



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

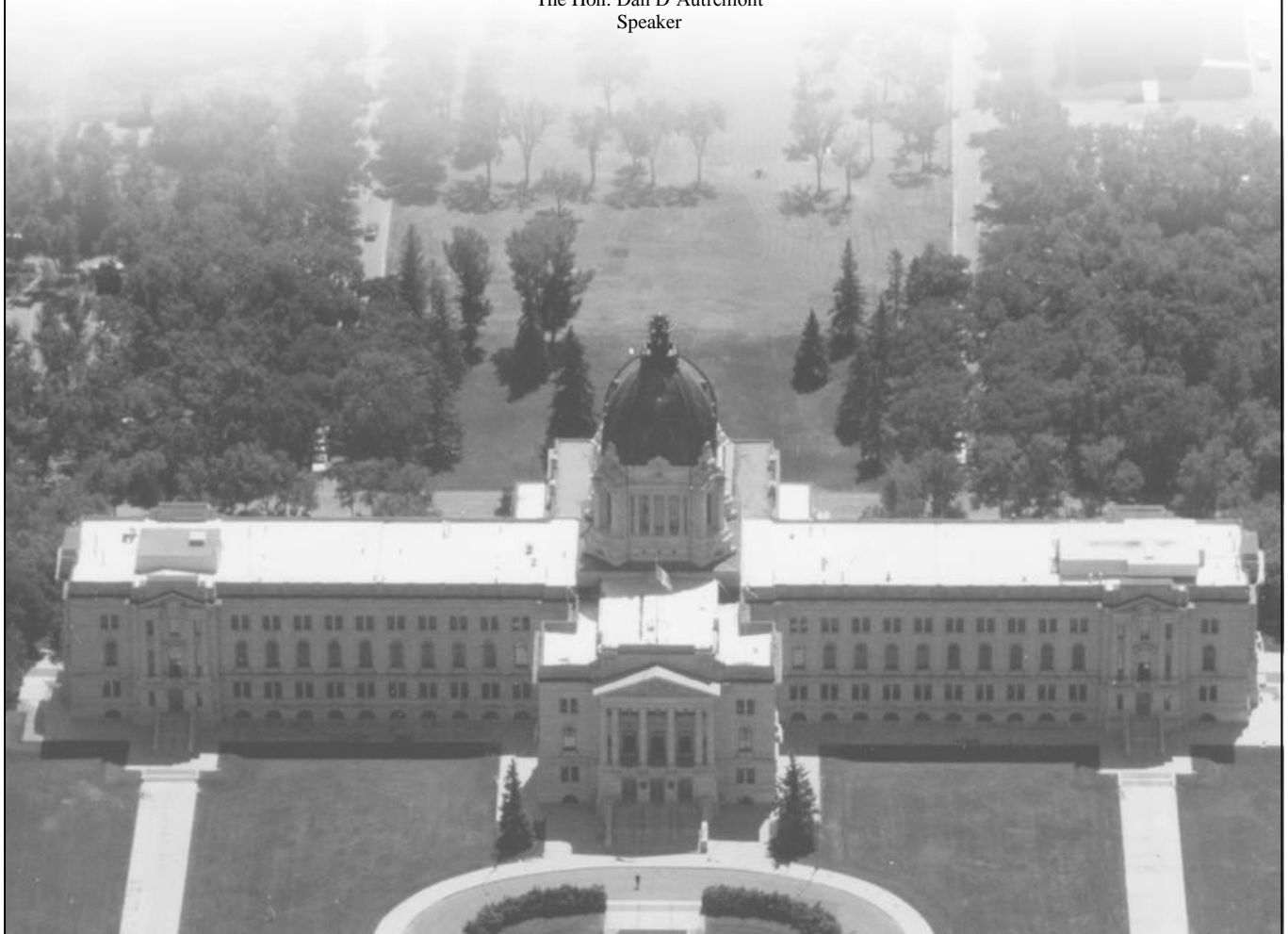
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, to introduce some special guests in your gallery today. I had the privilege to meet a lot of these individuals, all of these individuals earlier today in proclaiming Nurse Practitioner Awareness Day and raising a flag in front of the Assembly. A more formal event we'll have this evening at Government House, Mr. Speaker.

But introducing these members in the House, or these citizens and nurses in the House today, Mr. Speaker, are representatives of the SRNA, the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. I'll ask them to give us a little wave when I say their names: Signey Klebeck, Linda Wasko, Shirley McKay, Shelley Svedahl, Cheryl Hamilton, Terri Belcourt, and Donna Cooke. And representing Nurse Practitioners of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker: Lia Boxall, Angela Robinson, Heather Keith, Lisa Plank, Karen Loveridge, Kari Greenwood, Kelly Hughes, Deanna Barlow, and Debbie Bathgate. I ask all members to welcome these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the guests to the legislature today. And I want to say thank you to you on behalf of all of the people of Saskatchewan for the good work that you do in organizing nurses across the province because that's an important part as well as actually doing the work. So thank you very much.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, 42 grade 10 students here from Winston Knoll. Wave, you guys. They're in the west gallery. But we have a very special student that's also part of this group. His name is Nigel. Nigel, you'll maybe want to give us a wave; oh boy. Nigel's mom works in the building. She works, in fact, for the Minister of Finance. And we're going to have the opportunity to go and visit with Nigel and his classmates.

But, you know, we have . . . The teacher that is accompanying them today is Michelle McKillop. Michelle brings a class, I think, every year, or every session in fact. So I really do appreciate that. And another teacher accompanying them is Michael Silvius. So thank you very much to the Winston Knoll teachers for bringing your students here to be able to experience the Legislative Assembly. So thank you.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I have the honour of introducing a very important guest who has joined us today in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the executive director of the North East Outreach and Support Services, Louise Schweitzer.

Mr. Speaker, May 7th marks the third annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in Melfort, Saskatchewan. This year I'm very happy to say that for the first time there will also be a Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in Humboldt on June 10th.

The Melfort walk will raise money for the North East Outreach and Support Services in Melfort, a community-based organization that our government has been very proud to support with funding. Many members will also recall that this is the same facility that experienced a fire last winter in the domestic violence shelter which was being built. And I'm happy to say that the shelter is back on track, and we'll be looking forward to celebrating a sod turning for that shelter this same Walk a Mile event on May 7th.

Mr. Speaker, the male members of this Assembly will be extremely happy to hear that Ms. Schweitzer has brought with her several pairs of red shoes, high-heeled shoes, so that they may join her in a photo opportunity following session today in an effort to help raise awareness of this very worthy event.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the North East Outreach and Support Services for their hard work in putting this event together and their efforts on behalf of the victims of violence in our province. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Ms. Schweitzer to her Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming Ms. Schweitzer to her legislature and all the good work that they do up in the northeast. And we always find it interesting, this Walk a Mile, and we just think it goes really well. I appreciate that so many folks have done it. I know the member from Melfort is a real strong supporter of that, and we think it's a great cause.

At the same time, I would like to welcome Gunnar Passmore, a really strong trade union activist. He works for the Building Trades folks, and he's a regular attendee here at the legislature because of course the issues that we talk about are so important to the working men and women of this province. So I'd ask all members to welcome Gunnar to his legislature. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

## 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 that the Sask Party government has eliminated hundreds of educational assistant positions, and that students often don't get the one-on-one attention that they truly need. And none of this is acceptable, given the record revenues that this government has had over the last eight years. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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.

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created on Dewdney Avenue by that government, their failure to recognize the unsafe conditions with the heavy-haul truck traffic that they directed on to Dewdney, and their failure to ensure a safe, appropriate route. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the 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 traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

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

These petitions today are signed once again by residents of Regina. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Homelessness is a 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. The problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty and skyrocketed 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's signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners:

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 re-introduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, these two petitions are signed by individuals from Swift Current. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. The government has closed Yarrow Youth Farm to create an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall. We know that Kilburn Hall is a secure-custody unit for youth considered a greater risk to their 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 we know that Kilburn Hall is a more institutional environment that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. And so 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 keep Yarrow Youth Farm open, to ensure a caring home environment for youth who have committed minor offences, and to provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition reads:

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

Signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Nurse Practitioner Awareness Day

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to formally recognize today, April 27th, as Nurse Practitioner Awareness Day. To mark this day we raised a flag alongside a

number of nurse practitioners who joined us in front of the Legislative Building this morning.

Nurse practitioners are highly skilled, dedicated professionals who play a vital role in bringing about the transformation we're seeing in our health care system. Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced education, and their expertise allows them to perform physical assessments, diagnostic tests, diagnose and treat common medical conditions, prescribe medications, and perform minor surgical procedures.

We have great nurse practitioners in this province and we would like more of them, especially in rural areas. That's why we introduced a recruitment strategy for nurse practitioners last year. In 2011 we also promised to increase nurse practitioner seats by 20 and we are on target to keep that promise. Mr. Speaker, we are improving primary health care services for Saskatchewan people so they receive the everyday care they need regardless of where they live.

Nurse practitioners are important members of the health care team, and I ask all members to join with me in thanking the many nurse practitioners throughout our province as well as those who made it into our gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Women of Distinction Awards

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, along with the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, on Thursday evening had the pleasure to attend the 34th annual Regina YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Awards Gala. And right off the top I want to congratulate everyone at the YWCA and its supporters for another excellent evening of inspiration and celebration. Well done.

There were 46 different women nominated, leaders in business, arts, science, education, health care, and community. I'm sure that the committee tasked with selecting the winner in each category had an incredibly tough job to perform, given the outstanding field of nominees.

The award for community leadership and enhancement was given to Doreen Lloyd, a social worker and community champion with Carmichael Outreach. Lucia Garcia was recognized for her work promoting the Spanish language and Salvadorean culture with the Cultural Heritage Award. Stacey Ermel won the Rural Community Award for years of community service in Bethune. Dr. Fatima Pirbhai-Illich was recognized for her contributions to literacy and education. Anne Chase, one of the founders of the Saskatchewan Ovarian Cancer Survivors, won the Wellness, Recreation, and Healthy Living Award. Sheila Pelletier was recognized for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Seventeen-year-old Audrey Simon received the Young Woman of Promise Award for her excellence in athletics and academics. Alanna Koch, deputy minister of Agriculture, received the Leadership and Management Award. And the Next Chapters Book Club won the Circle of Friends Award for their work in bringing people together around literacy.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating and thanking these 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[13:45]

#### Pre-Construction Begins on Battlefords Facility

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is a long-awaited day for The Battlefords, and I'm excited to announce that pre-construction work has begun on the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford integrated correctional facility.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier and I toured this hospital some time ago, and since then our government has been completely committed to replacing this hospital. So I'm very pleased to see that pre-construction is now under way. Heavy equipment has been arriving on site and will continue throughout the week. The new complex will be built to a leadership in energy and environmental design silver certification standard, which is recognized as the international mark of excellence for green buildings.

Mr. Speaker, mental health services are a priority for this government, which is why this new facility will address some of the recommendations from the mental health and addictions plan. It will also include a 96-room correctional facility which will be designed to provide support for offenders living with mental health issues.

Mr. Speaker, unlike when the members opposite were in government and said they were going to fund this project with no real money committed, our government has committed \$129 million in the 2015-16 budget to begin site preparation and construction. We know that the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford integrated correctional facility is a big step forward in addressing mental health in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatchewan Book Awards

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 23rd annual Saskatchewan Book Awards took place this Saturday at the Conexus Arts Centre here in Regina, and I was pleased to be able to attend, along with my colleague from Regina Lakeview. Writers and publishers from all across our province were recognized for their contributions to Saskatchewan's vibrant literary scene.

Suzanne North took home the University of Regina Book of the Year Award for her novel, *Flying Time*. Ernie Loutitt, a long-time member of the Saskatoon Police Service, was recognized with the Rasmussen Rasmussen & Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples' Writing Award for his memoir, *Indian Ernie: Perspectives on Policing and Leadership*.

One book that was nominated in multiple categories was *7: Professional Native Artists Inc.*, which told for the first time the

significant story of how a group of seven amazing Aboriginal artists fought for recognition in the art world. This book, published through the MacKenzie Art Gallery, won all three publishing awards.

Mr. Speaker, another book that was up for an award was co-authored by Keith Goulet, a former member of this Assembly. Although his book, *Teaching Each Other: Nehinuw Concepts and Indigenous Pedagogies*, wasn't chosen as a winner at this year's awards, I'm certain that it will play a significant role in improving educational outcomes for First Nations and Métis students.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the award winners and the nominees and to thank them for telling our Saskatchewan story so well. I'd also ask all members to thank Daniel Parr, the Chair of the book awards, and all of the volunteers and staff who make this event a success every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatchewan Country Music Association Awards

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I brought greetings on behalf of the Premier to the Saskatchewan Country Music Association's President's Banquet, and Sunday I was honoured to present the Video of the Year Award at the SCMA [Saskatchewan Country Music Association] awards in Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan is home to many talented artists of all kinds, but nights like this really put a spotlight on these achievements. With over 30 awards given out, the night was full of remarkable talent with some really great performances by MC [master of ceremonies] Deric Ruttan, Wyatt, and the Trudels among others.

Special notable local winners were Danny Ismond from GX94, Yorkton; Murray Yung for Country Music Person of the Year; Codie Prevost who won Male Vocalist of the Year; and Jess Moskaluke who brought home five awards, including Video of the Year. She has also gained a lot of national recognition along with Codie Prevost. Also mentioned would be Ron Waddell who was awarded Legend and Legacy Award, Mr. Speaker.

As someone who has seen a lot of these young musicians grow up and enter their trade, it is always exciting to share in their successes. Although the awards night topped off the weekend, the SCMA hosted many showcases and seminars for new artists, and songwriters café on the Sunday afternoon.

Saskatchewan truly is the place to be, and it is inspiring to see how strong the country music community is throughout our province. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank SaskTel for being a major sponsor and televising this event. Also many artists expressed their thanks to Creative Saskatchewan, SaskMusic, Sask Lotteries for their support.

I would ask all members to join me in congratulating all the nominees and winners from this weekend as well as the SCMA for putting on such an awesome event in Yorkton. Thank you,

Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Saskatoon Brewing Company Celebrates 25th Anniversary

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year marks Great Western Brewing Company's 25th anniversary. The Great Western Brewing Company is an historic landmark in Saskatoon, an iconic Saskatchewan company. The story of Great Western is well known by beer drinkers across the Prairies. It's a story that embodies the Saskatchewan spirit.

When many worried about the closure of Saskatoon's only brewery in 1989, there was a group of adventurous employees that saw an opportunity. Mr. Speaker, those employees invested their personal life savings to buy the brewery and demonstrate that they had the know-how to brew great beer.

Year after year, Great Western beer products win awards the world over. People know when they buy Great Western, they're buying a product made by employees who truly care about the quality, Mr. Speaker. The original 60 employees, owners of Great Western, have laid the foundation for Saskatoon's original brewery, a commitment to community, and giving back wherever possible.

Mr. Speaker, here in Saskatchewan we all know what it means to grab some G Dub. We're proud that G Dub is our beer, a beer made in Saskatchewan by Saskatchewan people using Saskatchewan-grown barley.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Great Western Brewery on its 25th anniversary and thank them for the commitment to community and for great beer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### \$25 million Investment in Carrot River Saw Mill

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not every day that we see major investments, but they seem to be more and more frequent in Saskatchewan. Earlier this April, the Premier, the Minister for the Economy, and I attended an announcement that C & C Resources would be making a \$25 million investment into Edgewood Forest Products Carrot River saw mill. Mr. Speaker, this \$25 million investment was made possible because of our new processing tax incentive.

This investment will include a major capital upgrade, including a new production line that will replace the existing primary breakdown sawline at the mill. A new kiln will also be bought. The production line machinery is coming from a German-based company called Linck. And, Mr. Speaker, on top of a developing new relationship with a world-class manufacturing company in Germany, this new machinery will give the Edgewood saw mill some of the lowest log processing costs in the industry. With the mills restarting as early as November, this means the creation of 100 to 150 full-time jobs for the

Carrot River area.

Mr. Speaker, our government is ensuring that we are continuing to support a diversified economy and giving industries the best possible environment to operate and invest in. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a stark contrast to the dark days of the NDP [New Democratic Party]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Release of Information Concerning Worker

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, to have the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan order a leak of confidential information about a private citizen is unprecedented, and Saskatchewan people deserve answers because right now it looks like this Premier thinks that his office is above the law. When it comes to releasing private information, the courts have clearly required a thorough analysis and a proper weighing of the interests. But we know, Mr. Speaker, the Premier said that he learned of the suspension early last week, so it must be Monday morning, and we know that his chief of communications and operations leaked the information to the media on Monday morning. So clearly, Mr. Speaker, there was a very quick turnaround.

My question to the Premier: did he consult with the Minister of Justice before he personally directed this leak of confidential information about a private citizen? Yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, last week I think the member indicated that there may be a request for the Privacy Commissioner to look into the matter. We should allow the commissioner to do whatever work he deems necessary in this regard, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're prepared to do on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear. What we've said all along, including on the day that Mr. Bowden came with his concerns about care at Oliver Lodge, I gave I think on three occasions undertakings to make sure that health care workers knew that it was completely right and meet for them to come forward with any concerns that they would have about the health care system without any fear of any sort of implications from that or results that would flow from that.

Mr. Speaker, right after question period, I simply directed the officials to make sure that because we had given this serious undertaking, this promise in the House, to make sure that if there was to be a change in this gentleman's status, we needed to know about it to make sure that a promise was kept, not just in the interests of the gentleman but also of health care workers around the province, Mr. Speaker. That process happened. And Mr. Speaker, the government undertook its steps to make sure people did know that whatever was happening with respect to Mr. Bowden in the workplace had nothing to do with him coming forward.

Mr. Speaker, we've had countless inquiries to government.

We've had letters to the editor, people who will sign letters, health care workers who have raised concerns. Over eight years, there's never ever been a workplace implication.

The Leader of the Opposition doesn't believe us . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He doesn't believe the health region in this regard. Well he just said no, so he thinks that the government is lying in this case and that the health region is lying that there are other concerns that have been brought to bear with respect to this gentleman. And, Mr. Speaker, he said that from his chair. I'd ask him to please stand up and state the position. What does he believe, Mr. Speaker? Does he believe that the only reason this gentleman might be facing any workplace issues at all is because he came forward to the legislature that day? Is that his position? And if it is, why has he come to that conclusion?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can try to put lipstick on this pig all he wants, but Saskatchewan people know, Mr. Speaker, that the actions that they have seen are troubling and concerning. And now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about the Privacy Commissioner and due process. Well he only cares about due process, Mr. Speaker, now that it's in his interest, as opposed to Saskatchewan workers and the Saskatchewan public.

Mr. Speaker, I asked a very straightforward question to the Premier, but no clear answer, Mr. Speaker. So perhaps the Justice minister can shine some light on this for us. My question to the Justice minister: did the Premier or anyone in the Premier's office consult him or his officials before the Premier ordered the release of private, confidential information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — It's very interesting in the member's preamble that he invokes the cause of workers in the province, of health care workers in the province. Let me assure, Mr. Speaker, him and every member of the House that the welfare . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the former minister of Health is chirping from his seat, Mr. Speaker, the former member of Health who's got some knowledge about protecting workers in the workplace, Mr. Speaker. I would share that with the House.

Mr. Speaker, the number one priority for members on this side of the House is to ensure the welfare and the well-being of co-workers and patients, Mr. Speaker. In this case I ask the Leader of the Opposition again. He said in a tweet out last Thursday — they took it down right away — but he said in a tweet, his party said that it appears Bowden is suspended specifically for speaking out at seniors' care crisis. That's what he said in a tweet. His party officials did. That's what he has said subsequently.

This is very important. Is that his position? Is it his position that the only reason Mr. Bowden is facing what he is facing in terms of his workplace in Saskatoon because he came forward with concerns in the legislature? And if that is his position, he needs to explain how he has come to it and why, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it was a very clear question to the Justice minister following a response, not from the Premier, Mr. Speaker, about whether or not there was consultation with the Minister of Justice before the Premier personally decided to leak this information. This is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker, one that deserves much better answers than what we're hearing from the Premier. There needs to be, there needs to be thorough analysis and a proper weighing of the interests before, before private information is released. It is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker, for the Premier to rush ahead with leaking information simply because it's politically expedient for him.

So if there's no answer about whether or not the Premier consulted with the Justice minister, perhaps the Premier consulted with the Minister of Labour. My question is to the Minister of Labour: did the Premier or anyone in the Premier's office consult with him or his officials before the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan ordered the leak of confidential employment information about a care aid?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there was no leak. We need to state that for the record again . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well his considered response to that is, as if. Mr. Speaker, there was no leak. We have already indicated exactly how this information was sent on background to the media with one particular media outlet deciding to take the step from background to inclusion in the story. We've already canvassed that issue in the House and in the scrum.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the Act is clear. I invite the member again, has he read this Act, I would ask him? Has he read this particular Act? In it is not a prescription for a particular head of an area of government consulting with any other heads of government. If it's in their area and a decision's been made in the public interest, as was the case in this regard, the decision can be made, Mr. Speaker.

I hear the member from Athabasca saying, this is bad. This is bad and here's why. Here's why. The Leader of the Opposition . . . Here's why it's bad. The Leader of the Opposition has said publicly last week, both in scrums and in a tweet, that the only reason Mr. Bowden is facing any workplace issues at all is that he came forward in the legislature. I don't know how he knows this, Mr. Speaker, because I know that the health region and Oliver Lodge — I know this — they're acting on concerns and complaints that have been expressed by co-workers.

[14:00]

This is a serious matter, Mr. Speaker, one which you'd think the NDP would be a little bit more concerned about. They have acted . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well so he doesn't believe it. He's still heckling from his seat. Does he or does he not believe that the Saskatoon Health Region has acted in accordance as it should with policies, Mr. Speaker, in terms of this particular individual? Is it still his position that the only reason he's facing those consequences is that he came forward with concerns in the health care system? Yes or no?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the whole front bench can go on the offensive if they want, but a leak is the intentional disclosure of secret information. And that is exactly what this Premier admitted to directing himself, Mr. Speaker. That is very clear.

Mr. Speaker, due process should be followed. A care worker should not have their name sullied and dragged through the mud, Mr. Speaker, by the person who has the highest office in this province. What the Premier has done, Mr. Speaker, is hugely concerning.

Mr. Speaker, this care aid was the only health care worker to come to the Legislature to speak out publicly without, without having his identity protected. So it sure is strange now, Mr. Speaker, to have the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatoon Health Region monitoring the employment of only this care aid, and then for that CEO, for the health region to give a heads-up to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, this care aid is entitled to proper due process, and this Premier now has jeopardized all that and cast a pall over the eventual outcome because now it looks politically motivated.

My question to the Premier: how many other front-line health care workers are being tracked by the CEO, and how many other reports does the Premier's office receive about this?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Once again, Mr. Speaker, while the Leader of the Opposition was on his feet, his party tweeted what he was saying in the House. The party tweeted that Bowden is the only currently employed health care worker who has spoken out on seniors' care crisis. Mr. Speaker, we know the facts. We know the facts as even reported by the head of the Saskatoon Health Region. And here is his quote from a *Leader-Post* interview:

There are many examples in the past where our employees have written letters to the editor, signed the letters to the editor, [he's saying] issued complaints, been on talk shows, have been very vocal about the experiences that they've had [this is a quote], and they have never been sanctioned for doing such [Mr. Speaker].

And neither will they, Mr. Speaker. Neither will people coming forward be sanctioned for expressing concerns in the workplace.

Well, again, the NDP are heckling. They have decided this case. They have completely decided the case. They said so in a tweet last week. He said so in scrums, the Leader of the Opposition whose track record with the facts has not been that good this particular spring session. He is saying unequivocally that the only reason Mr. Bowden is facing what he's facing in the workplace, suspended with pay by Oliver Lodge, the only reason that he is facing this is because he came forward.

Mr. Speaker, he should state that clearly for the record because all of the information at one point or another is going to come forward, and I think when it does people are going to find out that the health region and Oliver Lodge are acting in the interests of co-workers and patients, and that's how it should be in Saskatchewan.



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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, when this Premier intentionally leaked the information of this individual to the media, that Premier acted as judge and jury, Mr. Speaker, and tainted this whole process. That is very clear, Mr. Speaker.

There needs to be due process. Due process is not being notified on Monday morning, Mr. Speaker, that someone's been suspended and then that same morning having an email going out to media, Mr. Speaker, through back channels. That is not due process, and Saskatchewan people deserve much better than what they have seen from this Premier, Mr. Speaker. This Premier has a very skewed sense of what is in the public interest.

The member, Mr. Speaker, from is it Moose Jaw is heckling about this because that's how seriously they take privacy of Saskatchewan health care workers, Mr. Speaker. It's the sentiment that we see from all of the members on that side, Mr. Speaker, and it is worrisome, absolutely.

The Premier has a very skewed sense about what is in the public interest. Remember this is the same Premier that refuses to release any information about the \$1.5 billion of school needs here in Saskatchewan. He claims that, Mr. Speaker, is a cabinet secret that the public shouldn't know about that. Meanwhile he personally directs and approves and wants the release of private information about an individual. What a contrast, Mr. Speaker.

How can the Premier justify leaking information about a private individual while at the same time, Mr. Speaker, he is refusing to release information about the true state of our kids' schools? How does that make any sense?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, in the member's very excited preamble, he makes a reference to judge and jury. I'm going to remind him because it was a while ago, it was last Thursday, I'm going to remind him of what he was saying in this House and what his staff were tweeting out. In terms of the question of judge and jury, here's what the NDP said on this case and I quote, "... NDP has seen file & is satisfied it appears Bowden is suspended specifically for speaking out about seniors' care crisis."

There's your judge and jury, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that the health region has said it has nothing to do with the suspension, notwithstanding the fact that Oliver Lodge took action not to do at all with his coming forward to the House, and frankly, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the word that I have given and the word that the Minister of Health has given that there is no connection between what's happened to Mr. Bowden in the workplace and him coming forward from the Assembly.

So once again I encourage the member, if he's going to make accusations about people jumping to conclusions, he ought to reconsider what he's saying and what's he's tweeting. And for the record, he might want to stand in his place and let the members know that he still believes what he believed on Thursday, which is Mr. Bowden has been suspended because he raised seniors' care concerns in the legislature. Is that his

position? Because we'll find out one day soon — I expect, I hope — we'll find out one day if it's true or not. So my question to him is, is that what he believes? Yes or no?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I've been clear all along. This stinks. The Premier's actions have been appalling, Mr. Speaker, and there has been no due process for this care aid, Mr. Speaker, who has come forward. That has been crystal clear, Mr. Speaker. And the responses we have from the Premier today are appalling to our democracy and appalling to the individuals, Mr. Speaker, who are coming forward and wanting the truth, Mr. Speaker, and who deserve due process.

This government, Mr. Speaker, only shares, they only share information when it is politically expedient. The Premier refuses to release any information about the \$1.5 billion of school repairs needed here in the province. That's a big secret; won't share any information about that.

In just the last year, Mr. Speaker, this government has broken the law 23 times, 23 times, Mr. Speaker, by refusing to release information from the Ministry of Health as required by legislation. This government, Mr. Speaker, has refused to answer almost 70 per cent . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the member from Arm River-Watrous, Mr. Speaker, is worked up. He should tell his government, Mr. Speaker, that they should follow the law when it comes to freedom of information. That's what he should be doing. Mr. Speaker, they haven't responded to about 70 per cent of the written questions, Mr. Speaker. They have no interest in releasing information when it can be politically damaging to them. It's a big joke, and we see it in their laughs on the front bench.

But in this case, the Premier rushed — he couldn't do it fast enough, Mr. Speaker — to release private information about an individual. And according to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, by his own words, it was to get him out of a conundrum and to save his own reputation. My question to the Premier: will he stand in the Assembly today and simply admit that it was a mistake, it was a mistake to direct the release, to leak this confidential, private information about a health employee here in Saskatchewan? Will he do that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting question that the member opposite places. He says that we've broken the law 23 times. I'd like to know the instance where we're alleged to have broken the law. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to FOIP [freedom of information and protection of privacy], when it comes to freedom of information requests, we granted access 94 per cent of the time. Ninety-five per cent of the requests received are responded to within a 60-day period, Mr. Speaker. That's on par with any other jurisdiction in Western Canada. But I ask the question again: I'd like to know what incidents he's referring to, Mr. Speaker, in terms of breaking the law.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, they have not been following the

legislation when it comes to freedom of information requests, Mr. Speaker, and the cases are well documented.

But I'm pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the Justice minister is now on his feet. My question to the Justice minister, Mr. Speaker: on Monday when the Premier found out that this individual had been suspended, did the Premier speak with the Justice minister or any of his officials and get an opinion about whether or not it was appropriate and legal to leak the confidential employment information of an individual? Did the Premier consult with him?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should consult with his Justice critic. He knows, he knows that any advice that's provided by the Ministry of Justice to any member of executive government is covered by solicitor-client privilege, Mr. Speaker. We stand on that.

As far as the investigation is concerned, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has indicated, Mr. Speaker, that to the extent that there's been a complaint made to the Information and Privacy Commissioner, that we let that process follow its normal course, Mr. Speaker. We've always indicated that we will support the independent review by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Speaker, and we await the results of that investigation and any recommendations that come from it.

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

### Workplace Fatalities

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board reported 39 workplace fatalities last year, and the leading cause of death for workers was traumatic injury. This is devastating, and it needs to stop. To the Labour minister: what specific changes will this government make as a result of these 39 deaths?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for his question. Even one injury in the workplace is one too many. Tomorrow we will be reading out the names of the workers that were killed in our province, and it's something that this government, and I'm sure all members, take seriously. On behalf of the government, I'd like to offer our sincere condolences to all of the families that are affected by that.

Mr. Speaker, I can say this: that the work that the ministry is doing by way of targeted interventions is showing signs of significant progress. At 2.41 per cent, the workplace time-loss injury rate is actually a substantial drop of about 51 per cent lower than it was from 2002.

Mr. Speaker, we are making progress. Not fast enough, but we are making progress and we are making changes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, we learned in March that this

government has slashed the number of occupational health and safety inspections by nearly 70 per cent since 2012. In 2012 there were 385 OHS [occupational health and safety] inspections every month. But this government cut that to 120 inspections per month and 39 workers died last year. That's one workplace death every one and a half weeks, and the leading cause of death is traumatic injury.

This government needs to significantly ramp up its inspections and enforcement. Does the Labour minister recognize that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we reached an injury rate high of 4.95 per cent under the NDP in the year 2002. The rate has continued to drop since then and is dropping now at a faster rate than it has before.

Mr. Speaker, 86 per cent of the businesses in our province, 86 per cent of the workplaces have reached the Mission: Zero target. Unfortunately there are approximately 14 per cent of them who have not yet done that. Mr. Speaker, I have a quote from a College of Law event dated March 2, 2013:

I agree totally with the minister in terms of occupational health and safety. It's one thing that we just should really do as much as we can. It is one that, as a government, we too struggled with and we hoped we could do much more. So I believe we should talk about it, and specifically it's really something we can get behind.

Mr. Speaker, that's a quote from the member opposite. We want to continue to target the workplaces that have the highest injury rate. We want to work with those workplaces to try and drive the injury rate down. One is one too many, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Sale of Forest Centre

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the ministry, the Minister of Social Services tell us why the Sask Party government is selling the forest centre in Prince Albert?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I think that the member opposite has the wrong minister because I don't believe Social Services has that centre.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Central Services.

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

**Hon. Ms. Campeau:** — I don't have the information on hand for that, but I can take notice and definitely get the information to you.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, maybe this will ring a bell. The

forest centre cost the government \$12.7 million 10 years ago, and that's almost \$15.1 million with inflation. But this government is selling it for just \$12 million.

The real estate ad for the forest centre says, this is a great investment opportunity because the building is "like new" and because it provides "cash flow security, 97 per cent leased to a diverse mix of high-quality covenant tenants." So again to the minister: why is the Sask Party government selling off the forest centre?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Sorry, Mr. Speaker, it took me a minute, it actually took me two minutes to get to my feet. There was two other ministers answering for a file that is under CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. That building is under Crown Investments Corp, Mr. Speaker. And it was decided by this government and through CIC that we would put that facility on the market because really, Mr. Speaker, it was built a number of years ago as a forest centre for research and all of that.

That building certainly has not been utilized for that. It is a building that really houses a number of different businesses, Mr. Speaker, from law firms to some government ministries, but certainly never the intent of that building . . . never has followed through with what the intent of that building was under the NDP, Mr. Speaker. That's why this building has been put up for sale in Prince Albert through an RFP [request for proposal], Mr. Speaker, through real estate. And we'll certainly see what comes of that sale.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, almost 60 per cent of the forest centre is currently occupied by government. To the minister: how much will the government be paying in rent after it sells off this valuable asset?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I remember being in the House and the discussion around when that facility was being built, and it was all sold to the general public. And through this House, absolutely I remember being in opposition through those days that it was going to be a centre of research, a centre of excellence for the forest industry, Mr. Speaker, for northern Saskatchewan.

We certainly questioned that at the time, whether that was really the issue, Mr. Speaker. Or was there more around the politics of the time, Mr. Speaker, with the two former members from Prince Albert putting this facility forward because they were trying to sell it as a centre for forest research, Mr. Speaker, when we really knew it would never be used for that. That is very evident since the inception of that building. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we know that under the NDP, as far as their forest research went, what it was was mill after mill after mill closing

in this province. That was the NDP's forest research.

Mr. Speaker, we know that building is not utilized for the intentional purposes. It is simply an office building that houses a number of different businesses throughout the province and throughout the North, Mr. Speaker. That's why through SOCO [Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation] and CIC, we've decided to put that on the auction mart . . . [inaudible].

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

### Government Donation to Disaster Relief for Nepal

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people across the province and around the world are familiar with the devastating effects of the earthquake that struck the people in the nation of Nepal this past Saturday. The reports coming out of Kathmandu are chilling, with more than 3,000 confirmed dead and many more injured. The true extent of this tragedy will likely not be known for many days yet, Mr. Speaker.

The earthquake was the worst to hit the nation in more than 80 years. It was strong enough to be felt across parts of India, Bangladesh, Tibet, and Pakistan. There have been nearly 100 earthquakes and aftershocks, which is making rescue work difficult. Thousands of homes and businesses have been demolished, and survivors are desperate for food, water, and shelter. Many small, isolated communities, in addition to the destruction in larger centres, have been destroyed. In some villages over 70 per cent of the homes have been levelled and some 100,000 people are currently homeless. Some of these remote areas are a three days walk from the main disaster centre located in Gorkha which emphasizes the urgency of any rescue effort.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we announced that the Government of Saskatchewan will donate \$250,000 to the disaster relief effort in Nepal. The money will go to the Red Cross, an organization that provides invaluable service and help when natural disasters strike. Currently aid is coming from more than 16 countries and many charities, but Nepal's chief secretary and rescue coordinator says the people of Nepal need more. We're also pleased to hear that the Canadian government is sending a disaster aid team and contributing \$5 million to relief efforts.

The people of Saskatchewan realize how important it is to lend a helping hand when people are in need, and that's why the province has contributed more than \$1 million in disaster aid relief to the Red Cross around the world since 2010. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of the House to join me in conveying our prayers and support to the people of Nepal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in expressing the sadness and condolences from the official opposition on this very sad news. And, Mr. Speaker, as we watch on TV the devastating scenes of rubble and people

being trapped and injured and sadly, Mr. Speaker, many deaths, our hearts and our prayers certainly go out to the people of Nepal and the region as there's so much calamity and sadness and devastation right now, Mr. Speaker. And whatever we can do as Saskatchewan people to play a role in working with the federal government and international partners to lend a helping hand and to provide some resources, Mr. Speaker, is certainly a good thing to do and we're supportive of that.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to give special words and thoughts to those in Saskatchewan with ties to the region, with loved ones who they may not know about their current safety and well-being, Mr. Speaker. We are thinking of them as well and want them to know that they have the support of the Saskatchewan people. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would thank the minister for his remarks.

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[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 178 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 178, *An Act to amend The Income Tax Act, 2000 and to make a consequential amendment to The Graduate Retention Program Act*. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation relates to a phrase that the Finance minister used in his budget speech where he said that certain programs "are being changed to ensure their ongoing sustainability." Mr. Speaker, I think that's euphemistic language for telling certain groups who have been expecting certain programs to be beneficial for them, it's telling them that we're going to cut them; we're going to end or we're going to change them in a way that makes it difficult.

And so, Mr. Speaker, this bill is dealing with the active families benefit, the graduate retention program, seniors' drug plans, Saskatchewan employment supplement, and the research and development tax credit program. Now not all of them need very specific information in this bill, but clearly the graduate retention changes, graduate retention program changes do need some very specific language. And so, Mr. Speaker, when this government came into power, they changed the previous system that was set up and that people had been making plans around to use financial assistance that would come each year as they were part of their education to a system that gave them funds after they had graduated, and hence the name the graduate retention program. And the retention part is the incentive to stay and be a taxpayer in Saskatchewan. And that's, you know, clear what that intention was.

But now what we have is a change such that the amount of money which students were going to receive has been set into a

program that only goes to those people who are going to be able to set it off against the tax that they receive. Now that's not necessarily a bad program provided that you reviewed how it affects the students of the province in general. And one of difficulties for many young people is that they will graduate from university and then try to sort out which kind of professional program they're going to look at, which kind of graduate program they're going to look at, and what other kinds of things they might do.

And this particular program was set up in a way that those people who have now figured out how it works over the last two or three years are able to get a cash injection of \$2,000. They got that in 2012. They got that in 2013. They'll get it based in 2014 on their tax returns. So people will get it now this spring. And that amount of money came whether they had a very high-paying job or whether they were studying in grad school and not having any income at all.

What will happen next spring is that when people are preparing their tax returns, they will only be able to have some of this money returned to them if they have sufficient income that they are paying Saskatchewan tax. And that ends up then being quite a challenge for many young workers or especially people who are continuing their studies. Now to deal with that, the legislation that we have in front of us today actually extends the time in which these tax credits can be claimed for a longer period of time. But I think that what it really does is it defers a lot of the payments, and the people who have paid for their university may not see the funds for quite a number of years. Some of them may never actually be able to recoup that because they won't be in a position to have sufficient taxable income within 10 years of their graduation date.

And so that change has some problems to it, and I think that there is actually time for the Ministry of Finance to fine-tune this before next year's tax returns are filed, and maybe we will see some suggestion in the fall that provides further work on this particular part of the bill.

Now this bill also includes a number of requests from the federal government to change our legislation in Saskatchewan to comply with the relatively standard format used by Canada Revenue Agency to collect taxes on behalf of nine provinces and three territories. As we know, I think Quebec has their own revenue collection system. And some of the changes are I think fairly straightforward, although they are clearly meant to make it easier to collect amounts owing.

One of the changes that is a bit interesting, and I'm not totally certain when I read this whether we completely understand what is happening, and that would be, in the bill it would be changes to section 1, which are in section 4 of the bill. And that relates to charitable and other gifts credits. And basically what's happening here is that it's kind of a technical change, but it effectively makes sure that the qualified donees are under the list that is set by the federal government, and it includes the rules of conduct for all charitable organizations.

[14:30]

Now anybody who's followed federal politics knows that this is an area where there have been some very difficult discussions

on a federal level, and it's not clear from this legislation whether we're being pulled into that debate or whether it's a fairly simple kind of an issue. And I don't know, from looking at the legislation itself, whether there are some problems here that we need to worry about. So I think that this is probably an area where, when the matter is in committee, we'll want to have a fuller explanation from the Finance officials exactly what is intended here because some of the difficulties that have arisen on the federal level have some I think major concerns for all of us in Saskatchewan.

Now other changes that are in the legislation do relate to some fairly straightforward things, although anybody who looks at legislation will be surprised, maybe amused, by sections like section 13 which is a new section 63.3. And it deals with the whole concept of non-refundable research and development tax credits, and then goes through and sets out in great detail all kinds of acronyms that are I think maybe the joy of certain tax accountants or tax drafters but from a legislative purpose they set up quite complicated formulas.

So in section 63.3(4), it sets out in detail that:

The research and development tax credit of a corporation for a taxation year is the positive amount, RDTC, if any, calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{RDTC} = (\text{RD} + \text{RDPY} + \text{OA} + \text{OAPY} + \text{RB}) [\text{the total of that}] - \text{PD}$$

And then it goes through and defines all of these terms and then it spends a couple of pages trying to explain exactly what this is going to do for this research tax credit.

What we know from the public is that the research and development tax credit is being reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

Now what we know on a national level and on a provincial level that the research, the amounts of money that have been allocated for research, have been substantially reduced and that this is another area where it seemed to be prudent to cut back on a tax expenditure in an area where research is concerned. And we think it's the kind of thing that we should watch very carefully because it does affect the long-term health of our economy when we don't have the research work being done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other areas that this bill deals with are I think fairly straightforward, but they do reflect a budget speech where there's cuts been made and the choices of these particular areas to make cuts still need full explanation. But, Mr. Speaker, I know some of my other colleagues will want to speak about this bill as well and at this point I will move that we adjourn debate.

**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 both 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, except for the member for Carrot River Valley who wants to stay.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:34.]



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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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