



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

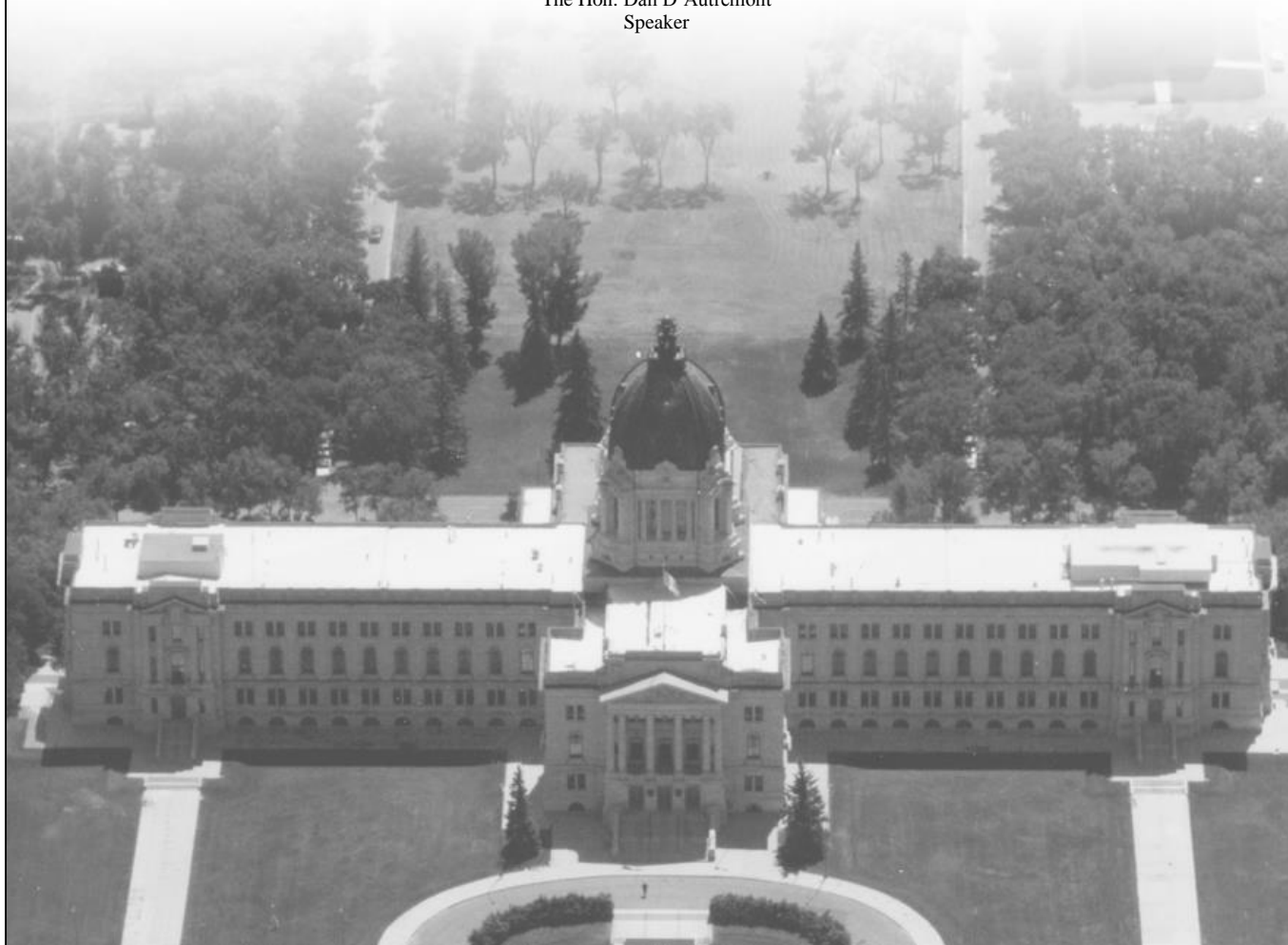
of the

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

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Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
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Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Vacant		Lloydminster

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to introduce to you and through you, seated in your gallery, John McGettigan who is the president of the Saskatoon Teachers' Association. John spent 21 years as a teacher. He taught at Holy Cross for 12 years and he has been president of the STA [Saskatoon Teachers' Association] for four years, doing very good work on behalf of teachers in Saskatoon. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, resides in Saskatoon with his wife who is a principal and his nine-year-old daughter Grace and their 12-year-old son Seamus.

Mr. Speaker, we know that he is a passionate believer in education best practices. He was instrumental in getting Pasi Sahlberg to come to the province, an education leader who also stresses the importance of measurement in student achievement. And, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education also tells me that from time to time when he's not working, when he's not leading in education, he may enjoy the occasional Guinness. But this is a reference from the Minister of Education, so I'll actually rely on John to provide us the truth a little bit later on. Maybe he'll share some stories about the Minister of Education that are more based in reality.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the House to please join with me in welcoming John to his Legislative Assembly and thanking him for his leadership in education in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly a pleasure to join with the Premier and introduce John McGettigan to his legislature — a good friend, a fantastic teacher, an educational leader and community leader in this province. Certainly his wife is an exceptional principal as well, and certainly their whole family gives a whole lot back to our province. Thankful for John's leadership in education and particularly thankful for his work directly with Pasi Sahlberg and in bringing Pasi to do some work here in Saskatchewan.

I know that John recently had the opportunity to also go down and do a little teaching down in Harvard and assist with one of Pasi's programs, which is certainly pretty special. So not only is John a great leader in the community but I too have enjoyed a pint or two with John McGettigan, Mr. Speaker. I ask all to welcome to John to his Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, sitting in the west gallery we've got a group of 22

students — grades 11's and 12's, I believe — that are in the law 30 class. And accompanying them is Mr. Clayton Ford, a good friend of a couple of people on this side of the House. I'm looking forward to their questions later, knowing full well that I'm going to inevitably be stumped. So I look forward to being stumped. I'd like to have all members join me in welcoming the group from O'Neill High School today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just briefly I'd like to join with the member from Coronation Park to welcome a friend and a fine teacher as well sitting in the west gallery. And that would be Mr. Clayton Ford who's here with the O'Neill class that's here today. And it's a pleasure to have Clayton here today as well as these students from O'Neill. I was speaking to them a little bit before about the battle of Argyle Street which I knew well as a Thom Trojan, just up the street from O'Neill, growing up. It's a pleasure to have these students in their Assembly here today, along with Mr. Ford. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that calls for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts with the Saskatchewan government.

We know that in September this year this government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price. When asked to explain how the government could allow a private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, the Minister of Social Services said, and I quote, "You're assuming there's these desperate homeless people," showing how disconnected this government is from the realities within our communities. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan people concerned with the dangerous conditions created on Dewdney Avenue by that government and the fact that they're calling on this government to address the unsafe conditions and move this heavy-haul truck traffic off of Dewdney Avenue to ensure that families, residents, users are safe, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer

reads as follows:

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

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from across Regina including directly on Dewdney Avenue. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise to present a petition regarding the dangerous smart meter program introduced by this government. The individuals that have signed this are concerned about a number of things. The government knew about major safety concerns related to the smart meter project. The government ignored those safety concerns and plowed ahead with the program, and where the safety of families has been put at significant risk.

In the prayer that reads as follows, these individuals request that this Legislative Assembly take the following action: to cause the provincial government to take responsibility for its failure to act on readily available information about safety concerns with its smart meter program, including through the immediate resignation of the Minister Responsible for SaskPower, and a fully independent inquiry into the concerning chain of events that severely compromised the safety of Saskatchewan families.

I so submit this petition, Mr. Speaker, and it's signed by folks from Regina, Saskatoon, and Martensville. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

New Housing for Recovering Addicts

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House to talk about a wonderful new home for five individuals recovering from addictions that is opening in Regina later today.

As residents of Saskatchewan, many people know that our provincial motto is "from many peoples, strength." The creation of a fourth Oxford House Society home in Regina illustrates the meaning of this motto. Its formation has been a truly collaborative process. It's been about caring for others by helping five people to move forward in a safe and stable

environment. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted that our government, along with the Government of Canada through the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement, jointly contributed more than \$260,000 to this project.

Since November 2007 we have contributed to the development of 2,238 new rental units in Regina that are completed or under construction. Mr. Speaker, these initiatives and the partnerships behind them demonstrate the strength and ingenuity that is required if we are to support those in need of housing and addiction treatment.

By working with community-based organizations such as Oxford House Society, we are on the right track. Mr. Speaker, our goal is to keep Regina moving forward and Saskatchewan strong. Our government will always do what it can to achieve that mark. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Power of Humanity Gala

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I had the distinct pleasure to attend the Canadian Red Cross Power of Humanity Gala. The event was spectacular as ever, and I was thrilled to see such a strong turnout for an organization so important for so many families in our province.

There were two remarkable people who received awards at last week's event: Ms. Ashlee Longmoore and Ms. Kellie Garrett. Ashlee was the recipient of the Young Humanitarian of the Year Award. She contributes to her community through her work with the families of children with disabilities at the Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network, the survivors of sexual assault at the Regina Sexual Assault Centre, and with literacy programs at the Next Chapter Book Club. Her community spirit and volunteerism are truly admirable.

Kellie Garrett was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award for her many years of community service. Her work with the families of children living with autism and also in coaching has touched many lives, and she shows no signs of stopping any time soon.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank everyone on the Red Cross board who helped to make this event a success. And I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Kellie and Ashlee on their well-deserved awards and in thanks for the differences they make in the lives of many every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Canadian Feed Research Centre Opens

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 24th I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of the University of Saskatchewan Canadian Feed Research Centre in North Battleford.

This \$13.9 million feed research centre is a major Canada Foundation for Innovation-led project in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan, Western Economic

Diversification, and Cargill's animal nutrition business.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Feed Research Centre is very unique. Its possibilities range from laboratory to pilot plant to larger industrial-scale research capabilities. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to have invested \$5 million into the establishment of the Canadian Feed Research Centre. This centre will help support the Saskatchewan plan for growth and, with that, the livestock strategy developed by our government to assist producers to increase livestock farm cash receipts.

Mr. Speaker, the equipment in this research centre is at the leading edge of technology and innovation. For example, the research centre in North Battleford will be home to the BoMill TriQ seed sorter. This is the first time this sorter will be tested and used in North America. Only one of four in the world, the seed sorter is able to process three metric tonnes per hour and has a high-volume sorting capacity that can be ramped up to 30,000 seeds per second. One of the diseases it is able to detect is fusarium, which has been an issue with our cereal crops this year. By being able to sort kernel by kernel, they are able to take a grain sample that graded as feed and turn it into malt barley or good milling wheat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this Assembly to join me in congratulating the University of Saskatchewan and its partners on the grand opening of the Canadian Feed Research Centre in North Battleford. And we look forward to the value it adds to our agriculture economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Family Physician of the Year and Family Doctor Week

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in this Assembly today in recognition of Family Doctor Week. Every year the College of Family Physicians of Canada chooses this week in November to celebrate the important contributions of family doctors in our country. These professionals work tirelessly to make our communities better and healthier places.

One such person is Dr. Nora McKee, a physician from Saskatoon. She has been recognized by the College of Family Physicians of Canada with a Reg L. Perkin Award as Saskatchewan's Family Physician of the Year. She has worked for many years to give her patients the best possible care, all the while working as an associate professor at the College of Medicine to help guide our province's next generation of physicians.

Family Doctor Week is also a time for all of us to reflect upon how much needs to be done to fix health care in our province. A family physician should be the first place a person turns to when they fall ill, but far too many families don't have family doctors and wait for hours in emergency rooms and walk-in clinics. Too many rural communities have to scrape by without the care they deserve.

I hope that all members will join me in congratulating Dr. McKee on her award and will fight for things that matter in health care. Thank you.

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

Managing Agricultural Drainage

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today our government released the results of online consultations related to the issue of agricultural drainage. The most comprehensive public consultation ever undertaken in the province on this issue was conducted by the Water Security Agency through an online forum between the fall of 2013 to the spring of 2014. We received nearly 500 submissions from participants who discussed various options for managing drainage in Saskatchewan.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, in last month's Throne Speech, our government committed to undertake further consultations with stakeholders to move forward with updating and improving drainage regulations in Saskatchewan that have been in place for decades.

It is not just our government that knows that this is an important initiative. Mark Wartman, regional vice-president of Nature Conservancy Canada for the Saskatchewan region said:

Wetlands are important to the biodiversity of Saskatchewan and we are pleased to hear that [Saskatchewan] . . . is developing new regulations which will protect and improve the health of Saskatchewan's wetlands.

Mr. Speaker, the results of our online consultations will complement further work with our stakeholders in the coming months. The input from Saskatchewan people will be crucial as we develop new regulations that will present a modern, sensible, and sustainable approach to agricultural drainage. Thank you.

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

Happy Memories of Danceland

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I am sure every member here today is familiar with the Danceland hall located in Manitou Beach. Perhaps a few members have even been there and danced on their unique and famous dance floor which was built on top of horsehair.

Millie and Arnie Strueby have played a major part in the fascinating history of Danceland. After 14 years of owning and operating the facility, the Struebys are ready to retire and have sold the famous dance hall. The Strueby's history with Danceland started back in the '70s when Millie, a musician, was part of a swing band from the Watrous area. In 2001 they purchased the facility.

Millie states that buying the building just made sense. They were both musicians, and Arnie knew many people in the music field. Running the business has not always been easy. Millie compared it to farming, saying that there were good years and

bad years.

The hall was built in 1930 for big band music. Over time the music has changed. The Struebys have experimented with rock concerts and even rented Danceland out for special events such as weddings, but they feel they also need to keep the traditional, old-time music like square dancing, polka, and swing.

Many famous musicians have come from all over Canada and the United States to Danceland. There's a legend that Elvis himself played at Danceland when he came alongside a headlining act before he was famous. Strueby recalls they have quite a few people declare, I was here when Elvis was here.

The Struebys will miss the people and the happy memories that have been the past 14 years. Millie does hope the new owners will keep Danceland in an original state. She has no idea what it is going to be like, but in her mind would like to see it stay a dance hall.

I ask all members of the House to help me in thanking Millie and Arnie Strueby for all their hard work in keeping Danceland the iconic place it has been. We wish them all the best in the future.

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

Diabetes Awareness

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, November is diabetes month, and tomorrow, November the 14th, is World Diabetes Day. I want to express our gratitude to all those who work in the field of diabetic detection, prevention, and managing this disease. In particular I want to express thanks to the Moose Jaw Early Bird Lions Club for their initiative to raise awareness of diabetes.

Earlier this month, I along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow attended the free risk assessment clinic organized by the Early Bird Lions Club. The clinic, held in the Town 'n' Country Mall, encouraged residents to participate by taking a simple blood pressure test and answering a few questions regarding lifestyle which could determine the risk factor of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a terrible disease. And although it is manageable, it takes a tremendous toll on our health, and a great cost to our health care system. It's estimated that 90,000 people in Saskatchewan are currently living with diabetes. We know there is a growing number of Saskatchewan people who are considered to be at high risk. Type 2 diabetes is particularly challenging, as it is preventable. By better understanding type 2 diabetes, we can do our part to successfully manage it and ideally avoid it altogether by living healthier and more active lifestyles.

Thank you to the Moose Jaw Early Bird Lions Club and all participants at the risk management program for playing an important role in the health and well-being of the people of the province and in our community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Costs, Benefits, and Contract Terms for the Lean Initiative

Mr. Broten: — My question is for the Premier. When will this government stop shovelling tens of millions of dollars to its toxic American lean consultant? When will we be free of John Black?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, lean initiatives across the Government of Saskatchewan have already afforded savings of \$57 million. Moreover, moreover, Mr. Speaker, we can point out to members opposite and people across the province that there have been significant improvements in terms of care because of lean events and continuous improvement in the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen cancellations of appointments, in terms of mental health appointments, eliminated. We've seen the streamlining of wait times in terms of pediatric care on an emergency basis.

I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to go over a number of very specific examples of where lean is affording Saskatchewan people better care and saving money. The answer to the member's question is, we will continue doing those things.

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

Mr. Broten: — The question was, when will we be free of John Black? When will the contract with John Black end?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The answer is found in the contract as in a matter of the public record.

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

Mr. Broten: — What we've seen with this government, Mr. Speaker, is that it's all about optics. We have seen, Mr. Speaker, this government claim that they are having the contract end in the end of June with John Black. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that this government's approach is simply about optics and the truth is something different.

Here's what John Black says: "The primary package of work will end June 30th, 2015, with the remainder of work to be completed July and September, 2015." It almost sounds like the go-forward truth basis nonsense that the Premier dreamed up a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. It's like, okay, it ends in June. But in reality then, all the other work carries on in the following months. It's ridiculous, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Premier. When will this government finally cut all ties with John Black? What is the date?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've already gone over the many improvements in terms of patient care in the province, outcomes for Saskatchewan people, and savings afforded by lean.

The answer to the . . . We've already answered this question from the member opposite and the other members that are now chirping from their seat, and the answer of course is prescribed in the contract. There's an option for renewal through September, Mr. Speaker. We have every expectation it'll conclude at the end of June. This is all a matter of the public record and hidden carefully away on the Internet.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can pretend this is a joke, but this government has been leading people to believe, Mr. Speaker, that the contract would be ending in June. Internal documents show a very different story. They show that this government is planning to continue having John Black run North American tours, kanban, kaizen events, and rapid and process improvement workshops in July, August, and September, all of which are after the June deadline that has been touted by the minister and by the Premier. I suppose that's what John Black means when he says the primary work will end in June and then all the other work will go forward in the following months, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: how much more money will be spent on John Black and Associates after the primary package of work? What is the cost for the remaining work that will be done?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there is no cost. But we will continue with lean across government. We're going to continue with partnerships such as the one that we'll have with the Virginia Mason Medical Centre that also uses John Black and Associates, that has also undertaken continuous improvement, that is also doing lean, as is the Children's Hospital of Seattle; as is ThedaCare in Wisconsin; as is, Mr. Speaker, Massachusetts General Hospital; Johns Hopkins; the Cleveland Clinic; University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center; the New York-Presbyterian; University of Pennsylvania; and Mr. Speaker, the Mayo Clinic who this minister will soon visit in Rochester, because why, Mr. Speaker? The Mayo Clinic has started down the road of lean but they're interested in learning from Saskatchewan.

The Mayo Clinic seems to think we might be doing the right thing in the province of Saskatchewan, and so now we're left to choose. We're left to choose in terms of who we will take our medical advice from — the Leader of the Opposition and his pet project, his pet obsession with lean or the Mayo Clinic.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, internal documents show that John Black won't even be done coming to Saskatchewan after September. And, Mr. Speaker, according to John Black's very own pay schedule, he is certainly not doing it for free as the Premier just suggested. No, he is going to keep milking this cash cow for every last drop, and this Premier, this government

just keeps offering it up, Mr. Speaker.

The North American tours, the North American tours where people are taken from their jobs and travel around the United States, Mr. Speaker, with John Black as their tour guide, you know how much John Black's being paid for that? Almost \$200,000 according to the pay schedule from the internal documents, Mr. Speaker. It looks like there is no end, no end to the cheques that this Premier and this government will sign when it comes to John Black and this lean pet project.

My question to the Premier: is it actually true that health care workers from Saskatchewan will be sent on costly North American tours with John Black as their guide? And if it's not true, when will those tours end?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question of the hon. member is yes. People in the health care system will continue to travel to other localities in our country and in the United States to learn more about continuous improvement. And, Mr. Speaker, they're going to go to places like the Virginia Mason Medical Centre. They're going to go to places like the Children's Hospital of Seattle. They're going to go to many, many other institutions including the Mayo Clinic perhaps. I'm not sure if they'll go to the Mayo. The Mayo's coming here to find out a little bit more about lean and to develop a fellowship with the government.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in power, I'm sure officials travelled to other places and accepted visits from other places, accepted visits from other places to learn more, to share best practices. And once again we have to watch our hon. friend, because he likes to torque things a little bit. Let's be very clear. Let's be very clear about the price that he just referenced. It's all part of the contract. It's all part of the contract which ends in June, as prescribed by the Health minister. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of the public record, but we're happy to have him spend all of question period if he likes.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this story coming from the Premier and from the minister and from the internal documents and John Black's own words in his email are not adding up, Mr. Speaker. The Health minister says it ends in June. Then the Premier says that there's no additional cost. But we have John Black saying that he's doing tours as the tour guide at 200,000 bucks a pop, taking health care workers all over the province. We asked the country, the States. We asked the Premier when this is going to end and he says it's going to continue. John Black, Mr. Speaker, if we know one thing about John Black is he does not work for free. We have seen that time and time again, Mr. Speaker.

And then we see, Mr. Speaker, that this will carry on for years. Within the contract, in the internal documents, John Black is actually, will be coming back to Saskatchewan to do audits on our health care system. It's unbelievable. The same toxic consultant, Mr. Speaker, that senior administrators say tattle on individuals. They show that he gossips. He shows that he

undermines authority, Mr. Speaker. It's unbelievable.

My question to the Premier: how many times a year will John Black be flying back to Saskatchewan to audit the Saskatchewan health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, now he's up to \$200,000 a pop. I guess that means a trip. The problem with our hon. friend is he gets really, really excited. And as he gets more and more excited, the facts become sort of further and further away from his presentation in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the documents will note that there is a total contract. The total contract will come to an end in June of next year. There's an option to renew, Mr. Speaker, which may or may not be exercised. If it will, that will also be part of the public record. And all along, all along the whole contract to the government will cost \$35 million. We've already saved \$60 million and seen improved patient outcomes, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to see those outcomes, and then when John Black's contract is finished, all the capacity will exist in this province to continue to provide that lean training.

Well, and members laugh. Once again I'd point out there's an institution called the Mayo Clinic that's interested in precisely what we're doing. They want to enter into a fellowship with the Government of Saskatchewan. So once again we're left with a choice: the increasingly excited and animated Leader of the Opposition and his health care advice, or the Mayo Clinic. We'll choose them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to be clear with Saskatchewan people because there is a different story coming from the minister, from the Premier, from John Black, and from senior administrators within the health care region. John Black thinks he is leading tours for Saskatchewan health care workers in the States until 2017 and, Mr. Speaker, I don't think he's doing that for free.

My question to the Premier: will those tours be continuing to 2017? How much are we paying, and why has he led Saskatchewan people to believe that this contract and the bills will be ending in June?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because in terms of the financial obligations of the Government of Saskatchewan, that's when it ends.

[10:30]

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

Funding for Community Health Clinic

Ms. Chartier: — SWITCH, the student wellness initiative toward community health, provides incredibly valuable

after-hours health care, clinical, and outreach services from the Westside Community Clinic in Saskatoon. Until this month the SWITCH clinic was open three days a week, but financial constraints have forced it to scrap its Saturday clinic. To the minister: what is this government doing to help?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think members will know, and the public may not know, but SWITCH receives funding from a number of different sources on an annual basis. Certainly the Ministry of Health is a part of that through the Saskatoon Health Region. We provide \$50,000 a year in funding. Saskatoon Health Region provides an additional, I believe this year it was \$20,000 for some targeted funding.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the \$50,000, it's certainly my expectation that those dollars will continue. They do good work, and I'm looking forward to meeting with the executive director and the leadership of SWITCH in the coming weeks to have a further discussion about how we can continue their good work into the future.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina . . . excuse me, for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — The SWITCH clinic serves many vulnerable people in the core area of Saskatoon, and by doing so, it helps reduce the strain on St. Paul's Hospital. Better core funding for this important program should be a no-brainer for this government. Better core funding. Even if the government cancelled just two of John Black's North American lean tours, just two, Mr. Speaker, it could cover the entire annual budget of SWITCH. To the minister: will he commit today to scrounge together more money to help restore the clinic hours for SWITCH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will commit to a meeting with SWITCH. We've already set up a meeting to discuss how we can ensure that their good work continues into the future.

Mr. Speaker, we do provide funding through the Ministry of Health. That has not changed. That will not change. But obviously they have other funding sources through donors, through volunteer activities, through fundraisers, Mr. Speaker. So I do look forward to having a discussion with them on how we can see their work continue on into the future.

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

Smart Meter Program

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, both the SaskPower minister and the spokesperson the minister now repeatedly hides behind said yesterday that SaskPower will pay for the fire damage caused to homes by the dangerous smart meters. It's absolutely fair for these costs not to be borne by the families who have experienced meter fires, and government should definitely be there to help. But it's not fair for Saskatchewan

ratepayers to be covering the costs of these damages. The failed manufacturer should. To the Premier: what is he doing to recover that money from the failed manufacturer of these dangerous, fire-prone smart meters?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, early on the Government of Saskatchewan worked out with Sensus an agreement where \$24 million would be refunded to the people of Saskatchewan. There was a credit for \$18 million and then \$5 million for a program of testing meters here in the province in the future.

SaskPower is involved in discussions with the affected ratepayers with respect to the property damage that they have been . . . unfortunate has happened with respect to their properties. And between them and insurance, the total costs will be covered by them.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, my question wasn't for the minister who shouldn't be a minister anymore, and a minister who's failed Saskatchewan people, a minister whose story changes by the day, and a minister who's sold out the safety of Saskatchewan people. My question is to the Premier: did the government's secret deal with Sensus, signed knowing that there were serious safety concerns, include any provisions for the manufacturer to cover the costs of the damage done to people's homes by these dangerous, explosive meters? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — You know, you know, Mr. Speaker, this member opposite comes into the Assembly on a regular basis providing all kinds of misinformation to the people of Saskatchewan. The member opposite, the member opposite said in the early stages of this that technical decisions should not be made by politicians. Well perhaps he should follow some of his own advice.

Mr. Speaker, early on the member came in here and he said that smart meters were caused by . . . problems were caused by unqualified installers. Wrong, Mr. Speaker. Not only were there five of these meters installed by qualified journeyman electricians, the report by Ritenburg & Associates proves that this was not the problem that has resulted.

Then the member opposite says that PECO in Philadelphia abandoned Sensus following the smart meter incidents in Philadelphia. Wrong again, Mr. Speaker. In fact, PECO still works with Sensus, using both their network and their meters, Mr. Speaker.

And then, of course, the leadership team over there then sets up the poor old member from Nutana to come into the legislature with a Dwain Lingenfelter-style attack in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And it just continues and continues from that member opposite.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, again that question was to the Premier, not to the minister whose story has changed every step of the way, has sold out Saskatchewan people's safety, and who is ultimately responsible for having dangerous smart meters strapped to the homes of Saskatchewan people all across this province.

And this story just gets more ridiculous really every day. Now we know this government expects Saskatchewan people to give Sensus, the failed manufacturer, millions of dollars — a gift from Saskatchewan people — hard-earned ratepayers' dollars. And now that minister also thinks that Saskatchewan people should also be paying for the damage caused by those smart meters. All of these costs are simply added to the power bills of Saskatchewan people, and it's entirely unacceptable that this government is causing this.

To the Premier: how is this fair to Saskatchewan people, and why won't he stand up to fight to get our dollars back?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, in addition, in addition to all the other things that the member opposite has got wrong, we'll just add to that list. The member came into the Assembly and says, why don't you just do it like they've done in Saskatoon and use the meters that Saskatoon is using? When indeed, of course, that's wrong as well, Mr. Speaker. Those meters will not work in all of Saskatchewan, and I think the member opposite knows that, Mr. Speaker.

And yes, just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite said that the householder here in Saskatchewan that was affected by the smart meter fire most recently had not been contacted. Wrong again, Mr. Speaker. Wrong again, Mr. Speaker. In fact, SaskPower contacted the owner the very next day to discuss damage claims that they may have.

Mr. Speaker, it's a new NDP team over there, but it's the same old Dwain Lingenfelter-style NDP.

The Speaker: — I would caution the member for Regina Rosemont to be careful with his words both on and off the record. I won't ask him to apologize, but be careful from now on.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Costs for Boundary Dam Carbon Capture Project

Ms. Sproule: — My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the SaskPower minister. What is the total final cost to Saskatchewan taxpayers of the Boundary dam carbon capture project?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure the final costs are in. It'll be an approximate range of \$1.4 billion for the carbon capture facility as well as the upgrades to the power facility, the power island as it's known, Mr. Speaker.

This is a project that's getting worldwide acclaim. It's a project

that I think many people are recognizing that is setting the standards for the world in terms of clean coal generation for the future, Mr. Speaker. This is a project that has the support of the Government of Saskatchewan. We just wonder whether it has the members' opposite support.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I hope the SaskPower minister is being entirely honest with that number, because we've heard from insiders that the actual total cost is about \$1.6 billion. And for some reason SaskPower has taken their press release off their website, so we can't read that anymore.

Saskatchewan people deserve to have the full picture. Here's another specific question for the SaskPower minister. Do taxpayers actually own the technology, and can we commercialize it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, of course it's not the technology that SaskPower would be making available or perhaps commercializing in the future. It's the knowledge that has been gained through the whole process.

The technologies are a combination of technologies that are used in various circumstances around the world in different types of applications. It's the bringing together of all that information that has resulted in the project, a very successful project, down in the southeast part of our province. We generate electricity from a vast supply of coal that we have down in that part of the province, Mr. Speaker. So this is something that SaskPower is looking at, the commercialization opportunities perhaps that are available to the people of Saskatchewan as a result of what they have learned through this project.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the reality is that the technology is owned by Cansolv Technologies, a subsidiary of Shell Global Solutions. And they are the ones who will be able to commercialize this, not SaskPower. That's a crucial point that this government has conveniently glossed over. The taxpayer paid for it, but we don't own it. How can Saskatchewan people judge the true merits of this project without proper transparency?

Here's another specific question for the tired SaskPower minister: what's the selling price for the carbon that this government negotiated with Cenovus?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the carbon, the CO₂ that is being captured has been contracted to Cenovus down in the southeast part of Saskatchewan. I think that's a matter of public record. I will check that, but I believe it's in the range of about \$25 per tonne.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we're looking for the exact pricing that was arrived from Cenovus. Twenty-five dollars per tonne is the minister's guess. We would like to know what the actual figure is. Saskatchewan people need proper transparency from this government in order to judge the true merits of this massive, expensive project.

Perhaps the SaskPower minister will answer this question: how much revenue does this government expect from the sale of sulphuric acid?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Obviously there are a number of components with respect to this that SaskPower is working with in terms of this. There's obviously the CO₂. There's a number of other things that are a part of this, Mr. Speaker. We can get the exact information. We can get the exact information. We'd be happy to do that for the member opposite, to pass it on to them.

But what I would say is that this is a project that's getting worldwide renown, Mr. Speaker. People from across the world are coming to Saskatchewan to view it. There's been a great deal of private sector investment into this project, Mr. Speaker. This project is very, very successful for the people of Saskatchewan, and it's time that the members opposite got on board.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Again, Mr. Speaker, no real answer from this poor, tired SaskPower minister. These are important questions, and we need real answers if we're going to be able to judge the true merits of this project. Perhaps he'll actually answer this question. To the minister: how much revenue does this government expect from the sale of fly ash?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the reason why we're a little bit leery when the member opposite comes in and provides information to the House is because she unfortunately has a track record of providing information to the Assembly that isn't quite right, Mr. Speaker. It's sort of that NDP, Dwain Lingenfelter-style of stringing information together in the hope that somebody out there might believe it, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is this is a very, very successful project. This is something that is getting worldwide renown, Mr. Speaker. This is something that is very, very good for Saskatchewan. It's keeping the cost of generation at a low rate here in the province for the ratepayers of our province, Mr. Speaker. And it is clear that it's time that the NDP got on board.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it is so frustrating that this minister is just cheerleading his project instead of providing real

answers to Saskatchewan taxpayers. Is this a 1.4 or \$1.6 billion project? Ratepayers and taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability.

To the SaskPower minister: what is the parasitic load for this project? Does he at least know that answer?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I think that it's clear here in Saskatchewan at the successful conclusion of the project down there, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of that, Saskatchewan is setting the standard for the world. We've seen that most recently the President of the United States was in China talking about emissions and the importance of addressing those kinds of emissions. I think this is exactly the kind of project that would help to do some of that kind of good work that needs to be done in the world.

Mr. Speaker, if you're ever in China, you would certainly recognize the problems that they have in terms of emissions. And I think it's this type of project and I think that's the reason why, I think that's the reason why, Mr. Speaker, we've seen country after country, company after company, coming to Saskatchewan to take a look at this project here in Saskatchewan. It's a project that has been supported by this government from the outset, and it's a project that has not been supported by the NDP. And it's clear to the people of Saskatchewan that they're on the wrong side of the issue once again.

[10:45]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to questions 68 through 112.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 68 through 112.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Costs and Benefits of Health Care Initiatives

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move a motion today at the end of my 15 minutes. I will be moving a motion:

That this Assembly condemns the government for ignoring scathing criticisms from front-line health care workers and senior health administrators, renewing the toxic and wasteful \$40-million contract with the American consultant, and continuing to fly in Japanese senseis and pay them \$3,500 per day while neglecting the basics in health care.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important debate that we've been having in this legislature for the past year or so, Mr. Speaker. This really is a debate about priorities, Mr. Speaker. We have a government who has chosen to engage and continue to engage a \$40 million American consultant and ignore the basics in health care, ignore the fact that we have a seniors' care crisis in this province, Mr. Speaker. So this government had an opportunity this summer to get out of this contract, and instead this government has chosen to renew the \$40 million contract with John Black until next June.

But we're not sure if it's next June, Mr. Speaker, or if it's July or August or September or 2017, Mr. Speaker, 2017. John Black seems to think that he'll be working in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, until 2017, Mr. Speaker. John Black seems to think he'll be here for a few more years.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, how over time we've heard a great deal from front-line health care workers about their concerns around lean. We've heard their concerns about paper airplane-folding workshops, the kaizen basics workshops. We've heard concerns . . . I know I had an opportunity to talk to a front-line health care worker, a nurse who works in palliative care who had a huge concern about the rapid process improvement workshops. The Saskatoon Health Region is engaged in many of these. I've been told by front-line health care workers how disjointed they are, how they're not meshed together, Mr. Speaker. So this particular health care worker in palliative care was telling me, you know, this government looks at one rapid process improvement workshop and sees an improvement, but fails to look at how that particular improvement process has impacted another area negatively, Mr. Speaker.

So for example, at St. Paul's Hospital, the pharmacy did a rapid process improvement workshop and, lo and behold, they made an improvement, saved some money, and found some efficiencies. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? It was on the back of the palliative care unit at St. Paul's Hospital. It had a negative impact. So we have front-line health care workers telling us about their frustrations with the training, the frustration with spending their time away from patients, not being able to provide the care that they want to provide.

But you know, I think something that's even more telling, Mr. Speaker, is hearing from leaders in health care, Mr. Speaker, who have been at the top of the ladder here when it comes to lean training, Mr. Speaker.

We have a briefing note. Actually it was interesting for me, this briefing note that we've discussed this legislative session where senior health administrators outline "that getting out of the John Black contract would be an improvement." "The coaching has been sporadic and inconsistent." "This is not going well." "Need to incorporate adult learning concepts." "We are investing a lot of money for a program that appears to have no defined objectives," Mr. Speaker.

So it was interesting when we saw that briefing note because that reflects exactly with what I had heard from people who had been doing the lean leader training, Mr. Speaker. A comment I had heard from folks last year in the Saskatoon Health Region doing the lean leadership training was that the health region was

“holding their breath until the contract was done.”

I heard a story, Mr. Speaker, about someone who attended some John Black training last summer, a value stream mapping training session last summer, Mr. Speaker, where John Black and staff were there. There was a doctor who booked out her entire day. And this government wants doctors to be engaged in the lean process, Mr. Speaker. This doctor books out her entire day and goes to the value stream mapping workshop and has a mix-up with the time and is a few minutes late and is told she can't participate. So a family doctor, who is normally a very busy individual, books out her day to do the lean training, which this government wants her to do, and John Black, the bully, will not let her participate in the value stream mapping workshop, Mr. Speaker.

We hear, we hear, Mr. Speaker, time and time again some of the comments that people have told me who've participated with John Black and his staff, their frustration. Again everyone is holding their breath until the contract is over. The education is appalling. This is what I was told by someone who has done the lean leadership training. The education is appalling, that the data was 10 years old, old slide presentations, which jibes completely, Mr. Speaker, with what was in the briefing note.

The Health minister a couple of weeks ago . . . I think it was incredibly telling when the Health minister a couple of weeks ago says to us, when John Black is done, we'll be able to tailor lean to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Forty million dollars. You're telling me that John Black and Associates cannot tailor the lean training and lean process to Saskatchewan for \$40 million? That is absolute insanity. But again it jibes with exactly what I have been hearing from people who have engaged in the lean leadership training process. So these are the people who have been flown to the States and elsewhere, Mr. Speaker, to do some of this training.

I had heard one concern from one of these individuals who actually commented that lean is a tool, and it was a tool that was being used in our health care in Saskatchewan before this \$40 million John Black contract. So this particular individual isn't opposed to lean itself, but it's the John Black contract and the John Black implementation or his style of lean that many people have taken issue with, Mr. Speaker.

I know this one individual who thinks in general that lean is a good tool to use but said her frustration was around the Americanized . . . The approach that he was bringing to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, didn't fit in our context. Lean is supposed to be about front-line engagement or listening to the people on the front lines who are telling us what can and can't be, or what is working and what isn't working. But the reality is, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to John Black, he is dictating from on high how things are working, Mr. Speaker, and how they should be working. And that is not acceptable. We're paying, taxpayers in Saskatchewan are paying 40 million-plus for a consultant to come in and tell us what to do, tell us . . . It is absolute ridiculous, Mr. Speaker.

Instead of health care in this province getting better, we see health care in this province getting worse. We have, Mr. Speaker, we have ER [emergency room] wait times in Saskatchewan that have increased under this government. We

have in Saskatchewan right now, according to CIHI [Canadian Institute of Health Information], the second-longest wait times to see a specialist here, in Canada, Mr. Speaker, behind only New Brunswick. In Canada the average, patients waiting longer than three months to see a specialist, in Canada it's 16.4 per cent of people. In Saskatchewan it is 21.8 per cent of people waiting for longer to see a specialist, Mr. Speaker.

So this government might talk about their surgical wait times, but the fact is you can't get a surgery date, Mr. Speaker, unless you actually see a specialist who will refer you for surgery. But when you're waiting months and months and months at a time to see a specialist, it is a huge problem. And again, Mr. Speaker, according to recent data from CIHI, Saskatchewan has the second-longest wait time to see specialists.

But again this is a debate about priorities, Mr. Speaker. We had a Throne Speech just a few weeks ago that had nothing, Mr. Speaker, that had nothing in this Throne Speech to address the seniors' care crisis. Instead it was a . . . It looked back, patted, this government patted itself on the back for its one-time, drop-in-the-bucket measure to address the seniors' care crisis, Mr. Speaker, and a crisis that the government wasn't even willing to admit exists. How can you fix a problem, Mr. Speaker, if you are not even willing to admit there is one, Mr. Speaker?

So we have a Throne Speech, we have a Throne Speech just a few weeks ago that had nothing new to address the seniors' care crisis. So we have people like Carrie Klassen who has been advocating for a year and a half to try to get this government to see that we have a serious problem, Mr. Speaker. And in the news last week, she said she was back here basically because the same problems are going on and the government hasn't fixed them.

Carrie Klassen has been looking after her mother daily because she says the staff is too overworked to ensure basic needs are met. She says:

People are not getting on the toilet in a timely manner. Hygiene is getting missed. I got a call from a friend saying her father went to the dentist and had a whole bunch of cavities in six months because they basically said his teeth aren't being brushed.

So Carrie Klassen is a prime example of pointing out the mixed-up priorities that this government has — \$40 million for an American consultant, \$3,500 a day for senseis, \$600 for interpreters. Those are things that health care leaders said, Mr. Speaker. The senseis were not adding any value to the lean process, Mr. Speaker. But the government continues to engage, fly senseis from Japan, Mr. Speaker, hire translators to help them do their work. So you've got \$3,500 a day for their rate. You've got the flights from Japan. And you've got the cost of \$600 a day per interpreter, Mr. Speaker.

We've got a government who has taken the Health Quality Council and has turned it from an arm's-length, independent board that should be assessing the value of health programs and what's working and what's not working in this province and has turned it into a promotional arm for lean, Mr. Speaker. That is completely unacceptable.

I had an opportunity just a couple of days ago to have a conversation with a family who is completely outraged. This individual's father passed away this summer. His father had been started out at RUH [Royal University Hospital] in Saskatoon, ended up at City Hospital in the transition unit. And because we don't have long-term care spaces, Mr. Speaker . . . The former CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatoon Health Region acknowledged this summer that the resources aren't there in her health region and elsewhere to serve seniors well, Mr. Speaker. But this individual that I had an opportunity to talk to cannot believe that his government is so focused on its lean pet project and continues to ignore the basics in health care. He saw his father pass away, stuck in the transition unit at City Hospital in Saskatoon, in and out of a wheelchair. That was this man's last days, Mr. Speaker — in his bed, in his wheelchair, in his bed, in his wheelchair. And it led to his death, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to talk a little bit about what the government should do instead of spending the 40 million-plus on John Black and Associates. This government should use and regulate minimum quality-of-care standards for all care facilities. We had a bill before the legislature, a private member's bill, last spring, Mr. Speaker, that this government unanimously voted down. This government, its own Law Reform Commission recommended implementing a residents-in-care bill of rights for seniors' care in long-term care. This government has refused to do that. Again that was part of that legislation; it was the residents-in-care bill of rights. And this government refused to do this.

This government could reopen Saskatoon City Hospital to acute care, reverse the wrong-headed decision that had patient beds removed from entire wings in City Hospital so that managers' desks could be moved in, and lay out a multi-year plan to have City Hospital's emergency room open 24 hours a day, Mr. Speaker.

[11:00]

This government could actually come up with a strategy, a seniors strategy, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our seniors are getting the home care that they need to keep them in their homes. And not just the medicalized home care — the things that we used to have in home care, the laundry, the groceries, the tending of yards. There are things, very practical, tangible things that can help people stay in their home, Mr. Speaker. So we need a better home care . . . We need a seniors strategy here in this province, Mr. Speaker. The government could start there.

The government could stop ignoring the \$2.2 billion deficit in health care facilities, Mr. Speaker, \$2.2 billion which doubled under this government, Mr. Speaker, in terms of investing in infrastructure.

So, Mr. Speaker, my time is running out here. It's amazing how fast 15 minutes goes. But I would like to move:

That this Assembly condemns the government for ignoring scathing criticisms from front-line health care workers and senior health administrators, renewing the toxic and wasteful \$40 million contract with the American consultant, and continuing to fly in Japanese senseis and

paying them \$3,500 per day while neglecting the basics in health care.

I so move.

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

That this Assembly condemns the government for ignoring scathing criticisms from front-line health care workers and senior health administrators, renewing the toxic and wasteful \$40 million contract with the American consultant, and continuing to fly in Japanese senseis and paying them \$3,500 per day while neglecting the basics in health care.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I could say I'm very excited to get into this debate today. And first of all I want to comment on a few things that the member from Riversdale said. She talked about a couple of things. She talked about not having enough specialists, that our surgical wait times are improving — which I thank her for recognizing that, that our surgical wait times are getting much better than they were the previous seven years.

I just want to, as we seem to be doing quite a bit on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, is correcting what is put out there. The opposition seems to be putting a lot of numbers and a lot of information out there. They sometimes are splicing information together to be able to make a quote, trying to get the media interested.

But the cold, hard facts actually are the number of overall specialists has increased by 224 from March 2007 until now. That would be more specialists out there to be able to see patients. They're spending their time in a better way, Mr. Speaker. They're more efficient on seeing the patients, getting the patients into surgery. And whether that surgery is in a normal hospital setting or it's in one of the private clinics that are publicly funded by our system, we needed to recognize that there needed to be some change.

All governments at all levels need to recognize that there needs to be some improvements in health care. We can't just keep dumping money in, Mr. Speaker. If we keep dumping money in, we're going to have the same results that we did. That's what the NDP did. They just kept doing the same thing all over again, lowering the expectations of everybody and then just hitting just above that, Mr. Speaker.

What we need to do is we need to look at things differently. And yes, we had to hire an outside consultant to be able to do that. We did go outside. We do have expertise within our health care systems, but we needed to look at things a little differently. We needed to turn it, just a little bit of a paradigm shift and be able to make sure that we are looking at this from all levels.

And what I consistently have not heard from them is, what about the patients? What about the patients? What are they thinking? Do they really . . . They're so worried about the

front-line health care workers which are engaged in this process. If they did any research on lean, they would understand lean is driven from the ground up. They seem to try to sell it that it's the top down and John Black and Associates. But it's actually not, because I've studied lean way back in 2003 and I understand the process.

We were working on this a long time ago within our SaskEnergy stores area. We were working on lean processes because we were trying to get more of a pull system rather than a push system. I understand this process; I don't think that they do.

They do have all of these quotes from people they've talked to. Somebody that suggested something. There is a letter out there. I heard it on coffee row. We asked them, table those complaints. Put them on the table, and let's actually talk to the people. But no, they don't seem to be able to do that.

The Leader of the Opposition has been invited several times by Dr. Shaw to be able to come and say, how is lean working? Let me actually show you so you understand. And I don't understand it, Mr. Speaker. It borderlines on ignorance. If you don't understand exactly what it is, why are you complaining about it? I would like the opposition, I'd like all members of the opposition to understand lean. Pick up a book. Read about it. Don't just believe what everybody else is saying, actually understand what the process is, Mr. Speaker.

We need to understand that health care is the top priority of people in Saskatchewan. And what they want, Mr. Speaker, is they are not interested in why they are getting their health care in a better way. They're just concerned or they're just happy that they are. They want to get in to see a doctor. If they, unfortunately if they need to go see a specialist, get that done as quick as possible whether they're in rural Saskatchewan or in the cities. Get that surgery done and move forward. And what we've seen with lean is it's improving that process from start to finish, Mr. Speaker.

The lean concept works. And that is why, as the Minister of Health was touching base on either . . . that's why hospitals, leading hospitals — these aren't just small hospitals around the country — leading hospitals such as the Massachusetts General Hospital; Johns Hopkins Hospital; the Cleveland Clinic; the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center; New York-Presbyterian; University of Pennsylvania; and the Mayo Clinic are coming to us.

The Mayo Clinic is actually coming and saying, how did you guys do this? We want to be able to improve. And I, unfortunately I was at the Mayo Clinic about 12 years ago with my daughter, and I was overwhelmed on the process that they had to be able to move things. I thought they were light years ahead of us at that time. And back in 2002, they absolutely were; they were way ahead of us.

Now they're coming to us. And it's come full circle, Mr. Speaker, that they're coming to us to actually figure out how are we doing it. They want to talk to our Health minister and our Minister of Rural and Remote Health and our officials and front-line workers. They want to know exactly what is going on from their perspective, not just from the government's

perspective. Because the government can implement a program. If it doesn't work on the front line, Mr. Speaker, then it's not a good product. But the difference of lean is it is coming from the front.

You look at the children's hospital, Mr. Speaker. That was designed with lean processes. And we had everybody from patients, to nurses, to janitors, to doctors, to surgeons, to architects, all working together to try to find the most efficient children's hospital, a children's hospital that they talked about, made lots of fancy announcements, but they never actually did it, Mr. Speaker. It's absolutely sad, Mr. Speaker.

One of the other things that I want to touch on is our surgical. And again I thank the member from Riversdale, or the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Riversdale, for acknowledging that our wait times are coming down on our surgical . . . [inaudible]. And I think this needs to be read into the record again. More than 18 months, people waiting for surgery now compared to 2007, more than 18 months down 99 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That in itself sells the process of how lean is working. More than one year, down 97 per cent. More than six months, down 90 per cent. People are getting in to their surgeries. They're recovering quicker, and they're returning back to normal life.

Nobody wants to go in for surgery, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Nobody wants to go through that process. Unfortunately if they have to, we want them to get back to their normal life as quick as possible. And that, the first step in that is getting them in, seeing their doctor. Getting referred to the specialist. Getting into the surgical unit, whether it's a normal surgical unit or again a privately run, publicly funded surgical unit which are using the same doctors. It's just more facilities, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But it is absolutely imperative that the NDP and the opposition sit down and read a book on this. They've been drinking the Kool-Aid. I mean they use words like condemned and sensei and all of these things that they say, Mr. Speaker, but they're absolutely dead wrong on this one.

The people of Saskatchewan, when I go out door knocking in different areas, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I door knock in Saskatoon, Regina, Lloydminster, when I go out and door knock, people aren't asking questions about John Black and Associates. People are saying, you know what? My friend, my family member, my sister, somebody was in the hospital. They were in and out quickly. They recovered. Thank you for finally doing something that is improving the health care system for the patients that are using the health care system, Mr. Speaker.

And part of this process is making sure that our staff throughout the health care systems are deployed in the right way. The biggest thing in that is actually having the staff there. More nurses, more doctors, more specialists to look at what is the particular ailment. More facilities: children's hospital, Moose Jaw. We are building hospitals on this side to make sure that we can provide the proper care, the care that they talk about over there that they say that they do. They didn't actually do anything. They closed hospitals. They cut nurses.

We had to step . . . When we got into government in 2007, we

had to step in and hire nurses because it was critical. It wasn't even just partially that we were missing nurses. It was critical that we got in there. Hired more doctors. Implemented things like the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] program to help out rural Saskatchewan. So we have literally a flying emergency room around Saskatchewan.

We make sure that we are looking out for everybody. They talked about it over there, Mr. Speaker. And they talked about lean and they talk about other things, but they don't actually understand it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's the part that really frustrates me as a parent, as an MLA. They stand there and they just keep chattering away about nothing. They take little splices of things and they try to make it . . . They stand up there and said, absolutely, we don't have enough specialists. Well we have 227 more specialists.

So again they keep . . . I don't want to use the word, not truth telling, but I'm not sure if that's politically correct, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But what they continuously do is not give the Saskatchewan people the whole story. They keep giving little snippets of this — John Black, senseis, all of that — but they don't actually say what is improving within the health care system.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to say, cannot support that recommendation, and I think it's absolutely absurd that they brought it forward to this Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to enter into this debate. And I just want to review the motion that we're debating here. I know the government side and the members will not want to talk about this. Will not want to talk, but they want to talk about everything else under the sun and hope that we let this sleeping dog lie. But it's not sleeping. People are outraged by it.

This is the motion before us, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The motion before us is:

That this Assembly condemns the government for ignoring scathing criticisms from front-line health care workers and senior health administrators, renewing the toxic and wasteful \$40-million contract with the American consultant, and continuing to fly in Japanese senseis and paying them \$3,500 per day while neglecting the basics in health care.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's the motion before us.

And what we've heard from the previous speaker, he will talk about everything else under the sun. But I really want to know and I'm interested when he says he's knocking on doors, does he raise that? Does he say, have you heard about our contract? We're really proud of that contract. We think it's the right thing. We're getting a deal on senseis. It's only \$40 million we're spending. We're only spending \$40 million on this pet project. No, they don't want to talk about that. They do not want to raise that, even if front-line health care workers are raising concerns and continue to raise them and raise them.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know this really hits a sore point over there. And we will get into the details about that.

But they don't want to talk about the \$40 million contract. They will do whatever they can to make sure we avoid the conversation and the truth and the facts on that. In fact we actually saw that this morning in question period when the Leader of the Opposition raised, well when does this gravy train stop for John Black, they don't know. They don't know. They really don't know because they're talking about these tours now that we understand was \$200,000 a trip — \$200,000 a trip. Now what are the details?

You know, this government when it was first elected said, we would be transparent. We will be accountable, except for the John Black contract. Except for the John Black contract, we will not be transparent. We will not be accountable. They're really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I find this so odd that they will talk everything else but that.

[11:15]

And I'm looking forward to hearing comments from the members opposite about John Black and how they've talked to their constituents and raised the issue that we are spending \$40 million on this American contractor from Seattle. We think it's a good deal. And we don't know when the contract will actually end. We think the main part, the primary part is in June of next year. But you know, actually it has apparently some extensions to it where he comes back and he will do audits. He will do audits.

We don't know what the price of the audits are, but hey, that's how we do things with John Black. He tends to set his prices, and it may be high. And we don't know if there's other people in Canada or other places that we could be more price-effective, but this government really doesn't want to talk about that.

And we can read, and I will read into the record some of the editorials, some of the quotes from various people about this because really this is an issue that we really have to address head on, head on. And we saw yesterday when we raised the issues of really essentially choices, choices that this government is making. Yesterday we raised the issue about science ambassadors, a \$10,000 program that was not renewed by this government.

Now we understand that the letter was lost. The letter was lost and perhaps there was some files that were misplaced between the changes between the old post-secondary minister and the new post-secondary minister. A letter was lost for \$10,000, and all of a sudden they've found the \$10,000. Well we're glad of that. And we're glad that we brought that forward, but the noise in the House yesterday was of course that that couldn't have happened. But here we found out that it actually did happen. A letter was misplaced. I don't know if that's actually the case, but we'll go with that and we're glad that it's been found. But really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's about priorities.

We see a situation with SWITCH today, SWITCH having to cut back their hours, having to cut back their hours. And what that just, you know . . . It's a very inexpensive, very important program in the core communities of Saskatoon. But you know,

what it could mean for the people in downtown Saskatoon if that funding could be bumped up. But no, we see the continuation of John Black's contract. And that's really something that we are really worried about.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we see, and I'm going to quote *The StarPhoenix* here, the editorial last spring, "Lean propaganda runs full tilt." And I quote:

When a government invests its political capital in something, nothing becomes more important than leaving the appearance that "something" is actually working.

So the Sask Party government is determined to make it look as if lean is working, regardless of the facts and regardless of how much political or health system propaganda it takes.

And it goes on and talks about the good work that Mark Lemstra has done in exposing some of the real facts about what's happening with health care. And I go on and I quote:

For example, HQC [the Health Quality Council] nursing reports in 2012 showed that "24.53 adverse events per 1,000 medical patient discharges, which is an increase from 19.39 adverse events in 2010. For surgical patients, nurses reported 26.47 adverse events per 1,000 discharges in 2012, up from 23.77 such events in 2010."

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's amazing how this government will not let facts get in the way of a good propaganda exercise. Here you have a situation where they will not let the facts get in the way, will not let the facts get in the way. And we have heard, we have heard from, we have heard from . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And here again they shout down facts. They shout down the facts. That's a simple quote. That's a simple quote.

But we have nurses who are raising concerns about nurse intimidation, again from last spring where it was revealed in the media that "Last Friday nurses are being told they have to support lean or risk recrimination, including professional consequences and even being put into a time-out room." I mean, Mr. Speaker, really, this is something else.

And then senior administrators this fall, when it was found out . . . And these are not our words. These are words from senior administrators in Regina here, and I quote:

Our experience with John Black and Associates have been one of lack of respect, tattling on leaders if they question, expecting rigid conformity in a militaristic style, gossiping, and undermining.

It goes on to say:

The lean training consists of activities that are not meaningful and in some cases insulting, all of which are part of John Black and Associates' approach that are not only not educationally sound, but of course create skepticism, alienation, and frustration. The orientation to the kanban process within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region by the sensei had little added value.

And so you'd go on and on and on. And I don't know if the members opposite . . . Of course, they will dismiss this. And of course then there was the provincial-wide health care survey that were very troubling, some of the results that talk about the disconnect between the employers and the employees and the impact it has on health care.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, really . . . And you know, I just want to say we could have this debate go on and on because it's such an important one. But we have to look at the work of people like Mark Lemstra, who talks about how lean distracts from the real issues, and asks, and I quote, "So what business are we in? Are we in the business of health or are we simply in the business of health care provision? Do we have a ministry of health or do we only have a ministry of health care?"

You know, so we have to think deeper than this. And this government's obsession with John Black, and this continuing on and not being straight with the facts, we have some questions. I just want to end with a quote. No, I think I'm running out of time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so I'll leave that at that. And I know we'll raise this later on.

But I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, this debate, and we're talking about ignoring scathing criticisms from the front-line health care workers and condemning the wasteful \$40 million contract with the American consultant . . . We've got to put a stop to that. So we've got to pass this motion, send a clear message to the Minister of Health, and particularly the Premier who will defend this at any cost. We've got to pass this motion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to join into this debate. I can't support the motion the NDP has brought forward, and I'll give you some reasons. We'll have to start with a little bit of history. I mean we'll go back and look at the record when it comes to health care. You know, cutting 52 rural hospitals, increasing the surgical wait-list, you know, those are things . . . And no change and no policy. When I was first elected, when I went door to door, the people told me, you know, health care spending is getting unsustainable. We cannot lose our health care. We cannot lose health care in rural Saskatchewan, and we were doing that. We would have been doing that under their watch with the closure . . . We lost how many long-term care facilities?

An Hon. Member: — 19.

Mr. Brkich: — We lost 19, a member said. We lost 1,200 long-term care beds under them.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? There was no new ideas. No new ideas come to them. No, not change policy. That's their record through the '70s and all through the '90s was, don't change. Doesn't matter what's happening. You can look at the way they operated with highways. You can look at the rural service centres they closed. No change, no policy. You can't have that.

The people told us that you, opposition — and we were, and I

was in opposition in '99 — you also have to have some ideas. You just can't just say that's wrong. You know, you have to also present some ideas, and we did that. We did that when we first were in opposition. We laid out policies. And it showed as elections rolled on and we formed government, and it also showed in the elections forthcoming as I still heard that on the doorstep. I do quite a bit of door knocking in the cities for my city counterparts and that's what I hear on the doorstep. You know, patients first.

We need to keep improving health care. We need to keep moving forward. We need to have new ideas. And they'll ask, we've gone to the NDP's website on their policy and we've heard nothing. We don't see anything. We don't see any new ideas. That's it. Just criticize, criticize. A good government has to look at ideas. There has to be changes in health care. That's why we looked at lean. That's why we brought lean forward, Mr. Speaker. We need change.

I've heard from lots of patients that were on two-year waiting lists when I was in opposition. We've brought that way down, Mr. Speaker. We're down to about, if I remember right, in most of them is three months, three months. You look at their record. They promised to cut surgical waits by 30 per cent in 1999 but actually increased the wait-list by 61 per cent. How can you make a promise like that and then turn around and increase it by 61 per cent? That, Mr. Speaker, is a fact.

Never mind the elimination of 52 hospitals. Eliminated 19 long-term facilities. Eliminated 1,200 long-term care beds. They did not increase the seniors' income plan for 16 years. They reduced pediatric beds in Regina by nearly 28 per cent, closed 421 hospital beds between 1999 and 2007, cut back the nursing program by 385 nursing training seats were eliminated. And you know what? All they kept looking at was just saying, no change. We're going to just keep losing things.

I can remember with the students they said, we're planning for 3,000 less students a year. That's their record. And then they wonder why they're sitting with nine members and possibly less next election because no new ideas. And this is what this government is doing.

You know, you have to address problems. And we have a problem in health care, escalating costs, and you have to look at that, Mr. Speaker, if we want to make health care sustainable to go in the future. If we want to make it free and accessible for our constituents, we have to look at changing and we have to look . . . always be open to new ideas. And that's something we are on this side of the government, Mr. Speaker, a government that's always looking forward and always looking to make things better. And you have to do that, unlike the members opposite. And all I've heard, and my constituents tell me the same thing, all I've heard is complaining. Just saying, well that's wrong. Don't do any change. Don't spend any money. Just cut back. Just cut back.

Well you know what? There's savings of \$60 million that this program has saved so far, and there's going to be more savings as we move forward. We have to keep looking at our health care system all the time if we want to maintain it in rural Saskatchewan.

We brought in STARS. That was another. And I'll tell you what. Just in my constituency alone, I'm not even sure how many visits when I talked to Rod Gantfoer, but it's in the hundreds, and I don't know how many lives that it's saved.

I know I met . . . They were in Raymore. I met a person there that said, I wouldn't be alive today if STARS hadn't been able to get me to the hospital in time. There's been accidents on No. 11 as it gets increasing. Those are things that we've been looking at, that we brought forward when we were in opposition. We brought them ideas forward which you have to if you're going to be in government. And the former government never, ever looked.

I remember Rod Gantfoer brought STARS here, and they said, that'll never work. It's too much money. Don't bring that. Don't look at that. No, that's just going to help . . . That's not going to help anybody. Well I'll tell you what. You tell that to the hundreds of people's lives that have been saved and are going to be saved in the future with that. And that is your record of not looking forward and that's the same thing with this motion, is don't do anything. Don't do anything. Don't make it change. Just put your head in the sand and maybe your problems will go away.

Well I'll tell you what. They don't, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that steps up, that looks at problems, hits them, meets them head on. And that's what we're going to be doing in the future, Mr. Speaker.

The member from our side that spoke, from Sutherland, hit the nail on the head when he said this is about patients. This is about patients — patients first. That should be our focus.

Next is about the workers, front-line workers. But this is how we can make patients, their visits shorter. Because I tell you what. It's very traumatic if you have somebody in the health care system, whether it be doing cancer clinics or just doing operations and the many visits to a doctor.

This is what this program is looking is, how can we make this better for the patients? How can we shorten this? How can we make health care better? And this is something that our government is proud to move forward with savings at \$60 million and more in the future, of looking at the system and knowing that, as we move forward, as health care costs keep going, we're also working in a balanced budget, something they didn't do.

They let health care . . . I remember when I was first elected, the health care budget, I think, grew by 6 per cent a year. Well that's unsustainable. I heard that on the doorstep. They say, we can't have that. We've got poor health care, and it's still growing by 6 per cent? This is what looking at making changes, at trying to keep our budget with health care sustainable and also making it better for the patients. Those are the two most components, and this is what this contract deals with.

You know, they keep talking about the individual, Mr. Black. This is about the process, not the individual. This is what his team can bring forward. When you have the Mayo Clinic looking at what we're doing here, I think that's pretty important. That tells you that we're making some pretty good

strides here. When you're starting to have other jurisdictions looking at the savings that we're instituting here . . .

[11:30]

Because I tell you what. I go to some conferences in the States; I go to SARL [State Agriculture and Rural Leaders]. And I'll tell you what. Health care down there is just as important as it is here. And the costs, same thing. Those are the same things they're dealing. And how can they deliver health care to the residents, to the constituents? They struggle with the same problems we do, how to deliver it cost-effective to rural and also to the cities.

This is what this program looks at. How can we keep health care sustainable? Because I tell you what. On the doorstep, this is one of the most important issues. And I think each and every member that has ever door knocked will say that, when it comes to health care, when you mention that, everybody has an opinion on it. But the main thing is, every opinion is, we have to keep it going. We have to keep it sustainable. We have to have a good supply of specialists. We have to have doctors, which we've been working on, doctor recruitment. And to do that, you also need money to bring in specialists. You need money to keep the rural hospitals going. You need to keep all hospitals going. You need money.

We're looking at how we can best deliver that health care at the best possible cost, and we're getting every . . . Every dollar that's being used in health care is being used to its maximum best. Because if you're going to keep health care sustainable, that, Mr. Speaker, is what you're going to have to do. You're going to have to save as much . . . Every dollar is going to have to be used to its best potential because there is a big demand for health care. I was on treasury board and I tell you what. When health care comes forward in the budget . . . I mean every initiative is good. There isn't one bad initiative there, Mr. Speaker. There's not one initiative that's bad. If you don't have the money to fund them, you're going to run into trouble, and that's something we don't want to do.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, that's why we've been moving forward and we're moving forward with this lean contract. I think it speaks for itself in saving money, but just not . . . They talk about this year, or the year and a half costing \$40 million. It's going to save in the future, Mr. Speaker. It's going to save hundreds of million dollars in the future.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm kind of wishing that we were allowed to eat in the Chamber because I certainly would have had some popcorn with that last speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That was really something.

Sadly, sadly not one of the government members who are getting up in this debate have managed to even say the words, John Black. They're somehow worried about the fact that this is the issue that we're concerned about right now.

One of the things, Mr. Speaker . . . This is a political debate so

obviously there's a lot of politics going on, lot of shouting going on, and that's what we do in this Chamber. But I think what's important, since the government doesn't want to listen to the opposition . . . We're the opposition. They don't like it. So maybe we should listen to what some of the front-line care workers are saying, what the nurses are saying, what senior administrators are saying, and perhaps what the media's saying. So I've just gathered some quotes here from different articles in the media and from health care workers and maybe, maybe this government might actually listen to it. But we'll see because certainly they don't want to talk about the John Black contract. That's something that even the Premier and the Minister of Health won't even talk about when we raise questions about it. It's very concerning.

So where should we start? We've got so many things that we could cite here, but I'm going to start with an article from the *Leader-Post*, dated I believe just recently, by Murray Mandryk. Now it's either October 11th . . . I think it's October 11th.

An Hon. Member: — Your mentor. Your mentor.

Ms. Sproule: — It's funny that the Minister of Finance calls Murray Mandryk our mentor when . . . It's kind of interesting that he would do that when we see that the press is a pretty neutral evaluation of what's going on here. Anyways he said on October 11th:

. . . it's hard to ignore NDP Leader Cam Broten's claims that [Maura] Davies's early demise — at considerable expense to all Saskatchewan taxpayers, given that regional health budgets come from the province — had something to do with her questioning of Seattle-based lean consultant John Black [there I've said it, John Black] and his company's methods used in the \$39-million contract to implement his brand of lean on a provincewide basis.

According to an email obtained by the Opposition through freedom-of-information, Davies — despite her public support of lean — was also no shrinking violet when it came to engaging in "critical conversation" with Black over his methods and implementation style.

The memo, from health board member Dr. Dennis Kendel to chairperson Dr. Susan Shaw, states that Davies was "very candid and explicit in describing" what the Saskatoon Health Region needed in the next 18 months — something that took Black by surprise, but something he supposedly appreciated.

The quote goes on to say:

"We ought to seize the opportunity to be equally frank and explicit in our conversations with John about what HQC (Health Quality Council) needs from him and what we do not need over the next 18 months," Kendel wrote in the memo.

Well, Davies will have no chance to do that now and it would very much seem that whoever her successor is from the region would be well advised to not try that approach either if they want to maintain their role for any length of time.

He goes on to say at the end of the article:

If lean is largely about the ability of workers to have direct input into solutions, what kind of message does it send when the CEO can't publicly raise concerns or even privately challenge the implementation methods?

A clear message in Davies's dismissal is the Saskatchewan Party government seems only interested in cheerleaders.

That's a comment from a commentator.

Now I don't know if the Minister of Finance will like this, but I'm also going to quote from another person who is a health columnist, and it's Mark Lemstra from April 3rd, 2014 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I think he's just trying to participate in debate. He keeps shouting, but we keep hearing his voice here.

"The government has stated that . . ." This is from April 3rd, 2014, and it's a quote:

The government has stated that its kaizan promotion offices do not measure or evaluate lean, and that no reports have been written. At the same time, however, it has stated that lean has already demonstrated benefits. To test this, I reviewed the Health Quality Council website — Quality Insight — that has a significant amount of provincial data. For each indicator I will report the first and last month or year where data were collected.

And he goes on to talk about a bunch of the different kinds of data, and he shows that actually things aren't improving. At the end of his article he says:

This brings us to advocacy. Throughout the HQC website are numerous yet unreferenced statements that lean increases patient safety, patient satisfaction, reduces cost and improves health outcomes. However, none of the indicators available on the HQC website support these conclusions.

In fact, the opposite is true. This despite the fact that their survey data shows the aboriginal population is severely under-sampled. It is likely that the results would be much worse if this discriminated-against population is fully represented in the sample.

So that's quotes from Mark Lemstra.

Well now let's talk to the Union of Nurses. Now they aren't happy about the political squabbling that goes back and forth, and I don't blame them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But they have some concerns about lean and the implementation based on the John Black model of lean. And one of the things she said is, what we're missing here in the legislature . . . And this is a quote from March 24th in the *Leader-Post*. This is Tracy Zambory. She says:

The partisan back-and-forth has largely missed the key issue for members of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses [so maybe we can listen to the nurses. Continuing with the quote]: the implications of lean for the quality and safety of

direct patient care.

She goes on to say:

No one doubts that lean has helped identify waste and make improvements. However, evidence of its effectiveness in improving direct patient care is weak and inconclusive, as the research literature makes clear.

The clearest successes have been in the areas of the health system that most resemble physical production [and what she's referring to there, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this comes from a production line to make automobiles], such as inventory management and process redesign to reduce unnecessary steps.

She goes on to say:

But we need to make sure that lean principles are not applied rigidly or inappropriately . . . Lean does not have all the answers.

Unlike supply management, the registered nursing process is not linear and predictable and cannot be reduced to bundles of tasks and rationalized on business principles. When lean moves from supporting the nursing process (by freeing up time and resources for direct patient care) to re-engineering it in its own image, it is inappropriate and unsafe and threatens to erode quality care by providers treating the "whole patient" [that's a quote within her quote] and ensuring the continuity and co-ordination of care.

It's one thing for a retail outlet to fail to meet unanticipated demand. It is quite another for hemodialysis patients to be put at risk and harmed, or for hospitals to run out of linens or wound dressings, because the margin for error or uncertainty has been "leaned" out of supply chains.

As discharges are rushed to increase patient flow, we see poor outcomes and costly readmissions. As efficiencies are found by scaling back high-touch surface cleaning in operating and emergency rooms, rising rates of hospital-acquired infection are the result. As untested model of care changes under the cover of lean reduce the capacity of registered nurses to adequately assess and monitor patients, safety and outcomes . . . [occur].

Registered nurses are in a tough spot in raising the alarm about patient safety. They are exempt from whistleblower protections, are concerned with patient confidentiality, and fear repercussions in their workplace.

So that's from the nurses, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's been other articles in the newspapers about this program, about the lean program.

Just recently on October 23rd, CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] news posted a story about concerns from Marlene Smadu from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. And her concerns are about things like PowerPoint slides that can't be changed, poor quality videos, didactic approaches.

The approach of the company delivering lean lessons is not only educationally unsound, but is causing skepticism, alienation, and frustration. And one person complained that the lean lessons show a lack of respect and that tattling on leaders was expected if they questioned the process.

And I just simply don't have enough time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to share with the government all of these quotes. Obviously, they haven't been listening to what the people are saying about this.

But perhaps we can talk a little bit about another article from the *Leader-Post* on October 25th, again by journalist Murray Mandryk. And it was a scathing article. He starts out by saying:

What should be the Saskatchewan Party government's biggest worry about lean is whether its \$40-million contract with John Black and Associates has poisoned the well for an otherwise practical way of improving health delivery.

Unfortunately, Premier Brad Wall and Health Minister Dustin Duncan may be too caught up in a facesaving exercise to understand the damage done.

Oh, I think the Finance minister is wishing he was able to get up in this debate. It's really too bad that he hasn't been able to stand up and get up, and speak to this issue, but maybe he'll get up in the questions. We'll see, Mr. Speaker.

I'm out of time. Unfortunately, there's only 15 seconds left, but I really hope that this government . . . They won't listen to the opposition. They don't like listening to the opposition, but they really should be listening to the people that know this issue. So I hope they will support this motion.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And actually despite what the member from Saskatoon Centre said, it's a pleasure to get up and talk about our lean program that's going through not only health care, but government-wide, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'm looking at their motion right here:

That this Assembly condemns the government for ignoring scathing criticisms from front-line health care workers and senior health care administrators, renewing the toxic and wasteful 40-million contract with the American consultant, and continuing to fly in Japanese senseis and paying them 35 per day while neglecting the basics in health care.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I actually take quite . . . I don't really think that this motion pays the respect it should to the work that's been done in health care in the last seven years, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think if they want to talk about John Black and that's their pet obsession, the Leader of the Opposition says, I have inboxes full of emails from people that are talking about how bad lean is, and how bad our health care system is. I haven't seen any of them. I would love him to show us some of these emails. He says people are scared to talk to government. I don't find that. I don't find that people are scared

to talk to us, talk to us, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I did find one thing very interesting coming from the member from Saskatoon Centre. And I have not been elected near as long as he has, so he probably knows some things about politics that I may not. But one thing that I do find funny is when he said, when you guys are on the doorsteps in the summer. When you guys are on the doorsteps in the summer talking to your constituents, do you tell them what they want to talk about? Do you tell them about lean?

Well on this side of the House, when we go and knock on doors, we tend to listen to people. We would actually, we would actually not go knock on a door: hi, I'm your member for the Legislative Assembly, and say and you want to talk about this. That's probably not something that this side of the House practises very much. We go on a door, and we listen to what people want to talk about. So that might be one, one advice that I'd try to give the member from Saskatoon Centre. He is experienced; he is a veteran. He's done well in politics. But one thing that I do differently than him is that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So one thing that I'm going to do differently as well, despite what the members opposite are doing. I'm going to go through some quotes on lean that think lean has improved our health care system. But one of the different things I'm going to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is I'm actually going to attribute names to these quotes because people actually are putting their names behind some of the things they're telling us about lean.

[11:45]

So I quote, "I was a physician skeptic, now I am a physician champion for lean initiatives and rapid process improvement workshops." Dr. Ram Abdulla. Quote, Mr. Deputy Speaker, "The biggest thing I like about lean is the 'do it now' approach. If we have an idea, we trial it and tweak it as we go. People are saying, if I have an idea it can happen." Erica Church, continuing care aid.

Quote, Mr. Deputy Speaker, "I am using the patient order sets. It's easier not to forget things. I thought it would be extra paperwork, but it's okay once you get used to it. It is quite fast. Surgeons using it will make a difference. It does prevent mistakes." Dr. William Retief. Quote, Mr. Deputy Speaker, "A lot of these ideas are ones the staff have had for years and now because of lean they're being able to try it." Erica Church, continuing care aid.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's what lean is actually supposed to provide. It comes from the ground up. It starts with patient care and the best possible patient care it can deliver. Then you go and you talk with front-line health care providers and take some of their ideas and try to make the system better, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'll quote, I enjoy quoting people that actually put their names to paper, Mr. Deputy Speaker, unlike the members opposite. So I'm going to do a couple more.

There is no question we want to ensure the gold standard for all of our patients [Patients again]. Changing the way we work is hard . . . but this is a good example of how the

hard work pays off . . . all of our surgical patients are now getting their antibiotics at the right time,” Jeanette Fahlman, nursing unit manager.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there’s one more that I’d like to throw out there. And I think it’s been used a couple of times, but:

The most exciting aspect of the lean process is that registered nurses are being engaged alongside the entire health care team on the front end of change. This approach to reducing . . . [efficiencies] while improving patient safety maximizes the collective knowledge of our frontline staff, and demonstrates true leadership.

Tracy Zambory, president of SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses]. RQHR [Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region] website, submitted January 15th, 2014.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that members opposite that have all engaged in this debate already, don’t want to hear quotes with people’s names attached. They’d rather go and talk about, well I heard this from someone about something somewhere, Mr. Speaker, and they didn’t like lean. Or I heard from someone that that John Black, he’s an evil man. People don’t like him. Which, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition kind of reminds me of Bobby Boucher’s mom in *The Waterboy*, if you’ve ever seen that, saying, John Black’s the devil — the devil I tell you, Bobby.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that some of the overtop rhetoric coming from the members opposite really, really aren’t doing credit to a new initiative that the job, the job of moving forward in the province of health care.

I think when health care is looked at by many of the patients that we’re serving, which we did a patient-centred approach to health care which was much different to the approach . . . And don’t worry, opposition members, I’m going to get to your lean program here in a couple of minutes. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the patient approach to looking at health care taken by this side of government was a recognized change. And they want to get into the debate, so I’ll bring them into the debate, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I’ll talk about the lean program under the NDP.

The lean program under the NDP is, they leaned out our youth. They made sure not a lot of our youth wanted to stay in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They leaned out our population. They made sure that that highway to Alberta was packed hard with vehicles from Saskatchewan.

They leaned out our economy, Mr. Speaker. They made sure that they taxed business high enough that they wanted to make sure they never wanted to come back to Saskatchewan under the NDP. They leaned out our nurses and doctors. Nurses and doctors went down under their reign, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I think that they should recognize some of the problems they’ve made, and we’ll get to that in a couple of minutes too, Mr. Speaker.

And one other thing they did, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that they leaned out the hospitals — 52 hospitals closed under them, 53 counting the Plains hospital, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They also leaned out our long-term care home. The member from Riversdale jumps up on her chair all the time, and says, what are you doing for long-term care? But we don’t want to talk about what they did. They don’t want to talk about what they did. They closed 19 long-term care hospitals and 1,900 beds, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do you think that has a little bit to do with our infrastructure deficit going on right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Because I probably do.

And you know, one of the things that I find interesting is their Leader of the Opposition jumps up from his chair every QP [question period] and talks about lean, except during their leadership campaign one of his promises was to find efficiencies in the health care sector. He never really said how he was going to do that. Well they never said how they’ll do anything. They have no policies whatsoever, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I would love, I’d love . . . And the member from Saskatoon talks about . . . [inaudible] . . . talks about, I want to have a debate. I’d love to have a debate on your guys’ policy any time, anywhere, anyplace. You just don’t have any, so that’s pretty hard to have a one-sided debate, member from Saskatoon Centre.

So I’m looking forward to the time when they do bring some ideas forward. And I think at some point in time maybe the member, the Health critic which is actually the member from Riversdale, might be able to talk to him and say, you know, Mr. Leader, it’s probably time that we bring some policy forward because I’m going out to the doorsteps. I’m going out to the doorsteps and I’m trying to talk to people and they’re asking us what we’re going to do, and I don’t have any idea. So the election’s about a year out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I think to be that unprepared for the election shows probably why there’s nine members over there and why there’s 49 members over here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had a lot more I wanted to get to and just not enough time to get it done, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But one of the things I’d like to say is that making improvements in the health care sector is very important to this side, this government, and moving forward we’re going to continue to try and deliver the best health care possible for the people of Saskatchewan.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lean is about creating efficiencies, saving money to reinvest in health care, and ensuring patient safety. Many health care workers see the benefits of lean first-hand and support the work that is being done. Roxanne Franklin and Glen-mary Christopher are both RNs [registered nurse] and have this to say about lean: “My colleague and I, both registered nurses and SUN members, wish to convey our strong support for the lean program that the Saskatchewan government has implemented.” Kat Moyer, a unit manager, also shows support for lean by saying, “This is a way to build staff morale and leadership. The staff are truly process owners.”

To the member from Saskatoon Riversdale: why won’t you listen to the front-line health care workers who are supporting lean?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This particular debate is about the John Black contract, the toxic contract with the American consultant that has poisoned the well around the benefits that could be accrued from lean, Mr. Speaker. There are people over and over again, from front-line health care workers to those leaders in health care, who have talked about the problems with the John Black contract. We have heard loud and clear from them time and time again, Mr. Speaker, and don't understand why this government refuses to listen to them.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have a question for the folks opposite that make a lot about knocking on doors and talking to their constituents. I want to know how they would feel about telling their constituents that they could've had 72 more care aids for what this government has spent on John Black's travel.

To the member from Sutherland: how does he feel when he can tell them, his people, they could have 72 more aids instead of the travel bill?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In response to the question, when I was door knocking in . . . the member from Saskatoon Centre, when I was knocking in his area, people weren't talking about lean. They weren't talking about John Black. They weren't talking about senseis. They were talking about how we have invested in the health care system and we've improved things over and over again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. All they do over there is they just talked about it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They don't actually do anything. The people on the streets and the people on the doors are very happy with the direction of the Saskatchewan government and they're very pleased with what's going on within lean and within all our health care systems across Saskatchewan. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just amazed that the members opposite would even want to talk about health care after their dismal 16-year record of making cuts across this province.

Mr. Speaker, our government has a proven record of funding health regions, building hospitals, and reducing surgical wait times. Since 2007 there are 423 more doctors working in our province, 423 more doctors; 2,600 nurses, more nurses than there was when we came to power in 2007. We've built 15 new long-term care facilities, invested \$235 million in a children's hospital, and \$100 million for the new Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in government, their record

was closing 52 hospitals, actually 53 hospitals, Mr. Speaker, and the list goes on. Mr. Speaker, it's often said the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour.

To the member for Saskatoon Riversdale: what makes her think that the people of this province will forget their 16-year record come the next election?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government has record revenues at its disposal, more money than common sense, Mr. Speaker, more money than common sense. The reality is we have highly understaffed facilities where patients are waiting for hours to get pain medication. We have facilities that are crumbling where netting has to be put up on the buildings to keep it from falling on top of people, Mr. Speaker, where surgeries are cancelled, where surgeries are cancelled because the HVAC [heating, ventilating, and air conditioning] system isn't working, Mr. Speaker. That is the record of this government.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, we hear a lot over there about all the wonderful things this government is doing, but what we know is that there is a shortage of medical care workers across the province. And what I want to ask the member from Saskatoon Sutherland is, does he think it's right to pay \$40 million to an American consultant, or have 800 more care aids helping our seniors? What does he prefer, American consultants or our own seniors?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am absolutely pleased that our government has invested in a process of lean and spent some money to save some money. And I don't think that's a concept understood by the members opposite over there. The member from Saskatoon Centre keeps chirping, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but he doesn't understand you actually have to change your way of thinking. They don't understand that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They can't do the same old thing and expect different results.

We have changed the way that health care workers are looking at things, patients are looking at things. We've invested in doctors. They talk about a lot of money that we have. Yes, we've been very fortunate, but we've also invested that back into our health care system with doctors, nurses, practitioners, LPNs [licensed practical nurse]. We've put it across the board to make sure that Saskatchewan patients are first and foremost in our minds. Thank you, Mr. . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I've been listening with interest to members opposite talking about John Black and they're talking about administrators. They're talking about buildings. I

don't hear them talking about people, and I don't hear them talking about patients. And I don't hear them talking about outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, I'm really pleased that the Sunrise Health Region has been sharing a schedule of available clinicians and appointment times, and how people with severe mental health issues are receiving services within 24 hours. That's a 50 per cent increase in efficiency. That's what matters to people on this side.

Also at the Royal University Hospital the maternity ward is freeing up time for healthy . . . home nurses and allowing them to be out visiting more clients. Now parents that have babies in the neonatal centre are seeing their nurses more often.

To the member from Saskatoon Centre: how can you ignore the fact that lean is making a positive impact on patients?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — I find this a very interesting question, that she'll go on and rant on about things that are important to people in Saskatchewan. I've got to tell you, the conversation we're having today is about John Black and \$40 million, and we can't get a straight answer from this government about, when will this gravy train end? When will this gravy train end? And I think in particular with this former member who took a lot of pride in the work she did about whistle-blower legislation, whistle-blower legislation, except for the fact that nurses are exempt from that. Why is it that nurses are exempt and can't really tell us what's really happening with John Black on the floor in our hospitals and our health care centres? Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — To the member from Walsh Acres: why are the blood plasma savings being cited as being benefits of the JBA [John Black and Associates] contract when it clearly took place before John Black . . . that contract existed?

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much for the question, member from Riversdale. And because it's part of the lean process, that's why it's included. To the member: we're saving money with the new blood process through the lean initiative, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One thing I would like to ask all members from over there is, why do you think that we should take advice from you instead of the Mayo Clinic, instead of the Massachusetts General Hospital, instead of the Cleveland Clinic, instead of the Johns Hopkins Hospital? I know the member from Lakeview thinks he's the smartest man in the world, but I think these people are going to give us better health advice in health care than you nine over there.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from The

Battlefords.

[12:00]

Mr. Cox: — Mr. Speaker, lean is not just about organizing broom closets, as the Leader of the Opposition has stated in the past, nor is it about throwing away Christmas trees as the NDP did in their version of lean. Lean has allowed for pediatric cardiology patients to have services brought to them. The time per patient from registration to discharge was reduced from two and a half hours to one hour and 15 minutes, a 50 per cent reduction.

To the member from Saskatoon Centre: will you encourage your leader to accept the invitation of our Premier to see first-hand the positive work of the lean initiative?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we've answered that question. A matter of public record that when we have been invited, the invitation's been quashed by that group over there.

But I wanted to ask, and I want to put this on record. Marlene Smadu of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region said, and she said, "You will free think exactly the way I free think." That's what John Black says. "You will free think exactly the way I free think. The rigidity is off-putting for physicians. So getting out of this will be an improvement."

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope we have time to vote on this motion and that they will come to their common sense over there and reject John . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Time has expired. The 75-minute debate is over.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Motion No. 1 — Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project

Ms. Eagles: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to stand today, and at the end of my comments I will be moving the following motion:

That this Assembly supports this government's commitment to the Boundary dam integrated carbon capture and sequestration project. This innovative facility is the first of its kind and is a tangible step in addressing the production of greenhouse gases worldwide. Further, its innovative technology supports Saskatchewan's resource industry, which is vital to the prosperity of our province.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the first things that we have to get out there is some information on carbon capture and storage and just what this is all about, and some may ask what this actually is. And carbon capture and storage is a process where carbon dioxide is captured from large industrial plants. This prevents

the carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. The gas is then compressed and either stored deep underground at a carefully selected site or used elsewhere, and that is most notably injected into oilfields to boost production, and we have seen that evidenced in the area I represent. The gas can also be transported by pipeline or specialized truck.

And the Boundary dam carbon capture and sequestration project also captures other gases that have an impact on our environment, such as sulphur dioxide. This gas is then transformed into sulphuric acid, a tradable commodity that is then sold on the market.

And why do we need this, Mr. Speaker? And why is SaskPower committed to this technology? And as the world's population increases and developing countries continue to industrialize and increase their standard of living, CO₂ emissions will continue to grow. Reducing emissions is an important way to develop environmentally sustainable industry and power generation.

The Government of Canada is among the first in the world to actually legislate on emission reduction for coal-fired plants, while others like the United States and Europe are discussing targets.

SaskPower continues to develop renewable power options and encourages conservation as a way to reduce emissions at the source. The Boundary dam CCS [carbon capture and storage] project will capture a million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's the equivalent to taking a quarter of a million vehicles off our roads.

And some may ask how carbon capture and storage fit into SaskPower's future supply options. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's essential for SaskPower to develop environmentally sustainable power generation options for Saskatchewan's future. We are researching the best balance of options to produce affordable, reliable, and sustainable power that includes carbon capture and storage, cogeneration, geothermal, nuclear power from small modular reactors, natural gas, hydro, wind, solar, and biomass. SaskPower is also developing energy efficiency and conservation programs.

And if we don't bother storing our man-made carbon dioxide, Mr. Speaker, the world will come to rely on fossil fuels in decades to come. With a growing population and industry of developing countries, several scientific studies forecast climate change as a result of increasing greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. Changing average temperatures, sea levels, and agricultural patterns are all possibilities.

Carbon capture and storage is one of the many initiatives taking place around the world to reduce emissions and the scale of climate change. The Government of Canada now legislates how much carbon dioxide can come from coal-fired plants. If carbon capture is not applied to Saskatchewan's coal production, we will eventually have to shut down, and with a third of our province's power generation, the result would be more expensive generation and much higher power bills.

And I think one of the most popular questions asked is, is this carbon capture and storage an experimental, unproven technology? And the answer is simply, no it isn't. The first

carbon storage project dates back to 1979, and many more since have successfully stored carbon dioxide underground for more than 30 years. And this includes Saskatchewan's own Weyburn-Midale project in the early 2000s, and that is a project out there that is along the boundaries that are shared between the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy and my constituency, and I mean that has been out there for a number of years.

Saskatchewan power's BD3 [Boundary dam 3] project is the first of its kind due to the scale and the many parts involved, but it is not the first or last project that will successfully use carbon capture, transportation, and storage technology. Research continues to make it more efficient and, with the breakthroughs, leading to lower costs and smaller scales for future projects.

Decades of monitoring and research have confirmed that careful storage of carbon dioxide is safe, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, Saskatchewan's own Weyburn-Midale project analyzed the underground storage of this gas for more than 12 years. The rocks, soil, water wells were all analyzed extensively and no effect was found. At Boundary dam the carbon dioxide is stored and monitored 3.4 kilometres under the earth.

Other than enhanced oil recovery, there are other uses for the captured carbon dioxide. Potential uses include the food industry, agriculture, as dry ice for refrigeration, to name a few. And as carbon capture operations continue to develop around the world, new uses will be researched and marketed.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of this province. I am very proud of this government. Our province is strong. Saskatchewan is strong. The Saskatchewan economy is strong. The population is growing and exports are growing. And just recently we've heard many members on this side get up and respond to the Throne Speech, and they spoke of the number of exports that we have from our province, and again it's very strong. It's become a global hub for innovation.

And as I mentioned in my opening comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the federal government brought in new environmental regulations regarding coal-fired power plants, and that necessitated the need for a project such as this. And with Boundary dam power station in my constituency — it's just located outside of Estevan — and with Boundary dam unit 3 aging out, it made it an ideal fit for this project. We were given, we in Saskatchewan were given the opportunity to become a world leader in environmentally coal power generation, and this province and this government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, rose to the occasion.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm just going to mention a couple of articles here. And this is from the *Estevan Lifestyles* — it's a local paper in Estevan — and it's dated Thursday, October 9th, and David Willberg is the writer for it. He's very interested in this project. And David writes under the headline, "The world gathers to celebrate project's grand opening," and it says that:

Delegates from 20 countries were among those who attended the launch. They were at a clean coal symposium in Regina prior to the Boundary Dam official opening, and they travelled to Estevan for the festivities.

They heard speeches from provincial and national leaders, who touted the project's potential global impact.

And they toured the carbon capture island and the rebuilt Unit 3 at Boundary Dam . . .

And, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I've had the opportunity to tour this carbon capture project at Boundary dam. I toured it last summer with the Premier and Senator Heidi Heitkamp, who is a senator from North Dakota. We went out there. They gave us a tour.

And just a couple weeks in fact before the official grand opening, the Minister of SaskPower and I were out there. And that is when they honoured the employees out there, all the workers who worked on this project. I believe at the peak period there was something like 1,700 employees there and not one man-hour lost due to accidents. So that is something that we in Saskatchewan and the employees can be very proud of, Mr. Speaker.

I will also continue a quote here in this very same article from *Estevan Lifestyles*. And I'm quoting now, Mr. Speaker. It says:

Wall said one of the biggest challenges that governments face is balancing the need for energy with environmental considerations.

Governments are faced a Faustian, "rock and a hard place" choice, he said. There's the low-cost, affordable energy that coal provides, which is good for the economy and consumers, but not [good] for the environment; or higher-cost forms of energy that aren't good for consumers, but are better for the environment.

And he went on, the Premier went on to explain . . . I'll close the quote there. But he went on to explain about how 1,200 new coal-fired plants are being planned for the world, and India and China account for about 76 per cent of that figure and that something had to be done to protect the environment as well as ensure sustainable, affordable power generation for those countries, Mr. Speaker. And China alone is planning the equivalent of a power river . . . pardon me, a Poplar River power station — that's kind of hard to say — every 12 days. So I think that the Premier, when he summed it up, that when he said, it used to be that when you said clean coal, it was considered an oxymoron, but that is no longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, I will also read an article, or excerpts from an article, for the International Energy Agency, and it stated:

The International Energy Agency (IEA) today welcomed the launch of the world's first large-scale power station equipped with carbon capture and storage technology, [and this is out of Paris by the way, Mr. Speaker] calling it a historic milestone along the road to a low-carbon energy future.

The IEA Executive Director Maria van der Hoeven said the launch represents "a momentous point" in the history of the development of CCS . . . She added: "CCS is the only known technology that will enable us to continue to use fossil fuels and also de-carbonise the energy sector. As

fossil fuel consumption is expected to continue for decades, deployment of CCS is essential."

. . . "Getting Boundary Dam up and running is a great example of how Canada is a leader in CCS" . . . "The experience from this . . . [is] critically important . . ." [And it used to be] "that large-scale capture of CO₂ from a power station is indeed not science fiction, but today's reality."

And we hear comments from the members opposite, and they're basically, you know, opposed to coal. And I think from what we heard in question period today, we can assume that they're opposed to clean coal. I think that just shows the small-mindedness and, you know, perhaps not knowing what is going on in the province.

[12:15]

And I'm very proud of our government because our government is committed to ensuring Saskatchewan continues to be a major player in the international stage. And the members opposite, when they were in government and now as they are in opposition, with only nine I might add, are content with Saskatchewan remaining a wee province. We were never a leader. We always had to be a follower because . . . What was that statement? No one . . . You couldn't finish last or something. I remember Calvert used to have the . . . [inaudible] . . . and you know, we all had to, we all had to finish last. I mean he never spoke about us being a leader at all in this province. But they do not support innovation to make coal power generation environmentally viable, and they would scrap the industry.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the *Pipeline News*. . . And I have to commend Brian Zinchuk because he realized the importance of this project. He's a local reporter from Estevan that puts out *Pipeline News*, and he's very fair-minded. And he dedicated a huge, huge amount of space from this *Pipeline News* to this project in Estevan. And he has the headline here: "NDP isn't convinced clean coal is worth the money or that it'll work."

So he goes on, and he's questioning the member from Saskatoon Nutana — and this is in the October edition of *Pipeline News* — and he asks what her thoughts are on the project. And that member from, and I'll . . . The member from Saskatoon Nutana says, "Well we're becoming increasingly concerned about this particular project."

So then he says, "Assuming everything runs well, what does this mean for the province going forward?" She answers, "It's hard to answer that."

Then he asks, "This project came not long after the previous NDP government passed on a much more expensive clean coal project at the Shand power station. Should clean coal be part of Saskatchewan's future? And do you feel it is clean?" And she said, "Well those decisions were made before I entered politics."

And . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Exactly.

And she did go on to say, "Saskatchewan could have done other diversified projects, especially in smaller distributed renewal

projects. That's what we would like to see in the future, reducing our reliance on coal and looking to hydro, biomass, and all those things."

And then she said, if it works, we should look . . . They asked her, "If it works, should we look at replicating carbon capture at units 4, 5, and 6 in the coming years?" And she says again, "That's something we're going to keep very close watch on."

And then she said, "Does having a clean coal project in Saskatchewan give us an advantage when dealing with other jurisdictions on greenhouse gas emissions?"

I would say, unfortunately . . . And she said, "I would say, unfortunately, not really, because we know carbon capture is not a silver bullet. It only reduces carbon capture by 1 million tonnes in Saskatchewan. And this is only dealing with a very small part of the problem."

But I would like to go back to, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what she said about, was asked about the cancelled project that the NDP did. And I can remember that very, very clearly because the member from Lakeview was minister of SaskPower at that time. And they came out and they announced this project and there was . . . Everyone was so happy that this project was going to happen. And here the member says, "What I understand is at the time the government decided it was just too expensive and the technology wasn't commercially viable and that's why we decided not to put that kind of money into an experiment for clean coal."

But wouldn't they have done that homework before they made the announcement? I mean usually you do a feasibility study, find out, you know, could this thing work? How much is it going to cost? And you do that kind of research into projects and a study into a project before you would ever, ever begin to announce it.

And you know, and then it kind of reminded me, it kind of reminded me of the fiasco they had that wasn't to do with clean coal; it was to do with ethanol out at Belle Plaine. And I'm sure lots of members over here remember that one. They had the tents and the buses and sent a few clowns out there, and nothing ever happened. I mean there was nothing, nothing that ever happened on that spot. So I mean that's kind of how they operated when they were government.

And I can also remember that Peter Prebble, I mean he was very, very adamant when he . . . He just calls for an end to the use of coal and he bashes the carbon capture and storage for being too expensive. And I can remember in the 2011 election, Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I was in my campaign office and I was, you know, we were always looking for things that, well when you've got a carbon capture and storage plant being built, you look for things that Peter Prebble is saying, pretty much. And he was on about how coal plants should just be shut down, shut down completely. You know, there's no need for them.

And I'm telling you, I mean the people in my constituency . . . Of course I, you know, kind of got the message out there to them. I wasn't going to let that one sit when coal is such a huge part of what happens in my constituency and employs so many

people. In fact I mean a lot of the workers out there went to work at SaskPower during the . . . oh probably I'm thinking the '90s, and that when we had a government in this province that would not support agriculture. And so many of those young farmers went to work for SaskPower to subsidize the farm income so they could keep food on the table for their families.

So you know, it's very important there, Mr. Speaker. And so when Peter Prebble came out with something like that, I thought, you know, wow. This is something that we can, we could make sure the public out there knows the truth of, you know.

And then also, Mr. Speaker, when I look in the tree book, which is the NDP platform that was put out last time, and of course it was authored by none other than the present Leader of the NDP. His signature's on the inside. He is the author of that book. Pretty proud of it, the tree book. Pretty proud of the tree book.

But this is what it says about what the NDP say about environment: "Mandate SaskPower to phase out coal electricity generation as . . . [soon] as possible unless the power plants are fully equipped with mechanisms to safely capture and sequester CO₂." So now I mean we've got a plant that's doing that, and they have nothing good to say about it.

"Position Saskatchewan as a world leader in environmentally friendly and economically viable carbon capture and sequestration and permit SaskPower to profit from its knowledge and innovation by marketing CCS technology around the world." And again, I mean the member from Nutana, her questions today were not reflective that that was their policy at all. And I mean maybe that's just perhaps a matter of the left hand doesn't know what the other left hand is doing. I'm not sure.

But you know, we're just going to go back a little bit here too, Mr. Speaker. And I just happened to come across some stuff that I had here, and it was about the NDP when they were in power. And it says here — what did Lorne Calvert say? — and it says:

If we don't protect and enhance our environment, what will be left for children and our grandchildren. It's almost a tenet of ours that we need to bear some environment responsibility and stewardship.

That was in the Regina *Leader-Post*, October 24, 2003. And so that would have been coming up towards an election, so I imagine that might have had some . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. But according to the NDP's own numbers, Saskatchewan's emissions are 62 per cent above 1990 levels.

Here's what the David Suzuki Foundation says: ". . . the highest greenhouse gas emissions of any province or territory on a per GDP basis."

And Lorne Calvert again, April 5th, 2007. He was the premier at the time. Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, and it's quoted, "We have both a record we cannot be proud of in terms of our emissions . . ." And that was for Lorne Calvert, NDP premier. And the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, a week or so later, April 13th, 2007, it quoted, "Environmentalists slam province's green plan." Again,

April 13th, 2007.

Sierra Club of Canada, a report card given to that government, the NDP government, 2006: “An environmentally regressive Premier and a cabinet whose NDP orange verges on brown.”

Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* again:

During his tenure, the green in Calvert’s green and prosperous economy has been covered by a brown of emissions from SaskPower’s coal-fired power plants and are the third-biggest contributor to greenhouse gases in Canada.

And then there was David Suzuki Foundation again in 2006, status report of provincial climate change plan: “Saskatchewan’s greenhouse gas emissions have grown more since 1990 than any other province and territory.” “Saskatchewan’s greenhouse gas emissions are the highest in any territory.” Again the David Suzuki Foundation in 2006. And after 16 years in government the NDP did not have a climate plan, a climate change plan in place until 2007.

And here’s “Saskatchewan green groups call for a change in action,” and this is from April 29 and this is again Peter Prebble:

An end to all provincial subsidies to the oil industry. Requirements that the province’s oil industry capture all its methane rather than venting it. Replacing all the province’s coal-fired power plants with renewable energy over the next decade.

Peter Prebble, director of environmental policy for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society . . .

And I remind people a well-known NDP; he was once a minister of the Crown in the NDP government and in fact is referenced in the tree book as a source of their research.

Peter Prebble acknowledged that many of the recommendations might not be immediately popular in a province that rakes in over \$1 billion a year in royalties from the oil industry. [He says] “Clearly there’s going to be revenue loss for any oil producer in the world, including ourselves.”

That’s a quote from Peter Prebble. So that, this here in my constituency alone, those few short paragraphs, Mr. Speaker, can win the election because that part of the province relies so heavily on the oil industry for jobs. And to have someone come out and make statements like that is just unrealistic.

But I’ll tell you what the NDP did do regarding their environmental footprint or perhaps somebody else’s. And this here is, the CBC posted this in April 5th, 2007. It’s got here, Former U.S. presidential candidate Al Gore coming to town and “SaskTel, the provincially owned phone company, is fronting the \$208,000 cost of the event . . .”

An Hon. Member: — Al Gore.

Ms. Eagles: — Yes.

An Hon. Member: — What an inconvenient truth.

Ms. Eagles: — Yes, and that was an inconvenient truth or a convenient untruth. I’m not sure which it was. But:

Calvert said polls show the environment is not as hot a political issue here as in other parts of the country.

And he’s hoping that, you know, Gore’s presentation will . . . would show us links between carbon emissions and global warming and was turned into an Oscar-winning documentary, will raise the profile of the issue in Saskatchewan.

And he said that this province has carbon emissions that they can’t be proud of. And, “Calvert said he’ll announce his new strategy to reduce greenhouse gases around the time of Gore’s visit.” And, “The Opposition Saskatchewan Party says Calvert ran on an environmental platform in the last election and hasn’t done much to improve things since then.”

And it was suggested here also that Calvert is just going to use the Gore appearance as a photo opportunity. And we know how much they liked those when they were in government.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I . . . it really frustrates me when people like Al Gore and Leonard DiCaprio, and . . . Good actor, but that’s what he should stick to. And Neil Young, they fly around, charter jets, fly around the world. They have yachts and have entourages picking them up, and chauffeurs and all this and that kind of stuff, and then they come and they tell me to reduce my carbon footprint. You know, it’s kind of the old NDP philosophy — don’t do as I do, do as I say. And, you know, and that is really, really frustrating.

[12:30]

Just another article, Mr. Speaker, that you know just really accentuates the importance and the endurance of coal, and this is from Gordienko, Hunt, Cochrane, and Sigurdson. They’re environmentalists. And it’s titled *Environmentalists get facts wrong about coal* and this is from October 26th, 2014:

I look at it from the perspective of the importance of coal . . . in terms of employment, it’s huge here but I would remind city folk that it provides employment also for people in the Greater Vancouver area.

And that was from Sparwood Mayor Lois Halko.

While there has been much attention and controversy surrounding a small, proposed coal terminal — Fraser Surrey Docks — the larger picture of how important coal mining and exports are to British Columbia’s economy is being missed.

Our unions’ members are the coal miners and workers who ship steelmaking coal from B.C. to markets overseas, where steel is made to produce everything from cellphones to wind turbines to subway cars to surgical equipment.

And it goes on to say how:

B.C.’s coal sector employs 26,000 people directly and

indirectly, creates \$3.2 billion in economic activity and generates \$715 million in tax revenues for the province and B.C. cities and towns every year.

In other words, coal pays for hospitals, schools, roads and other public services.

Some object to coal based on misinformed health concerns — and yet all of our unions have members working closely with coal daily but do not see any negative health impacts.

How is it that workers — sometimes up to their knees in coal — mining, running coal trains and loading coal directly onto ships are all healthy for decades and yet “experts” tell the public to beware of the “dangers” of coal dust?

And I’m quoting from this, Mr. Speaker:

Our unions are responsible for our members’ health and safety — if coal caused illnesses, as claimed, we would know and would have acted [a] long [time] ago.

To be sure, in the early days of coal mining before modern equipment and precautions were introduced, it was a very dangerous job. Today it’s still tough and there are some risks but safety has improved incredibly.

Today’s coal industry in B.C. creates family-supporting jobs all over the province — including Metro Vancouver — and is a big part of our economy.

Surprising to many, Canada’s total coal mined is less than one per cent of world production.

And it goes on to praise the Boundary dam carbon capture project:

... is the world’s first large-scale coal plant to use carbon capture and storage technology to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 100 per cent and [CO] ... emissions by 90 per cent ... cutting one million tonnes of greenhouse gas a year.

And that is again the equivalent to 250,000 cars being taken off the road.

And the plant will produce 110 net megawatts of energy and that is enough to power 100,000 Saskatchewan homes.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I can’t emphasize the attention this project has garnered from China and Europe and the United States and, you know, it’s just amazing the interest that it has garnered.

And also I’ll just read another, from another article here, Mr. Speaker, that says ... It’s talking about carbon capture, and this is from the October 8th issue of *The Estevan Mercury*. And I’m quoting now:

Critics of the investment in what is dubbed “clean coal” suggest spending ... [1.4 million] on renewable, zero-emission energy would be a better place for those

taxpayer dollars. Premier Brad Wall said during the grand opening that the province’s energy eggs don’t need to be in one environmentally friendly basket, and carbon capture has a role to play.

And we all know where the eggs in the baskets come from, because that’s pretty much the extent of their ag policy over there as well, Mr. Speaker. But the quote goes on:

“It’s not an either/or proposition,” Wall said bluntly, “because what the Sierra Club is forgetting is that the statistics are pretty clear: There are ... [12,000] plants going to be built around the world. India’s using coal. China’s using coal. They’re building new plants all over the world. We need to invest in renewables, but we better also invest in technologies ... [and] clean up coal.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that there are others that will want to speak on this motion. So at this time I will read this following motion:

That this Assembly supports this government’s commitment to the Boundary dam integrated carbon capture and sequestration project. This innovative facility is the first of its kind and is a tangible step in addressing the production of greenhouse gases worldwide. Further, its innovative technology supports Saskatchewan’s resource industry which is vital to the prosperity of our province.

Thank you.

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

That this Assembly supports this government’s commitment to the Boundary dam integrated carbon capture and sequestration project. This innovative facility is the first of its kind and is a tangible step in addressing the production of greenhouse gases worldwide. Further, its innovative technology supports Saskatchewan’s resource industry which is vital to the prosperity of our province.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to be able to rise today and speak to this motion as well. In my speech, address to the Throne, I talked about some of the things that make me proud to be a member of this government. And I think this is just one more of those projects, Mr. Speaker, that does make me very proud. I think this is a project that indicates that Saskatchewan is definitely hitting above its weight. We’re thinking beyond our borders. Our technology that’s available here is being looked at by 20-some countries, as my colleague from Estevan mentioned. Twelve hundred new plants worldwide that may be looking at this sort of technology. We’re taking the equivalent of 250,000 cars off our highways.

Mr. Speaker, there’s a lot that I would like to say about this motion, but at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of

debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:38.]

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