Speaker: — By leave, the Government House Leader has moved:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 22nd, 2014, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government; and if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 now stands adjourned to the call of the Speaker.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:26.]

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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

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Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
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Hon. Don McMorris

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

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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General