



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

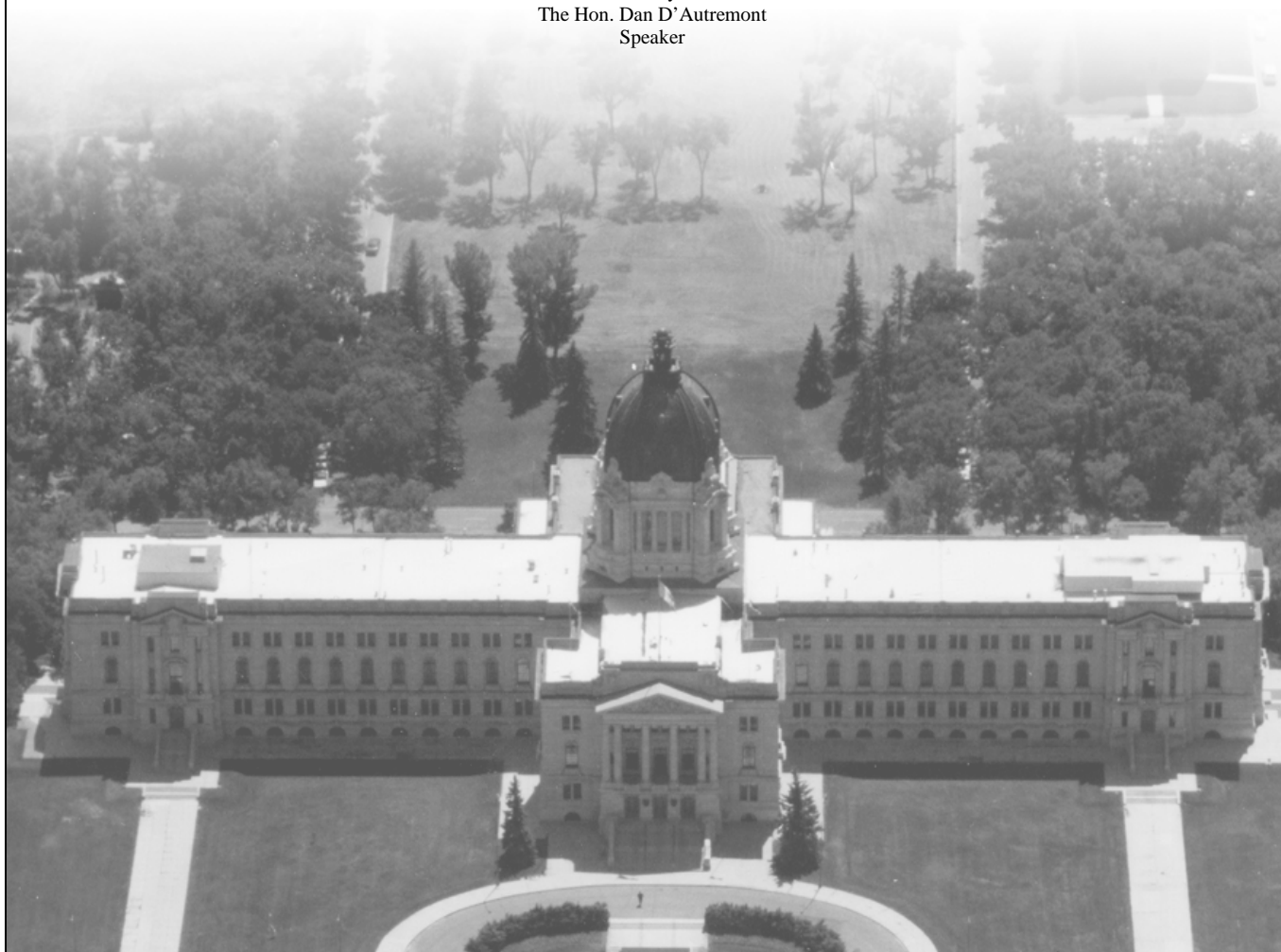
---

**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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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]

### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

#### Ruling on Bill 611 — Requirement for a Royal Recommendation

**The Speaker:** — Before introduction of guests, I have a statement regarding a ruling on Bill 611, requirement for a Royal Recommendation. Standing on the order paper for second reading under the name of the member for Saskatoon Centre is Bill No. 611, *The Student Bill of Rights Act, 2015*. The bill was introduced on April 16, 2015.

It is the Speaker's duty to review all bills with respect to rule 67 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*. The rule states in part that any bill which proposes to impose any new or additional charge upon the public revenue must be first recommended by the Lieutenant Governor before it is considered by the Assembly. The practice in this Assembly is for bills to be introduced and read the first time, with further progress being contingent upon the Speaker affirming that they are in order under rule 67. In Saskatchewan practice, consideration is taken to mean the first opportunity for debate. Pursuant to rule 24(3), this bill could be designated for priority consideration today and taken up for second reading on Thursday. For this reason, it is necessary for me to rule today on the admissibility of this bill.

When a private member proposes a public bill to the Assembly, the test is to determine if it imposes a new responsibility, task, or commitment on the government that requires expenditure from the public treasury. Bill No. 611 proposes a student bill of rights, which is set out in clause 3 and further defined by the interpretation clauses. Under *The Education Act, 1995* the government is responsible for setting the operating grant for the provincial education system and in doing so is responsible for requiring compliance with any terms or conditions that may be imposed on a grant. In this regard, the minister has discretion to approve or reject any term or condition on funding. The bill limits that discretion, and in my view would impose a contingent liability on the government to meet the standards imposed by Bill No. 611, if it were to pass into law. It follows that it would be the duty of the government, through its responsibility to provide operating grants, to fund the costs connected with the imposition of the student bill of rights.

Erskine May, 24th Edition, page 747, states that a Crown recommendation is required for "... any proposal whereby the Crown would incur a liability or a contingent liability payable out of money voted by Parliament." May also states in the same section the following:

If there is any doubt on the matter and it appears that the new proposal may entail an extension of previously enacted purposes of expenditure or an increase in the expenditure *potentially* liable to be incurred in pursuit of such a purpose, a Money resolution will be required.

I have expressed my concern over the contingent liability that

would result from the passage of Bill No. 611. For that reason I must rule that Bill No. 611 requires a Crown recommendation and because the member for Saskatoon Centre is not a member of the Executive Council, I must rule that the bill is out of order and direct that it be removed from the order paper.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would request leave of my colleagues in the legislature for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to colleagues for the leave. I appreciate the chance to make some very special introductions of guests who have joined us today.

It was a special day in the legislature when we were able to meet the recipients of this year's Premier's Commendation Awards, and I want to thank all of the members of the legislature on both sides of the House for attending the event and then the luncheon that followed thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan, and dare I say really everywhere, we throw the word "hero" around pretty easily. And we should be mindful I think of the danger of debasing the coinage of that word, "hero." Mr. Speaker, still even with that caution in mind, there is simply no other word that properly describes the people, the guests that I'm about to introduce and those that we had the chance to honour this morning at the ceremony for the Premier's Commendation Awards.

And, Mr. Speaker, may I say at this point a word of thanks to the member for Wood River and the government's military liaison for identifying a bit of a gap in the government's, in the province of Saskatchewan's awards and honours spectrum. We really didn't have a way to recognize people who had stepped forward with a singular act of courage, and now we do. And I want to thank him for that idea passed to the government just a few years ago.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me introduce the guests and just say a quick word about why they would be here and receiving this citation, Mr. Speaker. And before I do that, let me acknowledge their family and friends that have joined them. Because this is obviously a . . . they, at least at that moment of courage whether they knew it or not, they were sharing a loved one, and sometimes in dangerous ways, with those who desperately needed help and therefore with all of us in Saskatchewan, so I want to thank them.

I would ask, as I introduce and name each of the recipients, maybe they would just give us a wave so that we would know of whom we're speaking and who's being introduced.

With us today is Travis Laycock of Saskatoon. Last July 19th, Travis rescued a couple whose car had left the road and became submerged in a deep slough. The incident occurred on Highway 5 near Bruno.

Also here with us today, Bill Nagel, the city of Regina. This February, Bill and his family were enjoying a ski vacation in Montana. This was where Bill came to the assistance of a four-year-old boy who had slipped from the chairlift and was in danger of falling nearly 40 feet to the ground.

Darren and Chris Katzell are here today as well. Darren's from Yorkton. Chris is from Saskatoon. This February the Katzell brothers saved a woman who was choking while eating in a food court in a Saskatoon mall.

With us here as well are Blaine Switzer of Swift Current and Jonathan Thomason of Rush Lake. Mr. Speaker, we are honouring these gentlemen today retroactively because their actions actually took place before the advent of this particular commendation. But in October of 2011, Blaine and Jonathan helped rescue a woman trapped in a burning car after a highway accident. Blaine and Jonathan were assisted by a third man, Anthony Williams of Burlington, North Carolina. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Williams passed away in 2013. He will receive the commendation posthumously in recognition of his exceptional bravery on that fateful day in October of 2011. And I have had the chance to call his dad and talk to him about the event, and let him know that his son would be receiving this commendation.

And finally we are awarding the Premier's Commendation in absentia to one of the best friends Saskatchewan has ever known. Bob McGrath, a fixture at Telemiracle for nearly 40 years, announced at this year's Telemiracle that this would be his last, that he would be retiring from the event. But, Mr. Speaker, we know just, we know the nature of his amazing contribution to Telemiracle to help raise over \$100 million to assist Saskatchewan citizens who have very special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's evident from the citations that were read this morning by the member for Wood River, and the summary that I just gave, that these are very worthy recipients of this commendation. And, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that award and in addition to the luncheon we had together, I would also ask all members to welcome them here to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming all of the recipients of these medals, and especially their families because, as you heard the brief stories about what happened to these people, you know that they put themselves into dangerous situations and it could have had drastic consequences for their family, and thankfully it didn't. And so today we celebrate those acts of kindness, goodness that they have provided. So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition, we greet these members and thank them and

their families. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I request leave of the House for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's my distinct pleasure to introduce and welcome a very special guest to the province of Saskatchewan and to our legislature, Ms. Cecilia Villanueva, a Mexican consul for Alberta and Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to welcome back to the legislature the Hon. Larry Schneider, honorary consul of Mexico, who resides here in Regina.

This is Consul Villanueva's first official visit to our province. Mr. Speaker, it's noteworthy to mention that this is one of the newly appointed consul's very first official visits since the consulate was established in July 2014. Now while in Saskatchewan, she will meet with the Lieutenant Governor, representatives from the University of Regina, and a number of government ministers and officials.

As well, Mr. Speaker, earlier today the consul spoke at the business luncheon that was hosted by the Regina Chamber of Commerce. I think she had a pretty good turnout. I think she had a pretty good response. And from what I heard, the media was quite interested in what she had to say as well.

No doubt when many people think of Mexico, their first thoughts would go to warm temperatures and wonderful sandy beaches, but there is a very strong relationship that has developed between Saskatchewan and Mexico on other situations, on other circumstances. Our country is more than just a friendship. It's a growing business relationship as well.

In 2015 we celebrated the 21st anniversary of the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the US [United States] and Mexico. Since that time, in the intervening two decades, Saskatchewan trade with Mexico has grown more than five times while exports from Mexico to our great province have grown 42 times. Some of Saskatchewan's top exports to Mexico include canola seed and canola oil, wheat, and of course potash.

Saskatchewan's top imports from Mexico — and this may be a bit of a surprise — include motor vehicles, passenger motor vehicles. Mexico has a very strong car industry now. They produce a lot of steel tubing and even tractors, which we may be starting to see in the fields sometime soon as seeding begins. The one thing they didn't include on this list, which I'm certain we're all familiar with, is the product Corona. It comes in a clear white bottle, and I'm told it is actually Mexico's biggest export into Canada.

We have had the pleasure recently of welcoming the

distinguished guest from the wonderful country of Mexico. The ambassador was here as part of our effort last fall to introduce Saskatchewan to the international community, and I remember in my conversation with the ambassador how excited he was about the prospects for further business developments and opportunities between our two jurisdictions.

So, Mr. Speaker, once again it's my honour to introduce and welcome Ms. Villaneuva to Saskatchewan, and I wish her the best of luck in her new posting. I'm looking forward to my conversations with her when the House rises this afternoon.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the member opposite and welcome these two distinguished guests to our Assembly here today, the consul from Mexico in Calgary, Consul Villanueva, to Saskatchewan. It's a pleasure to have you here on your first visit to Saskatchewan. It's also a pleasure to welcome Hon. Larry Schneider, honourable consul of Mexico here in Regina, of course former mayor and somebody who certainly gives back in so many ways to his community, along with his wife Shirley.

[13:45]

It's a pleasure to welcome the consul here today to Saskatchewan on what has been identified as the first trip. It's an important relationship between Canada and Mexico. It's an important relationship between Saskatchewan and Mexico. Some of the trade that's been identified is certainly important to us as a province, notably canola seeds and canola oil, wheat, and potash. And certainly some of the reciprocal trade was noted by the member opposite here today as well.

I think it should be noted as well that if you come to Saskatchewan on a beautiful evening in July or August, you might find some of the trade from Mexico on proud display at one of the venues for which we're most proud of. And I'm thinking of an evening at Mosaic Stadium where in fact you might find thousands of individuals sporting carved watermelon which may come from Mexico in celebration of Rider pride here in Saskatchewan.

These are important relationships, and we value your presence here today. We wish you constructive and productive meetings. We're pleased to hear you're meeting with the Lieutenant Governor as well as the University of Regina. We're pleased as well that you've met with John Hopkins and the chamber of commerce here in Regina and some of the business leaders within our province.

Thank you for being here, and I ask all members to join with me in providing a warm welcome. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, it's my privilege to introduce in your gallery Mr. Greg Ross who is a councillor with the northern village of Pinehouse. Greg, if you'd give everybody a wave, please.

Greg's in town for a couple of days of meetings. I had an opportunity to talk to him this morning, and amongst other issues we discussed, I know Greg is very excited about the uranium deal announced last week because Pinehouse has a collaboration agreement with Cameco that's shown the social benefits of that economic agreement, Mr. Speaker. And I've been to Pinehouse several times myself. The community leadership is just doing a fantastic job there, and I'd like to commend them for that.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the Assembly to please give a Greg a warm welcome to his Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Minister of Government Relations in welcoming Greg to his Legislative Assembly. As many of you know, Greg is my brother-in-law, and we share a close relationship.

When our Premier, along with the Prime Minister Harper and Prime Minister Modi along with Cameco, signed that very important agreement, there was a loud, resounding cry of joy in Pinehouse because, you know, we may think that a lot of these agreements don't mean anything to the local, but in fact this is local. This is providing jobs within this community so that people can have a good life.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want everyone here to welcome my brother Greg to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce a school group that's here today, grade 4 and 5 students, 27 of them, from St. Gabriel School in Regina Wascana Plains. With them is their teachers, Ms. Debbie Okrainetz and Ms. Denise Reed, with chaperone Donna Sich. I welcome all of you here today, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a constituent of mine. Seated on the floor of this Assembly is Ms. Bernadine Anderson who I hope won't mind me saying is 92 years young and is from the village of Craik. Ms. Anderson is a very active lady. She's joined here today by her daughters Shelly Kreutzer and Aleen Kutcher.

Ms. Anderson worked in the Legislative Building from 1940 to 1945 for the King's Printer. She resigned from her job in 1945 to marry Harvey Anderson who had just returned from World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Ms. Bernadine Anderson and her daughters to their Legislative

Assembly, and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, to express a small measure of our gratitude to Bernadine for many decades of service to her country, province, and community.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll try and be quick. I have a school group from Sedley, grade 3 and 4, 19 of them, sitting in the west gallery. They're accompanied by their teacher, Terelyne Vadeboncoeur; Trish Ferner, the educational assistant; and Charity Ziegler is the bus driver, Mr. Speaker.

I had the great opportunity to be in Sedley a couple months ago and meet with these great students, and they had great questions at the time. I'm sure they'll have even more questions after they see the goings-on in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. But I would . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I took ice cream to them before, members. I would like all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for support for better schools here in Saskatchewan. We know that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced, and in fact the Sask Party government has eliminated hundreds of educational assistant positions and that students often do not get the one-on-one attention they need. And we know none of this is acceptable given the record revenues this government has had over the last eight years. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call 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 North Battleford, Lloydminster area, and Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to unsafe conditions on Dewdney Avenue created by this government, and the importance of urgent action to ensure safety on Dewdney Avenue, Mr. Speaker. 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 are signed once again by citizens of Saskatchewan. I so submit.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Homelessness is the major problem in La Ronge and other parts of the North, and it's getting worse. Shelter is a basic need for everyone, but under this government it's getting harder and harder for people to find adequate housing, especially families, seniors, women, and children who face abusive situations. Their problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty, skyrocketing home ownership costs. The prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Saskatchewan government to build a homeless shelter in the Lac la Ronge area to meet the needs of addressing homelessness in the Lac la Ronge area.

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to 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, that the Government of Saskatchewan need to recognize the need for safe staffing levels to provide hands-on care to residents. The petitioners talk about the government's removing the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care for seniors, which has resulted in neglect in some facilities, Mr. Speaker, and they also 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 the long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by folks from Saskatoon and Swift Current. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. The government closed Yarrow Youth Farm, and they've now created an open custody wing in Kilburn Hall, which is a secure-custody unit for youth considered at greater risk to the communities. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he can't endorse such a rationalization, as low-risk teens could be influenced and pressured by close proximity to high-risk youth who may be involved in serious crimes or gangs, and that Kilburn Hall is a more institutional environment that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. Here is 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 keep Yarrow Youth Farm open to ensure a caring home environment for youth who have committed minor offences and provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from Saskatoon and Martensville. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

##### Share the Love — Winter Sleep Out Fundraiser

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, on February 14th, I had the pleasure to spend an evening under the stars to raise awareness about homelessness in the North. Scattered Site Outreach Program organized an event called Share the Love — Winter Sleep Out. The event was a Valentine's Day fundraiser that raised over \$13,000 for addictions services and homelessness projects in northern Saskatchewan. Fifteen people braved the elements and spent all night out in the cold. And I am proud to have taken part.

Homelessness is an important issue in La Ronge and across the North, and there needs to be more supports available to people who need a place to stay each night. We were fortunate to have a number of important community leaders take part in the event, and I was glad to see Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and her husband, Jimmy Searson, spending the night out in the cold. There was also strong support from local RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers who made donations and attended the midnight vigil for those we have lost to homelessness.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Sheldon Merriman, Jackie Ballantyne, and participants, and all the volunteers and

staff who helped make this event a success. It is only through the important advocacy work of community leaders that we will make real progress and end homelessness in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Estevan.

#### Premier's Commendation Awards

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning the Saskatchewan Premier's Commendation Awards were presented for the second time to eight outstanding individuals who have served our province honourably. The recipients demonstrated extraordinary heroism to save and improve the lives and comfort of others. This award was created on the suggestion of the member from Wood River to acknowledge those who have taken remarkable, selfless actions.

The 2015 Premier's Commendation Award recipients are Travis Laycock of Saskatoon who rescued a couple whose car became submerged in a slough off Highway No. 5 near Bruno last July; Bill Nagel of Regina who saved a boy from falling 40 feet from a ski lift in Montana this February; Darren Katzell of Yorkton and Chris Katzell of Saskatoon who saved a woman from choking in a Saskatoon food court this February; Blaine Switzer of Swift Current, Jonathan Thomason of Rush Lake, and the late Anthony Williams of North Carolina who helped rescue a woman from a burning car near Rush Lake; and Bob McGrath who spent nearly 40 years helping to raise more than \$100 million through Telemiracle for Saskatchewan citizens with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, these people are true heroes, and this award is a small way of thanking them for their immense contributions and bravery they have demonstrated. I ask all members to join me in congratulating all eight recipients of this noble award and thanking them all for what they have done to make Saskatchewan a better place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Broadway Business Improvement District

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the important work of a non-profit organization in my constituency. The Broadway Business Improvement District was founded in 1986. It's an organization that represents Nutana merchants, and its goal is to support and advance the interests of all businesses located in the Broadway corridor, as well as to promote good community relations with the surrounding area.

[14:00]

One of the first major projects for the BBID [Broadway Business Improvement District] was to lobby city hall for money to cover half of the approximately \$1.1 million price tag of refurbishing Broadway Avenue. The merchants' idea stemmed from a desire to transform a high-traffic area into one that was busy, colourful, and economically viable for small neighbourhood businesses. And, Mr. Speaker, I must say, their actions have yielded continued success.

A variety of activities are undertaken every year to ensure that these goals are met: facilitating business advertising, planning promotional events, maintaining frequent communications and strong relations amongst merchants, effecting physical improvements to public land, and voicing the concerns of the collective merchant group to the local authorities.

The past two weeks have seen the Broadway BID hosting a series of stakeholder engagement forums. Over 45 businesses met to express their ideas and participate in shaping the next steps for the business improvement district. It's my feelings that these meetings will yield creative and innovative ideas which will continue to improve the Broadway Business District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the Broadway BID for their years of hard work. I look forward to their continued work to make Broadway one of the best neighbourhoods in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Wascana Lake is Magical in the Springtime

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty safe to say that we have survived another winter here on the prairies. Earlier this month our own Wascana Lake was recognized by the *Huffington Post*, an online national newspaper, as being one of the, and I quote, "Top 15 Canadian places that are magical in the springtime."

Mr. Speaker, Wascana Centre, especially around the lake, is exceedingly vibrant and scenic. People run, bike, walk, walk their dogs, appreciate history and nature, and quite simply enjoy life. Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have access to such a welcoming and scenic space right here in Regina. Not only is this space enjoyed for everyday activities like walking and jogging, but also as a place for celebrations, concerts, and family events. In addition to bringing our community together, Wascana Centre is home to a number of beautiful and historic buildings like the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and, of course, this building, the Legislative Building of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this space would not be quite as vibrant and scenic if not for the work of the Wascana Centre Authority. They ensure that the Centre remains an inviting public space to be enjoyed in every season. Mr. Speaker, the *Huffington Post* is absolutely correct. Wascana Lake is magical in the springtime, and we encourage everyone to get out and experience that magic for themselves. Thank you.

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

#### Vaisakhi Festival Marks Punjabi New Year

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Sunday I had the pleasure of bringing greetings at the Vaisakhi Festival presented by Sikh Society of Regina. The festival held each April marks the Punjabi new year and celebrates the founding of the Sikh community known as the Khalsa. Hundreds gathered at the Regina Sikh Temple to celebrate one of the most important days of the year for the Sikh community.

Mr. Speaker, Sunday's amazing celebration of the Sikh faith is a testament to the remarkable diversity we have here in Regina and across this province. The festivities were a celebration of the diversity which is making our community more understanding, more educated, more beautiful, and a much more interesting place to grow and live and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as Saskatchewan's population has grown, so too has our Sikh community. The growing Sikh community in Saskatchewan has a long and proud history of contributing to our province's proud tradition of multiculturalism and helping Saskatchewan live up to our motto: "from many peoples, strength."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing the Saskatchewan Sikh community a happy Vaisakhi and thank them for the many contributions to our fine province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

#### Melfort Mustangs Win Canalta Cup

**Mr. Phillips:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise in the House today to recognize the Melfort Mustangs who last Thursday won their first Canalta Cup in 19 years. By doing so, they rolled through the playoff series with victories against Weyburn Red Wings, the Nipawin Hawks, and the Notre Dame Hounds. This is a team that possesses a lot of talent and can score from almost any angle, and when you add to that a stand-up defence and very solid goaltending, you have a championship team.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to mention the Mustangs' head coach, Trevor Blevins, a hometown Melfort boy. Trevor took over the reins midway through last season and coached them from last place to first place last year before bowing out early in the playoffs. And then they led wire to wire this year, winning first place overall for the first time. Mr. Speaker, Trevor was a player on the 1996 Melfort Mustangs team that was the championship team, and he became the first person to win the title both as a coach and as a player.

The Mustangs now head to Fort McMurray next week to the western championships where the two top teams will advance to the Royal Bank Cup in Portage la Prairie. I ask that all members join me in congratulating the Melfort Mustangs in their title victory and wish them good luck in representing our province in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

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

#### Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society Fundraising Gala

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was not that long ago that like-minded people from government and business imagined what a benefit helicopter emergency services could be to our health care system.

I'm proud to stand here today to announce that the third anniversary of STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] launching its helicopter emergency services throughout



Saskatchewan is coming up very soon. Last Friday I, along with the members from Moosomin, Qu'Appelle Valley, Wascana Plains, Estevan, and Regina South were able to attend the STARS gala, which raised over \$100,000 for our Regina base. Our government has promised a 10.5 annual commitment to ensure this program continues.

Mr. Speaker, STARS saves lives. These services give VIPs, very important patients, the critical care they need in major emergencies in time to save a life, a limb, or prevent a lifelong disability. STARS physicians also provide overnight support by phone to paramedics and nurse practitioners who face emergency medical emergencies at collaborative emergency centres in Shaunavon, Canora, and Maidstone. They also initiate hands-on education in rural communities throughout our province.

STARS is doing their part to train our emergency care providers to respond to whatever critical care situations they may encounter during their job. Mr. Speaker, these brave men and women are often landing near the site of an industrial accident or vehicle collision, and the difference they can make for the people they serve quite often means lives saved. I'd ask all members to join with me in congratulating STARS on another successful fundraising gala. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Quality of Patient Care

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Yesterday we learned that a care aid from Saskatoon who spoke out publicly has been suspended. The Premier's chief of operations and communications leaked this publicly and the Health minister implied significant wrongdoing. I've seen the list of concerns. They relate to Peter speaking out and advocating for vulnerable seniors. To the Premier: he promised that care aids can feel free to speak out and raise concerns about the quality of care for vulnerable seniors. Why has that promise been broken?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well I'm interested, Mr. Speaker, to know what the deputy leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party] has seen. He's just said he's seen the specifics, and with some assurance gets to his feet and then poses his question with that as the preamble. Mr. Speaker, I can say this, that section 4.03 of the union contract between Health and SEIU West [Service Employees International Union] states that:

An employee will not be penalized, harassed or disciplined for bringing forward, in good faith, an alleged wrongdoing to the Employer and/or any lawful authority either directly or through the Union.

I can tell members of the House, with total assurance, that this provision of the contract has been upheld.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the list of complaints

against this care aid specifies that he's in trouble for speaking out. It specifies that he's in trouble for raising concerns with managers. It says he's in trouble because he posted on Facebook and he thinks . . . He posted on Facebook that he thought he might lose his job for speaking out. It says he's in trouble for raising concerns about residents being abused. To the Premier: why is he not investigating the concerns Peter raised instead of just investigating Peter, trying to shut him up?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — I think, Mr. Speaker, I would counsel the member opposite, as a colleague, to exercise some circumspect in this particular case. Mr. Speaker, in a general sense I will say . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member for Nutana has something to say from her seat. This is an important and serious matter.

The Saskatoon Health Region, Mr. Speaker, has not, nor would they be disciplining any individual including the person in question here about speaking out on behalf of patients or any workplace issues. That has not happened, Mr. Speaker. It will not happen. But, Mr. Speaker, I will add this: the region, and therefore the government, will never tolerate by any employee of the government or partners of the government any actions that would jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of either patients or co-workers.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that in a general sense, the health region and the Government of Saskatchewan will not tolerate that, and were there to be, hypothetically, complaints perhaps made by colleagues and others with respect to the conduct of any employee, those will be investigated. And, Mr. Speaker, in large measure the investigation will take place while the employee would be suspended with pay, Mr. Speaker.

I will assure again, members of the House, that no disciplinary action has been taken or would it be taken because this individual or any other stepped forward to express concerns about the workplace or about patients in the health care system.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the two complaints which pre-date Peter coming to the legislature to speak out are about him raising concerns to co-workers and management within the care facility, and it's come clear from the complaints listed since that it's nothing more than an attempt to shut him up and make other care aids afraid to speak out.

The Premier's own staff, senior staff, are doing all they can as well to discredit this care aid as this care aid has spoken out on behalf of Saskatchewan seniors. To the Premier: why is this government attacking care aids who speak out instead of taking the concerns seriously and fixing what's broken in seniors' care?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would just reiterate the comments that have already been made by the Premier that no employee of Saskatoon Health Region or any other health region would be

disciplined for raising concerns that they brought forward, Mr. Speaker. In fact it is in the contract between Saskatoon Health Region and SEIU West, the union that does represent care aids in that health region, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as the health region has indicated, if Mr. Bowden would sign a consent form that they would be at liberty to talk about the complaints that have come forward. I wonder how the Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows of all the complaints, whether or not he actually knows about all of the complaints, and has seen every single complaint that has come forward in this case, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the actions that have been taken by the employer in this respect have nothing to do with Mr. Bowden attending at the legislature during this legislative session.

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

### Protection of Vulnerable Children

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, the Social Services minister said yesterday it could take three weeks for this government to respond to the recommendations from the inquest into the tragic death of Lee Bonneau. To the minister: why so long?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and indeed I did say it would take between two to three weeks to have a formal response to the recommendations from the coroner's inquest. But I also said that some of those recommendations are already under way because the Children's Advocate had a report some time ago on this very same issue.

Of the 18 recommendations from the Children's Advocate, we've been giving quarterly reports. Three have been made. They're public. As to what the Ministry of Social Services and the Yorkton Tribal Council First Nations agency are doing to comply with the recommendations of the Children's Advocate, of those recommendations, 12 have already been fully implemented. Five are in progress and one is under consideration, Mr. Speaker. So a great deal of work has been done over the last two years.

We've made it public, the work that's been done to improve the system. Where work needs to be done, and we will, the officials will be going through the further recommendations, but it'll be two to three weeks.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, there isn't anything earth-shattering in these recommendations. And the government has heard this all before, time and time again, about caseloads that are too heavy, about lack of communications between different agencies, between different sections of the ministry and between different case workers and about vulnerable children who are falling through the cracks.

So to the minister: why does this government need three weeks to respond to these recommendations? Why can't it embrace these recommendations and start protecting vulnerable children

in a much better way?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my previous answer, a lot of work has already been done. It's not unusual for the officials to ask for two weeks in order to give an official response to recommendations that come forward. That's not unusual from when he was sitting at the cabinet table. It's not an unusual amount of time to ask for two weeks.

[14:15]

But, Mr. Speaker, a lot of work has been done to address the very issues that he's identified. We now have a dedicated First Nations and Métis service consultant to help us work with our First Nations agencies.

We have changed from every three years to having annual audits of our First Nations agencies. We've added four additional staff to our quality insurance. As I said, Mr. Speaker, those are all in response to the Children's Advocate recommendations. Many of the coroner's inquest recommendations duplicate those, so work has already taken place, Mr. Speaker.

In order to improve the communication, which I think is definitely identified as a breakdown in this particular issue, we now have implemented a structured decision-making tool that our workers use in order to help them with their case file management. And I'll have more initiatives that we have undertaken in the last two years in my next answer.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, the Children's Advocate does say some progress has been made since this little boy's tragic death, but he says, and I quote, "There is still a long way to go." And we have recommendations from the coroner's inquest, and we have a Social Services minister that says it could take three weeks to respond to these recommendations. And when we have a Children's Advocate saying this government has a long way to go to protect vulnerable children in this province, that's incredibly concerning.

So to the minister: what will it take for this government to get actually serious about protecting our most vulnerable children?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has been extremely serious about protecting our most vulnerable children. Mr. Speaker, that's why we increased the child and family services budget by 156 per cent from when that member sat at the cabinet table. Mr. Speaker, we're not going to go back to when the NDP had authority over that file, when we had 90 less workers in our province and more children in our care. We added 90 workers to help with the workload. We will continue to assess and evaluate whether or not that's enough. But we've dropped the average workload for a worker to 16 from 21 where it was when the members opposite were in the authority to make those decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we've added supports to our foster families and we no longer have overcrowded foster homes, because when that member sat at the cabinet table, there was up to 21 children in one foster home alone. Mr. Speaker, that is totally unacceptable. But furthermore and very important, and it was identified in this particular situation how serious this is, we implemented this electronic tracking system for our children. Because under the NDP, you could track a library book better than you could track our children in our province.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, the member neglects to mention that it costs \$60 million, \$60 million, for the Linkin system. But, Mr. Speaker, between 2010 and 2013 there were 81 deaths of children in this government's care, not counting natural deaths. Ten of those deaths were homicides. To the minister: what is the updated number? How many children died in care in 2014?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, that member needs to represent those numbers in such a way that they are actually letting the public know that includes car accidents, and a number of natural deaths that . . . in those numbers that's he's quoting.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want him to say now — because it was definitely identified with a First Nations agency who now have an electronic system since this incident happened but at the time did not, and didn't have the way to share information from one office to another — is \$60 million, is that too much to have an electronic system to help track our children, to help our front-line workers to be able to manage the case files they have?

Is he saying that that was not money we should spend? Is he saying that we should not have increased the budget as much as we have in order to put supports in for families and for foster families and also for our families in order to keep their children at home? What is that member actually saying? Because he's just implying that we should not have spent that money.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Social Services tell us why she's ended funding for the Radius youth companion program in Saskatoon?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we have done a review of CBOs [community-based organization]. There are some CBOs that we will be discontinuing funding for because either there's a duplication of services or we are now measuring outcomes and maybe the outcomes were not as strong as they should have been.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Samantha Neill is speaking out today. She has a child with severe cognitive disabilities and they rely on the youth companion program at

Radius, and this government just cut \$65,000 per year that went into this program. How can the minister possibly justify this cut?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, if Samantha is finding difficulty getting services for her son, I'm more than happy to meet with her as well as have officials meet with her to find the services that she needs.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, the youth companion program started out as a pilot project in 2006 and then this government annualized funding for the program in 2008. And that was a good move, but now this government has slashed the funding just a couple of months before summer when this kind of support is needed the most.

To the minister: what's changed? Why is this government cutting \$65,000 for a program that it used to think was important for young people with cognitive disabilities?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, there's been no government in the history of this province that has dedicated more dollars to disabilities and disability issues than this government. So we're more than happy to meet with this mother and ensure . . .

Because we did a review of our CBOs, and if the results were not as strong as we were looking for or if there's a duplication of services, Mr. Speaker, to make our dollars effective and efficient, we need to do those reviews. We can't just blindly fund everything even though we're not seeing the results that we're hoping to get. Mr. Speaker, that is being responsible. We will help this mother find some services.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, the \$65,000 cut will directly affect young people with cognitive disabilities and their families, and this minister should listen to the mom who's speaking out today. She says, "I can tell you there are virtually no other resources for families in terms of locating potential caregivers for our children." And she says, "This is completely unacceptable."

Will the minister listen to this mom and to the many other parents and reverse this cut that provides needed support for young people with cognitive disabilities?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, I will tell the member opposite because maybe he didn't hear me. Yes. We will meet with the mom and we will listen to her.

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

### Health Care Services and the Lean Initiative

**Ms. Chartier:** — Almost two weeks ago, 32 test results were mixed up at the government's lab and matched to the wrong patients. To the minister: what went wrong?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we regret the situation that occurred at the provincial lab a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, we are aware of how the error was made as it relates to automated equipment and how that was programmed to run a half-batch at the end of a day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can indicate that 32 patients were affected. Mr. Speaker, the physicians that are responsible for those patients have been notified, and the patients are being notified by the physicians. It's not a large group of either patients or physicians with respect to this issue, Mr. Speaker. And so my understanding is that very shortly, that all the patients will be notified as all the physicians have already started making that notification process.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — We know that this government's lean consultants have been active in the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory. To the minister: did any processes changed as a result of lean contribute to these testing errors?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, my understanding is that what has taken place is that there's been an increased workload as a result of monitoring done by the College of Physicians and Surgeons as it relates to the use of opiates, and the increased testing as a part of their monitoring program. Mr. Speaker, this was really the result of an increased workload as well as trying to add an extra half-batch of tests before the end of a workday, Mr. Speaker. So an error that we regret, Mr. Speaker, that is unfortunate, but that the lab is committed to ensuring that they put processes in place so that it doesn't happen again.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the government says it doesn't believe patient care has been compromised as a result of this mess. Of course it would be much better if the government could assure us that patient care has not been compromised. When 32 patients are given the wrong results, it can be traumatizing if not life-threatening, and this undermines the confidence that Saskatchewan people should be able to have in this government's disease control lab. To the minister: how can we be assured that this won't happen again?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would agree that this is something that we want to ensure that doesn't ever

happen again, Mr. Speaker. The lab has indicated that in the 18 months that this piece of automated equipment has been used, that this is the first problem that has arisen. It was caught in short notice after a very small number of tests were mistakenly identified, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can indicate though that the medical director of the laboratory and everybody at the Ministry of Health and our provincial disease control laboratory want to assure the public that measures are going to be put in place so this type of error doesn't happen in the future. Mr. Speaker, I give my commitment that that is certainly the commitment of the provincial lab and the Ministry of Health, that this won't happen again.

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

### Hyperbaric Chamber and Plan for Moose Jaw Hospital

**Ms. Chartier:** — Switching gears here, the fight for Moose Jaw's hyperbaric chamber is getting stronger and it's time for this government to commit to save it. Yesterday Moose Jaw's mayor said:

There is a lot of money and time and effort from residents that has gone into the hospital and will continue to go toward the hospital for a long time to come . . . There's a real concern over the loss of this piece of equipment that is pretty cost effective and doesn't take up a lot of room in the new hospital. The community is concerned, and council needs to be concerned.

Moose Jaw's mayor's been raising these concerns for at least a year and a half. When will the Health minister finally listen?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just as it relates to the previous issue that the member brought up, I just do want to confirm that no harm was caused to patients because of this error. But we do regret the error and will ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the hyperbaric chamber, obviously this is something that we have debated on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker. As I've indicated, we are looking at what alternatives can be put in place to ensure that there are hyperbaric services provided to the people of Saskatchewan, knowing that not every Saskatchewan resident, not every Saskatchewan patient that uses hyperbaric services accesses those services in the province of Saskatchewan. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that it's interesting that we do have numbers that are updated for this last year, the '14-15 year, which indicate that I believe 12 patients used the service for just over 100 treatments, Mr. Speaker, which is about half the number of patients and treatments from even the previous year, Mr. Speaker.

So it's not a service that is used often, Mr. Speaker, but we are looking to see how we can provide that service either in Moose Jaw or in another location, Mr. Speaker, either as an in-patient service or an outpatient service, as is done in Calgary on an outpatient basis, or my understanding in Edmonton on an in-patient service. So we are looking at all those different options currently.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Moose Jaw firefighter Gord Hewitt says:

It does pain us to see the hyperbaric chamber not being moved to the new hospital . . . We met with MLA (Greg Lawrence) the other day and discussed our commitment toward the chamber. Is it funding? What do we have to do to make this happen?

What's the minister's answer to the people in Moose Jaw? What do we have to do to change this government's mind and save the hyperbaric chamber?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about what the two MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Moose Jaw on this side of the House have been able to accomplish for the people of Moose Jaw and area, and not just the fact that we are seeing a new hospital under construction, nearly complete, for the city of Moose Jaw to serve the Five Hills Health Region and southern Saskatchewan for many years to come, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, also working with the health foundation and those two MLAs on a proposal, Mr. Speaker, to add an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging], a permanent MRI to the city of Moose Jaw in that same facility, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are having conversations with a number of groups both within Moose Jaw as well as outside of Moose Jaw as it relates to the hyperbaric services, Mr. Speaker, knowing that it serves a small number of people, yes, Mr. Speaker, but it does provide a service, Mr. Speaker. We're looking to see whether or not that can be maintained within that existing city, Mr. Speaker, whether or not it makes more sense for example to have an adjunct service as it relates to cancer treatment, because we know that nearly half the people that use it is in relation to radiation, Mr. Speaker. Does it make more sense to be in conjunction with their radiation treatment? Those are the options that we're considering, Mr. Speaker, and I hope to have an answer soon on that question.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Moose Jaw want to save the hyperbaric chamber. People throughout Saskatchewan want to save the hyperbaric chamber. Community organizations are even willing to help save the hyperbaric chamber. Absolutely everyone else gets it except the Sask Party government. Everyone else understands the tremendous value of the hyperbaric chamber except the Sask Party government. To the minister: why is this government so stubborn? Why is it refusing to follow common sense and keep the hyperbaric chamber in the Moose Jaw hospital?

[14:30]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, let's just ensure that

the record is correct on this. The NDP government thought so highly of the hyperbaric chamber and the services, Mr. Speaker, that they, what? Provided how many dollars for the hyperbaric services? Not a single dollar, Mr. Speaker. It is funded through Five Hills Health Region on an operational side, Mr. Speaker. It's not a provincial service, was never deemed a provincial service under the NDP, as well as we know on the capital side, the fundraising that has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently working through what options make sense in terms of providing hyperbaric services in the province, but I think it's important that the people of this province know that in terms of an in-patient service, Mr. Speaker, the Moose Jaw hyperbaric chamber, the services has been used, Mr. Speaker, roughly 6 per cent of the time on an in-patient basis. So 90, over 90 per cent of the time it's on an outpatient basis, so does it make sense to actually have that within an in-patient service, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I've said it publicly. A hospital setting, an acute care setting is our highest cost real estate, Mr. Speaker, to operate and to build, Mr. Speaker. So on the service that is provided on the vast majority of times on an outpatient basis, does it make sense to have it as an outpatient service in a clinic? We're looking at all those options right now.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, the community of Moose Jaw, community organizations that want to support the hyperbaric chamber want to know what this government's plan is and they want to know when they're going to come up with this plan.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Moose Jaw and area know very well what the plan is from this side of the House, is that we'll actually not just plan for a new hospital in the city of Moose Jaw, but we'll actually build that new hospital in the city of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, and I know the people of Moose Jaw, I know the mayor of Moose Jaw and others, Mr. Speaker, are very excited about the fact that the new nearly \$100 million hospital will be opening later this year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's going to be able to provide services in a very efficient manner, Mr. Speaker, very much a state-of-the-art facility, not just in this province, but in this country, Mr. Speaker. And what the people of Moose Jaw and area will also be very well assured of, Mr. Speaker, because this is something that they definitely wanted, Mr. Speaker, was to ensure that we had additional MRI capacity in the province, Mr. Speaker.

We've come a long way, Mr. Speaker, from the days where MRI services, people waited 12 months and 18 months and 22 months for an elective MRI, Mr. Speaker. What we've done is added capacity in central Saskatchewan, in southern Saskatchewan, and that's going to include the new Moose Jaw Hospital that will have the latest, newest MRI for the people of this province.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to raise a point of order.

**The Speaker:** — And what is the Government's House Leader's point of order?

### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period the Deputy Leader of the Opposition directly referred to a document and information as the basis for his question or series of questions, that he based it on this information.

As we know through the rules and procedures of section 52, ministers are required to table documents referred to during the debate. I would ask that the member opposite hold himself to this same standard and ensure that this information . . . I think this legislature and this debate would be well-served by that information coming forward. We all know that information that's been brought forward recently by members had some concern regarding accuracy. I think in this instance this information would, again, serve us well in this debate.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, the member put his questions in accordance with the rules of order, and if you'll examine the record, I'm sure that you'll find that to be the case. He did not quote directly from the document, as my hon. colleague opposite knows is part of the conditions for the rule that he was citing, and as such, I would ask you to find that the member's point of order is not well taken.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader quoted himself that this rule refers to ministers quoting from documents. It does not refer to members quoting from documents, therefore the opposition members do not have to table documents they may or may not quote from. This point of order is not well taken.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the House Services Committee.

#### Standing Committee on House Services

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its 11th report. I move:

That the 11th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Chair of the House Services Committee:

That the 11th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report. Mr. Speaker, this is a bilingual bill, Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered before Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister.

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment, and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 147 — *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 147, *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing

Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered before Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed.

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 150 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014***

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved that Bill No. 150, *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental

Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered before Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment and the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 162 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014***

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 162, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 907 through 928.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 907 through 928.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

## SECOND READINGS

**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, today I'm pleased to rise and move second reading of Bill No. 178, to amend *The Income Tax Act, 2000*. This bill will implement income tax initiatives announced in our government's 2015-16 budget on March 18th, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments include new growth tax incentives that will increase jobs and capital investment and tax credit program amendments to sustain valued programs and keep Saskatchewan strong. A number of technical amendments are also required to update our legislation as requested by Canada Revenue Agency, CRA.

Mr. Speaker, I'll begin with the manufacturing and processing, the M & P exporter tax incentive first announced in the Speech from the Throne of October 22nd, 2014. The incentive supports our government's growth plan goal to increase manufacturing exports and help keep our economy strong. The incentive will provide non-refundable tax credits for each of the 2015 through 2019 taxation years to eligible corporations that expand the number of their full-time employees above the number that were employed in 2014.

Eligible businesses are those that annually export at least 25 per cent of their manufactured goods to the rest of Canada or internationally. Eligible businesses that manufacture or process goods for sale are defined in the federal income tax, or are principally involved with the commercial development of new economy products for export, including interactive digital media products and creative industry products.

The M & P exporter tax incentive consists of two components, a general hiring tax credit and a head office tax credit. The hiring tax credit will offer non-refundable tax credits equal to \$3,000 each year for each incremental full-time employee hired by an eligible business. The head office tax credit will offer non-refundable tax credits equal to \$10,000 each year for each incremental full-time head office employee hired by an eligible business, subject to minimum qualifying and incremental employment thresholds.

Mr. Speaker, an employee cannot be claimed under both tax credits. However, an employee who cannot be claimed under the head office tax credit due to the qualifying requirements may be claimed under the hiring tax credit. Tax credits earned in a year will be applied against Saskatchewan corporation income tax otherwise payable for that year or in any of the subsequent five taxation years.

Mr. Speaker, in support of our government's plan for growth and commitment to encourage new capital investment, the 2015-16 budget announced the creation of another important new growth tax incentive, the corporation income tax rebate for capital investment in primary steel production in Saskatchewan. The incentive will be available to eligible primary steel producers that make a minimum capital investment of \$100 million in new or expanded production capacity.

It will provide a rebate of the new or incremental Saskatchewan corporation income tax payable by the corporation as a result of the new investment. The amount of incremental tax that is eligible to be rebated under this incentive will be based on the proportionate increase in the facility's productive capacity resulting from the investment.

[14:45]

The tax incentive will be available for a five-year period. It will rebate the full amount of incremental tax for each of the first two years of the rebate period followed by 75 per cent of the incremental tax in the third year, 50 per cent in the fourth year, and 25 per cent in the fifth and final year.

Mr. Speaker, as a new growth tax incentive, there is no cost to the provincial treasury because this incentive is based on incremental tax revenue from new investment. New capital investment brings additional construction jobs, operations and maintenance jobs, and more business for local suppliers. And, Mr. Speaker, we've already seen the impact of this incentive. Late last month steelmaker Evraz announced a \$200 million production expansion in Regina which will create 40 full-time jobs.

The 2015-16 budget also carefully manages expenditures, and this includes tax expenditures which result from tax credit programs. The research and development, R & D tax credit, graduate retention program, GRP, and active families benefit, AFB, are tax credits that are being adjusted and better targeted to ensure their ongoing sustainability. Effective April 1st, 2015, the existing R & D tax credit is being replaced by a 10 per cent non-refundable R & D tax credit. Non-refundable tax credits earned in a year can be applied against Saskatchewan corporate income tax, CIT, otherwise payable for that year or in any of the subsequent 10 taxation years or the previous three taxation years.

These changes are expected to reduce program costs by \$18 million in 2015-16 and will maintain a sustainable level of support for innovation and research activities in the province.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's GRP provides and will continue to provide up to \$20,000 in tuition rebate benefits to graduates that live and work in Saskatchewan. Since the program's creation in 2008, more than 56,000 post-secondary graduates have taken advantage of this program, receiving nearly \$200 million in tuition rebates.

Mr. Speaker, graduates currently receive the tuition rebate as a reduction in their income taxes otherwise payable. Where the rebate amount is greater than the amount of income taxes payable, the excess has been paid to the graduate as an income tax refund. Starting with the 2015 taxation year, tuition rebates must be applied against Saskatchewan income taxes otherwise payable. Any rebate amount that cannot be applied against taxes payable will be carried forward and added to the next year's instalment amount.

Graduates will be allowed 10 years to fully claim their tuition rebate entitlement against taxes otherwise payable. This three-year increase will be put in place to better enable graduates to utilize their GRP benefits under the newly adjusted



program. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan graduates will continue to benefit from the most aggressive retention program in the country.

The 2015 budget announced that effective for the 2015 taxation year, the AFB will be income tested in order to target families earning \$60,000 per year or less. The tax credit rebates up to \$150 per child per year in eligible registration fees or other program-related costs. Saskatchewan families with children under 18 years of age are eligible for this refundable credit. Income testing will better target the benefit to those families who need financial assistance the most in order to register their children in cultural, recreational, and sport activities.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also contains five technical amendments to update provincial legislation as requested by CRA. The federal Act was recently amended retroactive to December 21, 2002 to remove special rules that set out the taxation year of a testamentary trust as any 12-month period for which the accounts of the trust are prepared from section 104 of the federal Act and move them to section 249 of the federal Act where the general definition of taxation year resides. The first technical amendment to the provincial Act removes any reference to section 104 of the federal Act.

The federal Act was also amended retroactive to January 1, 2012 to simplify the definition of total charitable gifts and to move the list of qualified donees to section 149.1, which sets out the rules of conduct for all charitable organizations. Mr. Speaker, the second technical amendment to the provincial Act ensures that the reference to the definition of total charitable gifts in the federal Act remains accurate.

The federal Act was also amended retroactive to February 27th, 2004 to add a provision to clarify the treatment of foreign interest income for the purposes of computing the foreign tax credit. The third technical amendment to the provincial Act will ensure that the provincial legislation parallels the federal legislation.

Next the federal Act was amended effective for the 2014 and subsequent taxation years to remove the requirement for a specific application for the federal goods and services tax credit, GSTC, and allow the benefit to be automatically applied for when the individual files a tax return. Mr. Speaker, since the Saskatchewan low-income tax credit is administered in conjunction with the federal GSTC, it is important that provincial legislation be amended to similarly remove the requirement for these specific applications.

Finally, the federal Act was amended effective June 26th, 2013 to add provisions to allow a refund of excess instalment amounts paid on account of a taxpayer's tax liability for a year. Since instalment amounts include both federal and provincial taxes, the provincial legislation needs to be amended to similarly allow provincial instalment amounts to be refunded. This technical amendment will properly align provincial and federal legislation for administrative clarity.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the CRA, which administers our income tax system under the tax collections agreement, has requested that each of these technical amendments be made to reflect recent changes in federal legislation.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the Act to amend *The Income Tax Act, 2000*.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has moved second reading of Bill No. 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand today to give initial comments on Bill 178. I think it's really important to basically explain to the people of Saskatchewan some of the changes that are required, as the minister has alluded to and explained as to what's in store for some of the changes around this particular bill, Bill 178. And there was made reference, or a passing reference to a number of initiatives that were attached to this year's budget.

And, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the Assembly, the opposition continually see evidence that this particular budget and the challenges attached to it and the huge debt being left behind is going to be a problem for generations to come. And this is another example, Mr. Speaker, as we see some of the changes that have been identified by the minister that are attached to this Bill 178.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to spend a whole heck of a lot of time on the technical changes that the Canada Revenue Agency has requested of this particular government. Obviously the CRA have their processes and, of course, each provincial jurisdiction must be able to follow the rules and regulations established by the Canada Revenue Agency. That's, of course, good governance and also part of what is necessary from every jurisdiction across the province, is that once CRA determines some of the technical changes required, then every province has to abide by that.

I want to spend a bit of my time, Mr. Speaker, if I may, on some of the points that the minister raised around some of the savings that they're trying to achieve through their budget that they presented just last month.

The changes that we looked at include the graduate retention program savings. I think the amount that they've identified is \$30 million. The program that at one time, Mr. Speaker, that many people were able to enjoy, young people that came out of school or came out of the post-secondary institutions were able to enjoy as a tax opportunity, a tax savings opportunity once they graduated in Saskatchewan and were planning to work there, Mr. Speaker, they have converted this program and it's not what they campaigned on. They have converted this program to now a non-refundable tax credit, and only those earning a certain amount of income would be able to cash in on this particular non-refundable tax credit. And before many, many other groups and organizations, many groups and ages of people and various degrees of income were eligible for this program, Mr. Speaker.

What we're finding now, the changes that this particular government has put in place really limits those savings and those opportunities to those graduates that are making higher incomes, thereby leaving a whole host of young people emerging into the labour market with no opportunity to take advantage of the graduate retention program that has been in

Saskatchewan for several years.

Mr. Speaker, the other component that the minister has alluded to includes the active families benefit which is really, Mr. Speaker, a \$6 million savings. Many people out there in Saskatchewanland certainly wouldn't argue a tremendous amount by saying those that earn greater incomes should not be able to have programs of this sort afforded to them.

But what happens, Mr. Speaker, many of us would argue back that some of these programs are indeed valuable. And then if you compound some of the challenges on the middle class, you start taking away some of the tax credit for graduating in Saskatchewan. You start taking some of the benefits for the active families benefit. You start increasing their power bills. You see the rate of food prices going up, Mr. Speaker. The inflation rate, of course, is always a challenge for many farmers, people, and families. And, Mr. Speaker, you compound all those matters, you compound all those pressures on the middle class, it does have a dramatic negative affect overall. And that's exactly the reason why, Mr. Speaker, we stand in our place and we vote against the budget, and we continue holding the Sask Party government to account.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some of the ideas that people have come forward and have offered, some very, very astute and well-researched ideas on how this government could actually save money through their budgetary processes, what we're finding is the Saskatchewan Party government simply does not listen. They do not in any way, shape, or form take advice and certainly direction from people that are trying to be as helpful as they can, Mr. Speaker, in making sure that the economy continues to grow but we are also able to manage our finances as a province very well.

One of the examples I would use, Mr. Speaker, in the brief time I have to respond to this particular bill, is the Regina bypass project. The Regina bypass project, Mr. Speaker, has been identified by a number of individuals in the city here of course and as well throughout the northeast portion of the city and points beyond, where they have identified a great amount of savings on this particular project.

They have approached the Minister of Highways. They've approached a number of MLAs. They've approached a number of people associated with the Sask Party, and basically some of their advice on how we save hundreds of millions of dollars on this project has not been taken, Mr. Speaker. This would have been easily, easily a good place to begin saving instead of putting up the graduate program savings benefit, instead of taking away the active families benefit, Mr. Speaker, instead of taking away the R & D tax credit, the things that they campaigned on.

Mr. Speaker, several individuals have come forward and said to us, look, we have the ways and means in which we can explain to government exactly how they can save 200, \$300 million on one of the most ambitious projects in the history of Saskatchewan, and that is the Regina bypass project, Mr. Speaker. They have come forward with some very compelling arguments, some very succinct points on how, and a very intelligent, active role in showing and teaching the government how they can save an incredible amount of money on the

bypass, Mr. Speaker, only to be met with resistance, only to be met with ministers that aren't paying attention to their concerns, and only to be met with a bunch of hurdles that aren't necessary for them to get their point across.

[15:00]

I'm actually very pleased that the Premier is aware of some of the issues that we're bringing forward of this particular bill, as these gentlemen have been trying to get the attention of the Premier, to explain to the Premier that the Regina bypass project is one area that he needs to spend a lot of time on to be able to show how they can save a tremendous amount of money. Mr. Speaker, these individuals, these gentlemen have spent tons of time to explain to the government that you don't have to sacrifice the programs that the Minister of Finance has identified in Bill 178, that there's other ways and means in which you can save the Saskatchewan taxpayers tons of money. They have been mentioning this from time to time. They've been fighting this battle for months on end, Mr. Speaker, and they've been trying to get the attention of the Saskatchewan Party government by saying look, the Regina bypass project is not the best project in the world in terms of the affordability.

They have to make sure that they bring this plan forward that is functional, that is affordable, and that can serve the city and the region for years and years to come, Mr. Speaker. They are advocating for one simple thing: to have the audience of the Premier and the cabinet ministers and even the Sask Party caucus so they can explain how they can save a ton of money, a ton of money on making sure that the Regina bypass is done properly and is done functionally and has done as much as it can in terms of ensuring safety for many of these citizens, traffic that travel this particular route, Mr. Speaker.

For them the bottom line is putting money into a Regina bypass that does not bypass the city is really illogical. It is not something that the people of Saskatchewan would accept if they had all the details and all the information that these two gentlemen in particular have at their disposal.

So I would challenge the Premier, who is sitting in the Assembly today, to ensure him that given the time, afford the time to these gentlemen that are advocating an incredible amount of savings with the Regina bypass. They're advocating for an hour of your time to explain the value of their proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's one of the things that we wanted to raise. We have tons of examples throughout Saskatchewan of how people are able to be able to save a lot of money if they're listened to and certainly if they are respected enough to gain audience with those that are making these decisions.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say about the programs that are being slashed today. We're getting a lot of advice and information from people that are encouraging this government to listen to their advice. And, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing is a continual debt that's being built in Saskatchewan, compliments of the Saskatchewan Party government. We'll have a lot more to say on the debt that they're racking up for universities, municipalities, and of course the taxpayers of Saskatchewan.

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have more to say on this, and we will seek advice from many other organizations and people on this matter. Until that time, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 178.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on 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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. 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:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:04.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

#### Ruling on Bill 611 — Requirement for a Royal Recommendation

The Speaker ..... 6961

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall ..... 6961

Nilson ..... 6962

Elhard ..... 6962

Wotherspoon ..... 6963

Reiter ..... 6963

Ross ..... 6963

Tell ..... 6963

Stewart ..... 6963

McMorris ..... 6964

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes ..... 6964

Wotherspoon ..... 6964

Vermette ..... 6964

Chartier ..... 6964

Sproule ..... 6965

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Share the Love — Winter Sleep Out Fundraiser

Vermette ..... 6965

##### Premier's Commendation Awards

Eagles ..... 6965

##### Broadway Business Improvement District

Sproule ..... 6965

##### Wascana Lake is Magical in the Springtime

Marchuk ..... 6966

##### Vaisakhi Festival Marks Punjabi New Year

Ross ..... 6966

##### Melfort Mustangs Win Canalta Cup

Phillips ..... 6966

##### Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society Fundraising Gala

Steinley ..... 6966

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Quality of Patient Care

Wotherspoon ..... 6967

Wall ..... 6967

Duncan ..... 6967

##### Protection of Vulnerable Children

Forbes ..... 6968

Harpauer ..... 6968

##### Health Care Services and the Lean Initiative

Chartier ..... 6970

Duncan ..... 6970

##### Hyperbaric Chamber and Plan for Moose Jaw Hospital

Chartier ..... 6970

Duncan ..... 6970

#### POINT OF ORDER

Cheveldayoff ..... 6972

McCall ..... 6972

The Speaker ..... 6972

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Standing Committee on House Services

McCall ..... 6972

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Ross ..... 6972

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 147 — *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs*

Wyant ..... 6972

##### Bill No. 150 — *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*

Wyant ..... 6973

<b>Bill No. 162 — <i>The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014</i></b>	
Wyant.....	6973
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Cox.....	6973
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 178 — <i>The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015</i></b>	
Krawetz.....	6974
Belanger.....	6975

# 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