



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

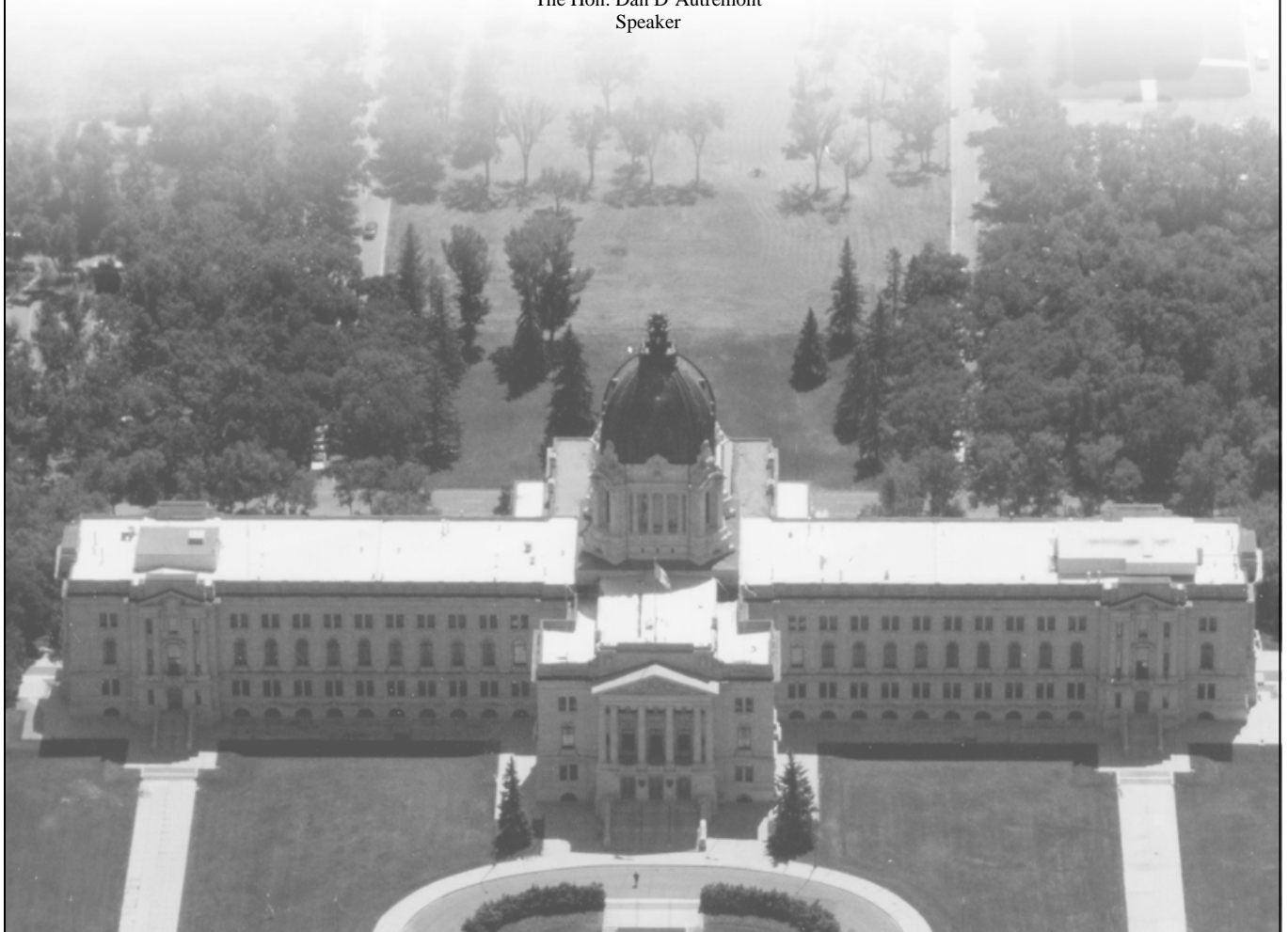
of the

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I hope your throat is feeling a little bit better later on in the day. I have two introductions to make for groups that are both seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

The first introduction is of Tina Beaudry-Mellor, and she has some guests with her. Mr. Speaker, she is well known to members of this House as someone that's very much involved and has been involved in the political life of the province of Saskatchewan. I'm happy to report to the House she's also the Saskatchewan Party candidate in the constituency of Regina University for the upcoming election. She's a long-time instructor at the department of politics and international studies at the University of Regina. There, she has been awarded for outstanding teaching as both a sessional instructor and with the President's Teaching and Learning Scholars Award for Excellence in her collaboration on teaching civic engagement for post-secondary institutions.

She is the former Chair of Equal Voice, another group well known to members on both sides of the House and served on the national board, as well as being a former board member of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the community investments committee of the United Way, and the Regina Transition House. In addition to her academic work, she's an entrepreneur. She has a business, and she's joined today by her children, by 13-year-old twins Kayman and Montana. Maybe they'll give us a wave. They're in grade 7 at Hawrylak School.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of members in the House, I want to welcome them all here to their Legislative Assembly and thank her for her interest in the public life of the province and wish her well in the upcoming campaign.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet, there is another delegation seated just in front, as I can see, of Tina here today. They are from India, and also they're from Viterra, from North America Glencore Viterra.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important group that has come and joined us today in the Legislative Assembly to watch the proceedings. They are led by the Chair of the India Pulses and Grains Association, Pravin Dongre. Now Pravin is involved in this sector in a number of ways, including with Glencore, but chairs this neutral association that has been a strong proponent of the relationship between about 18,000 pulse growers in our province and the amazing market of India. And he is joined today by Kyle Jeworski — no stranger to the House — president and CEO [chief executive officer] of North American Viterra, and also Quinton Stewart of Viterra.

And importantly there are buyers of pulses in the gallery with

them, including Mr. Guru Rao — and I apologize for any mispronunciation — Mr. Pawan Mundada and Mr. Arshad Jimal. They are buyers of product, Mr. Speaker, and they've joined us today.

It's important to note, all members of the Assembly I hope will know that Saskatchewan accounts for 75 per cent of Indian lentil imports. This is a huge number: 79 per cent of all of Indian pea imports come from our farmers. We say to our visitors, thank you very much for the relationship. We hope we can do more in the future. And we welcome them here to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming this Indian delegation to the Assembly today. The Premier appropriately highlights the important relationship with respect to pulses and crops that are grown here in the province and the trading partnership with India, so we wish the delegation all the best with their discussions that will be ongoing and hope that they bear much fruit for India as a trading partner but also especially for Saskatchewan producers, Mr. Speaker. So I'd join in the welcome to this important delegation.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each year at this time I have the opportunity to welcome a company of some of the most dedicated and compassionate people this province has to offer. Seated in your gallery are a number of long-serving victims services staff and volunteers who devote their time to help fellow members of their communities to recover from instances of crime.

Accompanied by Dwight Lawrence and Pat Thiele from the Ministry of Justice, we have several 10-year nominees, Mr. Speaker: from Red Earth, Anita McKay — maybe we'll get everybody just to wave a little bit; thanks, Anita — from Regina, Heather Kurz and Bernadette Lorence; from Saskatoon, Cathy Anderson and Ted Deacon; from Vanguard, Melanie Clark; and from Swift Current, Penny L'Heureux.

There's eight individuals, Mr. Speaker, celebrating 15-year milestones. They are: from Kinistino, Wilma Burns; from Hudson Bay, Brenda Guderyan, Betty-Lou Palko, and Vickie Piwtorak; and from Yorkton, Mr. Speaker, Theresa Baumung, Eugene Duchnitski, and Gail Kaban; and from Swift Current, Mr. Speaker, Abbie Houston.

And last but certainly not least, there's three people who are now been serving 20 years in their capacity: Donna Blondeau from Moose Jaw, Joanne McClenaghan from Yorkton, and Linda Perrett from Saskatoon.

I had the pleasure of thanking them earlier today on my behalf and on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, and I would invite my colleagues to extend their gratitude to these staff and volunteers as well who contribute so selflessly to the people of this province in their hour of need.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd introduce two other people that are in your gallery. It's my pleasure to introduce Phyllis Hallatt and Conrad Mitzel from Child Find Saskatchewan.

Child Find is a provincial charity that assists in locating children that have been the victim of an abduction or who may wandered off or ran away. They also advocate for the protection and rights of children and youth as well as promoting awareness on missing children's issues. Phyllis and Conrad were in the building today to meet with a number of my fellow caucus members, and they were kind enough to stay and join us for question period. So I would ask all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to join me in making them feel welcome in their Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the Minister of Justice in welcoming the people who have been involved for many years in the victims services program. There's no way to fully thank you for all the work that you do, but I know that in your communities you provide a very safe, stable place for people who are caught up in the criminal justice system. And so we thank you very much for your work.

I also want to say welcome to the members from Child Find who are here today. And we thank you for your work as well. Thank you.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, a constituent of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley. Sitting in your gallery is Michelle Grunerud. Michelle is the communication and vital signs manager for the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation. The mission of SSCF is to advance community well-being by supporting and assisting charities, companies, and individuals in achieving their charitable goals and dreams. With over 35 million in endowment funds, the SSCF distributed over 1.4 million last year to over 165 different charities in southern Saskatchewan. They're doing a lot of good work right here in Saskatchewan.

Michelle is a good example of young, strong leadership in our communities, and she is one to watch. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Michelle to her Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce Damien Bolingbroke. He's certainly active right now with the Saskatchewan legislative internship program, or SLIP.

He's originally from in and around Foam Lake. He was a Royal Canadian Air Cadet as a young man. As he graduated from high school, he went to the University of Regina, where he enrolled

in environment systems engineering. He not only got an applied science degree, but also then went on to get a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in economics. He's worked with Engineers Without Borders and has also applied his talents to helping young children with disabilities. I'm delighted that he'll be joining me in helping to serve the people of Saskatoon Greystone. We're going to do some research together and also get him into the constituency.

And so I'd ask all members to help me welcome Damien not simply to the House, but to his new role over the course of the next coming weeks.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of the members will be aware that the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] meetings are under way this week, and seated in your gallery are a number of people that are participating in that process. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce those people by name.

They are Yvonne Gueguen, Darcy Howe, Trevor Geiger, Michael Ross, Jonas Kiedrowski, Cindy Yanko, Elizabeth Phipps, Brenda Doud, Chad Wellman who until very recently was my next door neighbour until his parents chose to move away, perhaps because of the neighbourhood. I don't know. Anyway I'm glad to see him here. Julie Wilson, Delores Bear, Adam Wilson, David Hambleton, Michael Wolf, Ann Dusterbeck, Cory Redl, Larissa Snider, and they're also joined by Taylor Gunn who is the president and CEO of Civix from Toronto. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome all of those people to the legislature.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also welcome Phyllis Hallatt and Conrad Mitzel from Child Find. They are neighbours of mine who have not yet moved away. Their office for Child Find is just down the hall from my constituency office so we've shared, passed stationery back and forth as is required, and they've been good neighbours, good lenders, and we've been even better borrowers. So I want to thank them and welcome all of those people to their legislature today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Education minister and welcome all those that are a part of the SSTI institute here that are joining us here today. Certainly that would include ministry staff, Mr. Brent Toles, for his work and leadership on this project and as well the steering committee that works throughout the year to bring together this important teachers' institute on parliamentary democracy.

But most importantly I want to welcome those teachers that have joined us here today from all across the province. I've had the chance to meet with them briefly and say hello. I look forward to getting to know them throughout the next couple of days. But I want to thank them for what they do each and every day. And in many ways what they do is foundational to the health of our democracy and that parliamentary process.

So I hope as they engage in this process, they find it to be a rigorous and challenging and engaging institute, as I know that they will. I hope that they enjoy Regina, but then I hope they take that learning back to their students and instill that importance of being engaged in our democratic processes and how important young people and all people are in being a part of that process. So I welcome these teachers here today and I thank them in playing their part in keeping a healthy, strong democracy here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to join in with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice and a couple of members across in welcoming some of the guests from Yorkton here today: Ms. Julie Wilson, a Yorkdale school teacher from Yorkton and here for the SSTI — welcome, Julie — as well as Joanne McClenaghan, years of service to the Red Cross throughout the world. It's great to see Joanne here today. She was hiding behind the clock. I couldn't really get a good view of her there. As well Theresa Baumung and Gail Kaban of victims services, the volunteers in Yorkton.

Special recognition of Eugene Duchnitski up there. He's a good friend from Yorkton, heavily involved in victims services. I've had the opportunity to introduce him here before as well. Eugene and I have done a lot of flying over the years together. He's very involved in Civil Air Search and Rescue Association in Saskatchewan and involved around Canada. And he's one of the best spotters I've ever had, and navigator and safety officer for Civil Air Search and Rescue. So outside of victims services, he does a lot of that as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join in welcoming these citizens of Yorkton to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Justice and my colleague from Lakeview in welcoming the victims services delegation here, the folks who volunteered, the long-serving volunteers with victims services, as well as the staff. I want to give an especially big shout out to Linda from Saskatoon who . . . I can attest to the services that victims services provides.

Many, many years ago, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to utilize their services, not a good opportunity. I had experienced a break-in and then, not long after, another incident while I was hiking in California. And it was through the help and support of victims services, and Linda in particular who was incredibly compassionate and empathetic and helped me connect with the services that I needed. I know first hand that you all make a really big difference in the lives of those with whom you connect, so thank you.

So I'd just like to ask all my colleagues to join in in welcoming these folks from victims services across the province. Thank you.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — Well thank you to those members that helped me save my voice by introducing the SSTI. I think there was a few that may have been missed: Mr. Michael Wolf from Miller Comprehensive High School here in Regina; Mr. Jonas Kiedrowski who is the public legal education foundation association from Saskatoon; Mr. David Hambleton, Miller Comprehensive High School, Regina; and Ms. Emily Barrette who is with Civix, student vote out of Toronto.

As well we have with us the steering committee which helps oversee the entire process: Mr. Doug Panko from Vanier Collegiate, Moose Jaw; Ms. Laurel LaBar-Ahmed, Campbell Collegiate, Regina; Mr. Terry Leibel, Wynyard school; and Ms. Karen Blackwell Jones from the Dinsmore school.

And I would like to welcome all of the teachers here today and all of our other guests as well.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that calls for support for better schools here in Saskatchewan. And we know that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced and that the condition of many of our schools are rundown, unsafe, or uninspected. This government refuses to release information on the \$1.5 billion of known repairs that are needed in our schools and this government's plan to rent schools from private corporations is expensive and reckless. And none of this is acceptable, given the record revenues this government has had over the last eight years. 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 calls on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing support for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Regina and the Lloydminster area. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions as it relates to concerns of residents around the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue, with their failure to properly and safely plan for heavy-haul truck traffic. 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 are signed once again by Saskatchewan citizens. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I stand in my place today to present a petition calling for the second bridge for Prince Albert:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this particular petition will ever pray. And they're primarily from Moose Jaw but, as we've indicated from time to time, there are thousands of pages of petitioners from all throughout Saskatchewan. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. The petitioners point out that many aspects of long-term care are deteriorating under this government. They ask that the Government of Saskatchewan actually recognize the need for safe staffing levels to provide hands-on care to residents. They point out that the government has removed the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care for seniors, which has resulted in neglect. And they point out that chronic understaffing in long-term care facilities results in unacceptable conditions, including unanswered calls for help, infrequent bathing, and a rise in physical violence amongst residents. 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: to cause the government to commit to the creation of safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team and to reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a

petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. The individuals who signed the petition wish to offer the following: that Saskatchewan currently offers a variety of facility options to house youth offenders according to the assessed level of risk to their community. Saskatoon has Yarrow Youth Farm, or had Yarrow Youth Farm, and also Saskatoon has Kilburn Hall. The government closed Yarrow Youth Farm to create an open custody wing in Kilburn Hall to accommodate Yarrow's residents. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth declared he cannot endorse such a rationalization and that Kilburn Hall is a more institutional environment that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. The prayer reads as follows:

They respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the government to keep Yarrow Youth Farm open to ensure a caring home environment for youth who have committed minor offences and to provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Victims of Crime Awareness Week

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it my honour to stand in recognition of Victims of Crime Awareness Week. We have all heard stories from individuals whose lives have been affected by acts of violence, sexual assault, theft, and other tragedies. Now in its 10th year, this special week is intended both to make people aware about the services available to victims and to thank those who dedicate their time to helping those affected by crime.

Last year our province's 160 victim support workers helped nearly 9,000 people through periods of distress. I'm proud to say that soon our province-wide expansion of police-based victims services will be complete. These critical services will be available in every corner of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our aim is to help those victimized by crime. If you or someone you love is a victim of crime, I would encourage you to reach out to the police, the Ministry of Justice, or a local community organization for these supports.

It is because of the people sitting up in the gallery today that these services are available and truly help those who need them most. Thank you for making this difference in so many lives. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the proclamation of Victims of Crime Awareness Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

World of Whitetail Dinner and Auction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on February 28th I had the pleasure to attend the 13th annual World of Whitetail Dinner

and Auction, as I know you did too, Mr. Speaker. As always, it was a great event, sold out, and great prizes on the auction block. All of the proceeds raised from the event go towards the important work World of Whitetail supports all across Saskatchewan.

Hunting has always been an important part of our province's heritage, an important part of my own life and that of my family. The World of Whitetail plays an important role in promoting hunting, conservation, and research efforts in Saskatchewan, aiming to ensure responsible management of our province's exceptional wild game resources and habitat.

World of Whitetail also does fine work in developing the next generation of hunters and encouraging youth to get in touch with their natural environment. Mr. Speaker, they recognize that it's important for experienced hunters to take our children, nieces, and nephews out into the field in order for our province's hunting proud tradition to continue.

And so I ask all members to join me in thanking all the members of the 2015 banquet committee, Don Fenwick, Joe Warbeck, Rick Stadnek, Murray Everett, Greg Mallett, Brian Miller, Lane Hodnefield, and everyone else who helped make this event, and World of Whitetail, such a great success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Honouring Police Officers

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the privilege to attend the Saskatoon Police Service Exemplary Awards Banquet. The awards were for the 40-Year Bar, 20-Year Medal, 30-Year Plaque, 20-Year Plaque, Superintendent's Award of Commendation, Chief's Award for Community Service, Chief's Team Award, and Chief's Award for Excellence.

Stories were shared of the bravery of these Saskatoon police officers and what they exemplify, Mr. Speaker. The stories were extremely moving and demonstrate the heroics our courageous women and men in uniform face in order to keep us safe. One particular story that stuck out was of a man who barricaded himself in his home armed with a rifle. Four individuals managed to flee the residence, but the man fired shots, causing the officers to take cover behind a parked car. The police managed to rescue the people that were hidden in areas around the home, while also taking on gunfire. Amazingly, the crisis negotiators were able to negotiate with the man to exit his home.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to providing a safe environment for all Saskatchewan people to call home. Without the work of exceptional police officers such as those honoured at that event, this would not be possible. With their help, we are honouring our commitment to community safety and wellness across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating the award winners and all police officers across the province for their outstanding contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Lawn Bowlers Compete in International Tournament

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize a team of world-class athletes, some of whom I'm proud to say live in my constituency of Saskatoon Nutana. Jean Roney, Clem Grant, Jordan Kos, and Carolyn Jones are lawn bowlers from Regina and Saskatoon who have been finding nothing but success over the last few months.

In July of last year, their team won gold at the provincial lawn bowling playdowns at the Nutana Lawn Bowling Club, a club that has for many years been a fixture in the Buena Vista neighbourhood, and it's helped people of all ages stay active and forge new friendships.

After winning provincials, the team went on to win the national title in Winnipeg that August, and I'm happy to report to the House that their team then went on to represent our great nation at the Tiger Bowls invitational tournament held over a number of days in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China. Their team finished eighth out of 46 teams and had the opportunity to test their mettle against some of the best lawn bowlers in the world.

Another remarkable thing about their team is the wide ranges in age between the players. Their youngest player is only 14 and their oldest is 79, living proof that lawn bowling is a great sport that can be enjoyed by anyone at any age.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing this remarkable lawn bowling team and thank them for being such great ambassadors for our province and our country on the international stage. I also ask all members to join me in thanking everyone at the Nutana Lawn Bowling Club for everything they've done over the years to organize, develop, and promote the sport of lawn bowling in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Veteran Honoured by Republic of France

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Often our military veterans are forgotten until Remembrance Day every year, but it is difficult if not impossible to forget a man as full of life as Chan Katzman.

This past December, Chan was awarded the rank of Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour by the president of the republic of France. As part of the D company of the Regina Rifles, Chan and his company fought on the beaches of Normandy for the historic D-Day battle. Although 150 men went into battle with Chan, only 48 made it through that battle.

Trying to enlist in 1940 when he was only 17 years old, Chan remembers having to go back to the office in Prince Albert a week later to lie about his age. From there he did training in Prince Albert, Dundurn, Nova Scotia, and England before

heading to Normandy for D-Day. Mr. Speaker, Chan's story about enlisting and losing so many friends on the battlefield unfortunately is all too common. In so many of his interviews Chan says, "We were all scared. Anybody who tells you he wasn't scared was a liar."

Yet it is because of brave men and women like Chan that we have so many freedoms in Canada today. I would like to ask all members, please join me in thanking Sir Chan Katzman for his service to our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I, along with the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow, attended the 14th annual Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Moose Jaw and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Speaker, this event showcased many successful entrepreneurs and businesses in the Moose Jaw area. Forty-nine local businesses were nominated for the awards in 10 different categories, plus all nominees were eligible to win the Business of the Year Award.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, this year's award winners were: Canadian Tire for community involvement, Alliance Wellness & Rehabilitation for customer service, Common Café & Bakery for Young Entrepreneur Award, Prairie Storm Paintball for business innovation, and Smoke's Poutinerie for the Marketing Award. Other winners included Hopkins Dining Parlour for the Heritage Award, Moose Jaw Hydroseeding for New Business Venture, Chow McLeod for job creation, Evans Florist for the Pioneer Award, and Green Sister Gardens for the "Green" Business Award.

Mr. Speaker, the two major awards went to Alliance Wellness & Rehabilitation for the Business of the Year Award, and Dave Reidy from Henderson Insurance was honoured as the Business Leader of the Year.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the many nominees and winners as well as the Moose Jaw and District Chamber of Commerce for putting on this great event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Health Region Resolves Wait Time Backlog

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in 2010 Saskatchewan's health system began a thorough transformation of how surgical services are planned and delivered. This transformation was to provide sooner, safer, and smarter care for patients. The Saskatchewan surgical initiative set ambitious goals including providing access to surgery within three months of the surgeon booking a procedure. Earlier today the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region announced that as of March 31st, only 182 patients were still waiting more than three months for a scheduled surgical date. Mr. Speaker, this is a remarkable accomplishment. Five years ago, about 6,000 patients in the

region were waiting more than three months for surgery.

I'd like to echo the Minister of Health's congratulations delivered to the region at a special celebration held this morning at the Regina General Hospital. The hard work and dedication of region staff as well as the patient and family advisors have made this possible. After facing increased demand and unexpected capacity issues, the RQHR [Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region] established a priority project three years ago to redouble their efforts to resolve the wait times backlog. Today's announcement confirms they have been successful.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the results of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's efforts to redesign processes, improve safety, and improve the quality of surgical care in our province. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Discussion of Ambulance Service Fees

Mr. Broten: — Last week we learned that Sara Bucsis-Gunn had a conversation with the Rural Health minister about massive ambulance bills. After the Rural Health minister's defensive statement at the end of Health committee on Thursday afternoon, Sara sent my office an email. Here's what Sara said in that email:

While trying to give him perspective on the situation that my family was in, and once again being told that this was not a priority, the minister then started to suggest that the Regina community was very generous, and fundraising is always an option. This angers me on so many levels, all I can do is cry.

Sara asks, "Why should I have to fundraise for access to life-saving medical transportation over and over for my child?" What is the Premier's answer to Sara's question?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite, and to Sara, I want to say to members of the House that I had a chance to listen to the tape, driving home on Thursday. And it's my view . . . and I have a great respect for Sara. She's lost a child. In fact the person she was talking to that day has also lost a child in tragic circumstances. But with all due respect to her and to the Leader of the Opposition, I just do not believe that it's fair to characterize what the Minister of Rural and Remote Health said in terms of being . . . that she should simply, or that anyone should rely on community fundraising. That's not what was said by the minister.

And I hear the Leader of the Opposition saying he has also heard the call. He was on the phone for a hour and 15 minutes with this grieving mom, as he should be. He took all the time in the world for her, as he should, listened to what she had to say, talked about the choices we make in government, talked about the ambulance funding that we provide, talked about some of the programs we provide for those on low income. And Sara, quite rightly, as she should do, she wanted to make the point

she didn't think it was enough, that there were too many people falling through the cracks. And I understand that. That's a part of the decisions we make and part of the discourse.

Mr. Speaker, towards the end of the hour and 15 minutes, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health did say, well you know, we live in a province where people want to help out. And there are steak night fundraisers in health care, and I'm sure they happen in that member's riding. They happen in my riding as well, Mr. Speaker, for people who have costs that may not be covered by the system, and so people come around those folks and raise money. The minister was simply saying that this happens in Saskatchewan, that this might be an option in this particular case, given the fact that the low-income support wasn't going to be particularly applicable in this case.

Mr. Speaker, I did listen to the tape, and I listened to the call. And I'm proud of the fact that the minister spent the time that he did, that mostly he was listening, that he canvassed all the options, including community fundraising. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of us as legislators, when given the opportunity, would spend that much time with a constituent or someone even who has now relocated, about such a serious matter as this.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister raised this issue with Sara 30 minutes into the conversation, and he raised it twice, Mr. Speaker. And I do not think it's appropriate when there is a mom like Sara — desperate for assistance, desperate for help, going to government, clearly showing the story and the facts of her life — for charity and for fundraising to be presented as an option. And the minister has said that in his confession on Thursday in committee. Mr. Speaker, that is not appropriate, and I agree with Sara very much so.

And the minister also agreed only for ultra-low-income individuals would there be help, recognizing that Sara and her family have been left in the lurch. On social media Sara Bucsis-Gunn has warned Saskatchewan people:

If you need help affording Sask Health care in an emergency, be prepared to have a steak night. That's what Saskatchewan Health minister for rural Saskatchewan told me. He also had great suggestions for other charities I could have tried.

Now in Sara's email to my office after the minister's statement last Thursday, she said this:

I feel the need to defend our family as we did fundraise. We used that money for lifts and wheelchair ramps and vans, as what we had access to didn't even come close to covering the costs of her needs. I have never in my life heard of a family fundraising for ambulance bills.

Does the Premier agree with Sara that Saskatchewan families should never have to rely on fundraisers like steak nights to pay for ambulance bills?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure members

understand that the ambulance system we have now, where there will be some who aren't covered by low-income support, who aren't fully supported by I think the 70 per cent subsidy that we put into ambulance, this is the same system that has been in the province for a long time, including under members opposite when they were in power.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what folks have done with ambulance bills over the years, whether it was under our term or theirs, but in this regard, while I have the utmost respect for Sara, for her courage to raise this issue, for what she's gone through as a mother, I did listen to the conversation. And for the member opposite to characterize the response of the Minister of Rural and Remote Health as simply saying that this is her answer, and it's an answer for everybody with respect to the ambulance issue, that they should have a steak night fundraiser, is just fundamentally not the accurate representation of what the minister was saying. That's not what he said.

He talked about all of the issues. They had a good and lively discussion and debate about whether or not it was adequate. In Sara's view it wasn't. And the minister talked about other choices we made to fund STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] — it wasn't funded in the province before — that we have increased other . . . made choices with respect to cancer drugs that other provinces don't make, to cover those, and that Health budgeting is about these issues. And then well into the call, maybe it was 30 minutes, maybe it was longer, he said, in Saskatchewan we know from time to time communities come together and support each other. He was a member of the Kinsmen Club. He referenced that. That's what Kinsmen's all about. That's what Telemiracle does in many respects, Mr. Speaker, as well.

And so all of these are part of the solution for health care and for families. And sometimes the solution's not quite enough, as we've seen in this case. The minister has indicated the issue of ambulance fees are constantly under review, and are being reviewed today.

But again I would say to the member opposite, to characterize what that minister said in the way he has — someone who has also lost a child, who was involved in the discussion, one grieving parent to another, for a big part of that call — for him to characterize what that minister did, as he has done is, I don't think acceptable, and I don't think fair, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, there was no answer in the Premier's response about whether families should have to fundraise to pay for medically necessary ambulance trips, Mr. Speaker. Sara talks about transporting Leandra while she is turning blue to a hospital, Mr. Speaker, because they could not afford another bill. When Leandra died, she had \$7,000 in ambulance bills that their family was facing, Mr. Speaker.

This government has record revenue. This policy is wrong. This policy needs to be fixed, Mr. Speaker. And for a government responsible at a time of record revenues, where they've shovelled millions out the door for things like lean — and the minister talked about that in his call as well, Mr. Speaker — for them not to be able to find the dollars to fix this is wrong,

absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

If the Premier, Mr. Speaker, listened to the recording, he would know that there's a lot of frustration that Sara has, especially for rural families that have to require transfers to larger hospitals and larger services. She talks about how incredibly unfair ambulance fees are for parents of sick children in southern Saskatchewan: "I just don't understand how you guys can shut down pediatric ICU services in Regina which forces people to take their children via ambulance or air ambulance to Saskatoon for service and not provide any kind of funding for it to compensate." She says, "Let's make a whole plan, not a half plan."

Mr. Speaker, Sara's been very clear with her views. She has released the audio. She has written letters, Mr. Speaker, and it's very clear this government does not get how this is wrong. The Premier avoided that in his last question altogether, his last response. Does the Premier agree with Sara that our current ambulance system is unfair for rural residents and parents of sick kids who can no longer rely on pediatric services in our capital? Will he finally do something about it, other than presenting fundraising and steak nights as the option for these families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, there he goes again, with respect to just the last part of what he had to say, because that is not the right and accurate characterization of what the Minister of Rural and Remote Health did on the call. I invite people watching this, I invite any member to listen to the whole call. And you're right. Sara is very upset about some things and understandably so.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of things we've fixed in health care or tried to fix since 2007 when we were getting elected, when we were elected, things that were left behind unaddressed by the New Democrats, Mr. Speaker, including the fact that we had a real lack of emergency service in rural Saskatchewan, partly because they closed 52 hospitals across the province.

And so, Mr. Speaker, one thing we work to do is to identify STARS as a real opportunity to provide better emergent service in rural Saskatchewan. And I think just this last Friday, STARS had a fundraiser, had a fundraiser like they do. We give them \$10 million a year and STARS — that's half of the budget — STARS fundraises the rest. And so if members opposite have bought a calendar from STARS, they participated in fundraising for ambulatory care. If anybody in the province supports them, buys a lottery ticket or a calendar or goes to an event, they're involved in fundraising. Some of the events might serve steak. I mean, they're dinners actually, just like we're talking about here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if now the members opposite are saying that's not acceptable in the case of STARS either and government should fund it all. I don't think they're saying that. But, Mr. Speaker, let's make sure . . . We are going to have this debate about where we're at with respect to ambulance fees, and the government's currently reviewing it, as the Minister of Health has said. But to have this debate, we do not have to take words that were said by a member earnestly — and I think with

compassion, as I heard the call — and twist those words into something that they're not.

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

Provision of Health Services in Craik and District

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, listen to the response that the minister gave to Sara. We'll see there was one that was argumentative. We'll see that there was one, Mr. Speaker, that was not listening to the really legitimate questions and concern she has. The only option given to Sara, Mr. Speaker, the only option as identified by the minister was this fundraising option. The other programs available for ultra-low incomes, which Sara's family would not qualify for . . . For every other day Saskatchewan families, it's fundraise or have insurance.

Another issue, Mr. Speaker, where we see some issues with respect to what the Rural Health minister has said, the Rural Health minister received a letter this morning from the Right Reverend David Ashdown who chairs the Craik and district health committee. It says, "We are deeply concerned about a number of factual errors in your response in the Legislative Assembly on April 15." The letter goes on to say, "We do not know on what basis you gave the answer you did in the Legislative Assembly; however it was clearly inaccurate, and we strongly request that you immediately make a public correction."

The Premier also received a copy of this letter, Mr. Speaker, which outlines the factual errors that the Rural Health minister made. What does the Premier have to say to the people of Craik and area?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what errors the members are speaking of. We've said time and time again from the beginning of this case, Craik has been brought forward to us, that we are committed to having a full-time physician in Craik, four-day-a-week physician. That will happen. There is currently different candidates that have toured the facility, a couple of others that are interested. And that will be put in place, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

We've also committed to the permanent nurse practitioner which has been in place. Admittedly, the current one is on maternity leave. That position will be filled, Mr. Speaker. We've committed to X-ray and lab services to remain. We've committed to emergency services that, if they present themselves, physicians can attend to those or nurse practitioners can attend to those as they present themselves. In the case of emergencies that can't be addressed at that facility, Mr. Speaker, EMS [emergency medical services] or STARS can be called in.

We have committed to no further plans for renovations to that facility, that their stabilization and their acute care bed will be in a temporary acute care, and flex bed will be left in place for issues that should arise, Mr. Speaker. So I think we've been

perfectly clear on this case from the very beginning.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't sound as though the minister has read the letter from the Right Reverend. Contrary to what the Rural Health minister claimed in question period last week, the Right Reverend David Ashdown's letter says there was no openness to negotiate with the doctor, Mr. Speaker, in Craik. Quote, quote from the Right Reverend David Ashdown: "You were not prepared to hear the doctor's concerns or consider his proposal for changes. That is not negotiation."

The Archbishop's letter challenges the Rural Health minister's claim that two applicants have toured the facility. And it challenges the Rural Health minister's claim about locum coverage: "Clearly the ongoing medical coverage promised on March 2nd, 2015 by both you and the Premier is simply not happening."

So again, what does the Premier have to say to the people of Craik and area about how his Rural Health minister got it so wrong?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've explained in the Assembly before, so I won't eat up a lot of question period time on going through the details of the consultation; the meetings with the reeve; with Reverend Ashdown; with the doctor time and time again; and innumerable phone calls; about 32 I think respondents or letter writers and concerned citizens from Craik that we have documented, that wrote admittedly numerous pieces of correspondence, Mr. Speaker.

Time and time again, contact with the former physician went unanswered. Mr. Speaker, in fact, a draft contract that was delivered to the doctor at the end of January, a number of weeks — I'm going by memory now, Mr. Speaker — three or four weeks later, when I met with him again in my office, welcomed him and in fact invited him in after he hadn't contacted the health region, hadn't contacted the ministry, again on behalf of my office, we invited him in. At that point he admitted he hadn't even read the draft contract, Mr. Speaker.

So I think consultation isn't one-way, Mr. Speaker. It takes two parties. We've done what we can and, as it is, we have to move on. We have to place a physician in that facility permanently.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's comments about their so-called willingness to negotiate are simply inaccurate. We know how they've dug in their heels, Mr. Speaker, and have shown no willingness to work with the people in Craik whatsoever.

But the community of Craik is upset, Mr. Speaker, because the promises that that minister and that Premier made about what would be provided for locum coverage, claims that they made

about tours that were to happen, Mr. Speaker, on the ground they're saying that this information isn't correct. The people of Craik and area blame this mess on the health region. They blame it on two Health ministers and a Premier, Mr. Speaker, that won't take their concerns seriously and refuse to listen to their proposals.

Because the Sask Party government has let them down, the community is actively recruiting a doctor on an open fee-for-service practice in Craik. But they're still begging for this government to step up to the plate and do its part for rural health care, Mr. Speaker. Last month they wrote to the Rural Health minister and asked him to immediately convene a meeting with the town, the RM [rural municipality], and the health regions in order to find an acceptable solution. But, Mr. Speaker, you know what? They've never heard back.

Will the Premier tell either of his Health ministers to do their job, convene a meeting this week, Mr. Speaker, and hammer out a solution that is acceptable to the people of Craik and area?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, at the risk of trying to sound funny, I do believe the member across, he may not have called me a liar, but I do believe he told me that my pants are on fire.

Mr. Speaker, the allegations the member across is bringing is just, at this point it's beyond belief, Mr. Speaker. We have assurance that there has been two physicians that have toured the facility. We know that there's at least two others that have been showing interest up to a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. Time and time again, we find these assumptions coming in the Assembly. And I admit it, it gets frustrating, Mr. Speaker, that they assume that because, you know, a certain party isn't getting exactly what they've asked for, there's no consultation, Mr. Speaker.

Again, my office has been open. We've received numerous phone calls, responded to numerous phone calls and letters, had numerous meetings with the reverend, with the reeve, with other stakeholders from the area, Mr. Speaker. I think consultation has been pretty open.

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

Quality of Patient Care

Ms. Chartier: — Louisa Moberly is 79 years old. She has Parkinson's, dementia, and heart troubles. She was in the La Ronge Health Centre for a couple of weeks and she suffered many falls. Her family wants to know why. Here's what Louisa's daughter says:

Every time I think about how I found her when I got to Saskatoon, when we found her in emergency, you wouldn't believe the shock, then the horror, and the anger. We were just bawling.

Louisa's family is concerned about staffing levels, about

communication, and about lack of standards. Do either of the Health ministers have anything to say to Louisa's family today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Obviously this is a very serious situation that took place in La Ronge at the long-term care facility. The health region has indicated that it does meet the requirements to be deemed as a critical incident. An investigation is under way to determine the nature of what happened in this case. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, that investigation is under way. It would be, I think, not prudent for me to comment on unsubstantiated conversations about what may have actually taken place, Mr. Speaker.

I look forward though to finding out what exactly the facility does determine as a part of their investigation. We would then use that information, as we do in all types of critical incidents, to make changes so that these types of incidents don't occur again.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Louisa's life has been tough. She deserves dignity and security in her senior years. Her family wants her moved to Pineview Terrace Lodge in Prince Albert to be close to them so they can help care for her, but her family has been told the wait-list is too long. So there's no room for Louisa in Prince Albert, and there's no long-term care bed for her in La Ronge either.

To the minister: how long are the wait-lists in these facilities and where is Louisa supposed to go?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My office has reached out to her family directly, Mr. Speaker. We want to work with the family, not only through this investigation period, but also to try to address some of the concerns about where in fact she will reside after she's discharged from hospital, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that her bed would have been given away while she was sent to acute care but, Mr. Speaker, we'll certainly look into this.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the facility feels very much sympathetic to the family and to Louisa in this situation. I know the care team, Mr. Speaker, is completely devastated that there has been some commentary in public realms, Mr. Speaker, alleging that this may have been a result of abuse, Mr. Speaker. There's certainly nothing to indicate that that in fact is a part of this case, and I know that they're very devastated by that.

Mr. Speaker, that's why we're waiting to find out exactly what happened through the investigation so that we can work with the health region to determine what corrective actions would need to take place to ensure that this doesn't happen to any other resident.

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

Funding for School Division

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Prairie Spirit School Division has sent home a letter with students saying that the Sask Party government's budget was even worse than expected. Prairie Spirit anticipated a shortfall of \$6 million. They said that would mean fewer staff working directly in schools with students, less funds to support students with diverse needs, less funds to support extracurricular activities, less funds for student programs, and less funds for building and maintenance needs.

That's what Prairie Spirit anticipated when they thought there would be, when they anticipated a \$6 million shortfall, but there's actually a \$7 million shortfall because of this government's funding. What does the Education minister have to say to students, parents, and teachers in Prairie Spirit?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, Prairie Spirit chose to send a letter to the parents immediately preceding the budget, assuming they were not going to get an enrolment increase, assuming they were not going to get transition funding. We were troubled by that. In fact they received transition funding, so I would have thought that their position would have been significantly better than what they had estimated. So we are more surprised the letter doesn't say how the \$7 million was arrived at.

But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they have received an increase in operating funding each and every year under our government as well as substantial capital investments. Mr. Speaker, in 2007-2008 that school division received \$79.135 million; 2015-2016 \$103.42 million, an increase over seven years, excluding capital, of 31 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that's a substantial increase and it has gone up in each and every year, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I think I'll take Prairie Spirit's word over that of the minister's on this one.

Over the past several years Prairie Spirit has been pushing the Sask Party government to act, but this government has plugged its ears. The letter the school division sent to parents late last week says:

Despite this extensive advocacy for our students, no changes have been made to address the inequities in Prairie Spirit's funding.

It is both disheartening and disappointing that our local MLAs paid for full-page advertising to support the government rather than advocate for our students to receive equitable funding.

How on earth is it acceptable for a government MLA or MLAs to take out full-page ads to attack the school division instead of standing up for the students that they're supposed to represent, Mr. Speaker? To the Education minister: when will this government get its misplaced priorities straightened out in education?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, in 2007 the enrolment in Prairie Spirit was 8,824. It's now 10,395, an increase of 18 per cent. During that time operating funding has gone up by 31 per cent. In addition to that, that school division has received more capital funding per capita than any other school division in the province.

And I'm going to list some of those things: \$2.9 million for block capital, 360,000 for additional child care upgrades, one and a half million dollars for pre-K [pre-kindergarten] upgrades, \$9.9 million for 32 relocatable units, \$3 million for preventive maintenance, one and a half million dollars for emergent funding projects, \$19 million towards an addition and major renovation at Stobart Community High School, \$29 million for a brand new Warman middle years school, \$24 million for an addition to Martensville High School to accommodate hundreds more students.

As well as that, Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding with the equivalent of four brand new joint-use schools for Warman and Martensville, so that each of those cities will see a joint school facility to open in fall of 2017, Mr. Speaker. We're doing a lot more than the members over there ever did.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

SaskAlert Goes Province Wide

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to stand before you and announce to the members of the Saskatchewan legislature that after a great deal of planning and many months of vigorous testing that SaskAlert, Saskatchewan's new emergency publicly alerting program, has gone province wide.

SaskAlert enables the Government of Saskatchewan, participating communities, government Crowns and agencies, and Environment Canada to quickly inform residents, and those people travelling within or through our province, of any impending emergencies where life or property is threatened. Mr. Speaker, these alerts will be shared directly with residents when they need it most through traditional channels such as local television and radio, as well as online at saskalert.ca and on The Weather Network website and smartphone app.

By partnering with provincial media outlets, alerts can be tailored for broadcast across the province or, if necessary, focus on an individual community or region, improving efficiency and getting information to those in need. I'm very happy to report that as the SaskAlert program grows and more partners come on board, so too will our ability to share alerts directly with the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, our provincial first responders can attest when faced with an emergency, three key factors often come into play. They are: having sufficient time, having accurate information, and being prepared. SaskAlert can greatly influence these factors by sharing potentially life-saving

information within seconds of it becoming available, information that will help individuals prepare for an imminent emergency and protect themselves, their families, their homes, and their communities. SaskAlert will not only be used to broadcast information when an emergency is imminent, Mr. Speaker. It can also be used to share information with the public as a situation develops and evolves, information like when a severe weather system is approaching or if a highway has been washed out or where an emergency evacuation centre is located.

As we all know, Saskatchewan is a very large and diverse province where weather can change in an instant. It's not uncommon for us to experience tornadoes and plow winds, blizzards, and flooding annually. In fact, Mr. Speaker, thousands of Saskatchewan residents have faced these emergencies in the last four years alone, and that's a benefit of this program. SaskAlert's flexibility allows for localized alerts to be issued based on the threat that a specific community might be facing.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to thank not only the ministry staff who have spent so much time developing and testing this program, but also the community leaders and media partners who have signed on to make this a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to welcome this announcement here today. This is a very good measure and a good step, and certainly it'll be important to track it through implementation. Certainly we've advocated and spoken to the importance of establishing such a broad-based system. I'm thankful to all those that have played a role in seeing this through to development.

I'm glad too, you know, that they have the various means to get this message out. I wasn't sure if they were just going to leave that with the voice of the member from Canora-Pelly or if they were going to formalize that through other mechanisms, and I'm pleased to see those here today. Certainly as the minister has said here today, getting this information out in a timely way that allows communities and families to protect their property and to protect their families is incredibly important.

I know that certainly technologies enable us to communicate in a way that we haven't before around irregular weather, around potential wind damage, around hail, around flooding and water, and certainly we welcome this announcement.

I think of so many communities and so many families that have been impacted in the past on this front. We know that irregular and volatile weather is very much a reality within our province, and we see this as a positive measure for which we'd like to welcome. I know in the past, in the past number of years, as technology has been improved, I know that many people rely on even Twitter, they say, to track some of the storm activity. And certainly that's not a sufficient inventory or warning system, although certainly #saskstorm is interesting.

What is better is what's being brought forward here today, is an organized system through government and with many partners to ensure that Saskatchewan people and communities have the

information that they so deserve. So it's a pleasure to welcome this step here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 178 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move, to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:34.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	6949
Broten	6949
Wyant	6949
Nilson	6950
Ross	6950
Norris	6950
Morgan	6950
Wotherspoon	6950
Ottenbreit	6951
Chartier	6951
The Speaker	6951

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes	6951
Wotherspoon	6951
Belanger	6952
Chartier	6952
Sproule	6952

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Victims of Crime Awareness Week	
Young	6952
World of Whitetail Dinner and Auction	
Wotherspoon	6952
Honouring Police Officers	
Morgan	6953
Saskatoon Lawn Bowlers Compete in International Tournament	
Sproule	6953
Saskatoon Veteran Honoured by Republic of France	
Merriman	6953
Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards	
Michelson	6954
Health Region Resolves Wait Time Backlog	
Makowsky	6954

QUESTION PERIOD

Discussion of Ambulance Service Fees	
Broten	6954
Wall	6954
Provision of Health Services in Craik and District	
Broten	6956
Ottenbreit	6956
Quality of Patient Care	
Chartier	6957
Duncan	6958
Funding for School Division	
Wotherspoon	6958
Morgan	6958

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

SaskAlert Goes Province Wide	
Reiter	6959
Wotherspoon	6959

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 178 — <i>The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015</i>	
Krawetz	6960

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of the Economy
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Jennifer Campeau
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Mark Docherty
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister Responsible for Immigration,
Jobs, Skills and Training
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Scott Moe
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

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

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds