



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

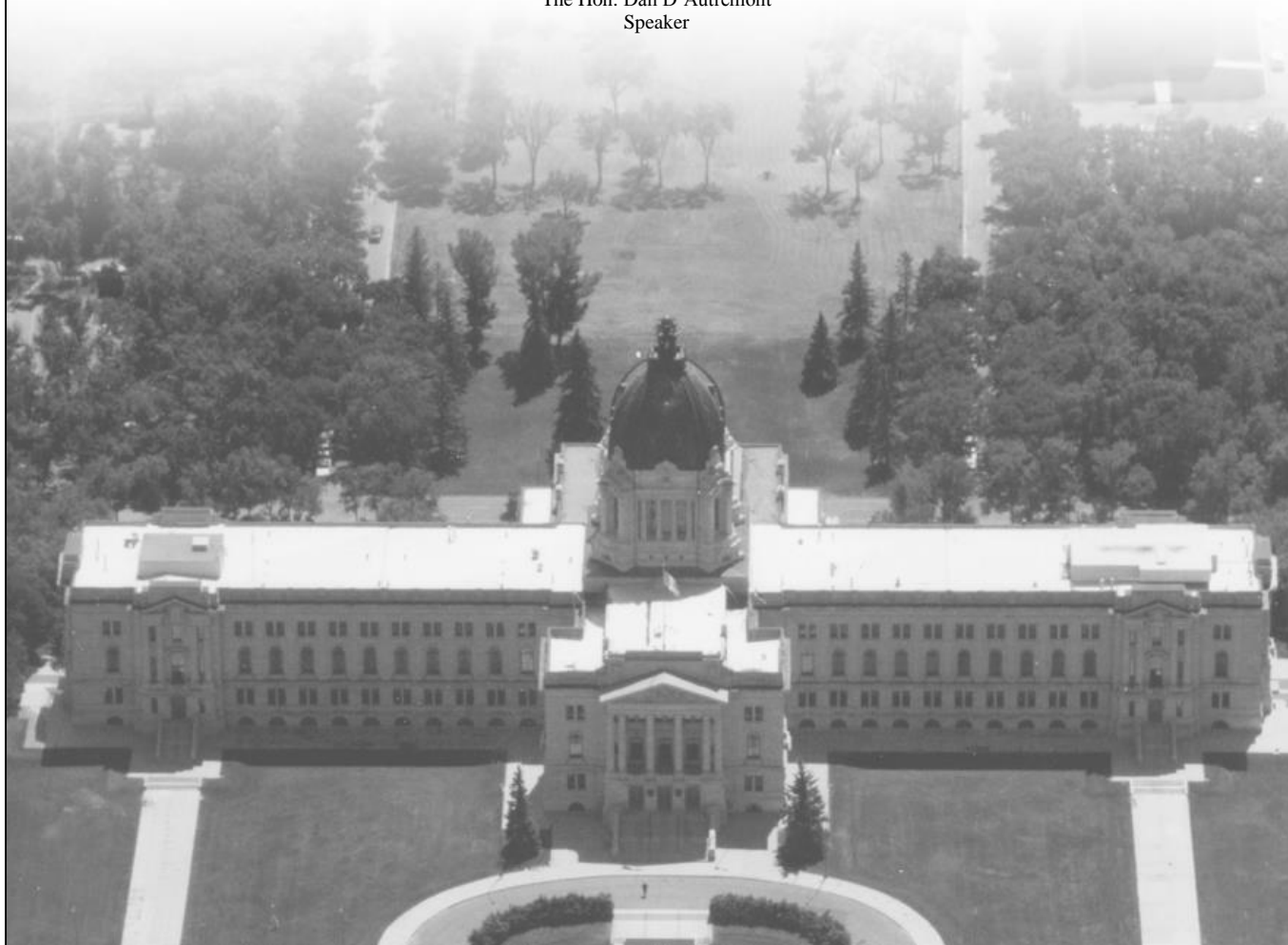
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back. It's good to have you here.

Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to members of the House, I have a couple of guests I wish to introduce, seated in your gallery. The first is Hugh Nerlien. Hugh was born and raised in an entrepreneurial family in agriculture as well in the Greenwater Lake area within the Kelvington-Wadena constituency. Mr. Speaker, after college, he pursued a successful career in banking and in finance and developed a good network actually in the province of Alberta before returning home.

He saw opportunity here, I think it's fair to say, in the new Saskatchewan and came home to buy and build a successful retail group of businesses in Porcupine Plain, Mr. Speaker. With his contacts in Alberta, perhaps his phone's been ringing after the events of yesterday about others in his network that are looking to follow him and pursue these opportunities. He has extensive volunteer experience, and I want to report to the House proudly that he will be the Saskatchewan Party candidate in the next election in Kelvington-Wadena. So I would just ask members to welcome him to the Legislative Assembly today.

Beside him in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, from Canora, is the co-owner of Dennis' Foods in Canora. They're very famous for shishliki, very, very excellent shishliki called Terry's shishliki, Mr. Speaker, which is fitting because I'm introducing to you and through you, Terry Dennis. It is sold, his product sold in the province between 35 to 40 stores thankfully so we can all have access to it. He was born in Canora. He's lived in Canora all of his life. He was a town councillor for six years, the mayor — and an excellent mayor — there for 14 years. He has been a member of the SaskTel board as well, Mr. Speaker, and served on the Parkland College president's advisory board amongst many other endeavours. And we're very pleased that he'll be carrying the standard for the Saskatchewan Party in Canora-Pelly in the next election. I'd ask all members to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce two individuals seated in your gallery: my nephew, Robert Morgan, and his girlfriend, Ashley Ford. Ashley comes from Scottsdale. I think it's part of a pattern that's developed in Saskatchewan that people become romantically involved with Americans. I see the Minister of Central Services has a similar arrangement going on. And while we support good relations with our American neighbours to the south, I point out always that there are fine people in Saskatchewan as well. And I would like to welcome them to the legislature today and ask all

members to join me in welcoming them.

Also, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I see that Jesse Todd is in the gallery, who is on the advisory committee for asbestos, a committee that's doing good work. A rollout of the asbestos registry took place a few days ago, and I want to thank him for his continuing good work on that committee. And, Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, he is a candidate for another party in an upcoming election. I don't wish him quite as much success in that endeavour, but I certainly want to thank him for what he's done on the asbestos committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too would like to welcome and introduce through you to all members, Jesse Todd who is here with us in the Assembly today, a tireless advocate for occupational health and safety issues here in the province and ensuring that Saskatchewan does well. And I'm very pleased that he is our candidate in the upcoming election in Saskatoon Eastview. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Jesse to the Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, I would like to introduce 15 grade 4 students from Beardy's Okemasis Reserve from the Chief Beardy Memorial School. Yes, give us a wave, kids. There you are. Accompanying them is their teacher, Mrs. Beatrice Cameron, and Mrs. Laverne Gamble, Mr. George Gamble, and Mr. Cameron Dreaver. The chaperone is Mrs. Betsy Gamble; bus driver, Ms. Ashley Eyahpaize. So I would like all members of the House to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and through you and to you, I would like to introduce a number of individuals in your gallery that are here today as part of the Saskatchewan Book Awards. You know, the awards were held a couple weeks ago and there were a number of amazing artists and writers that were nominated. Today in the gallery we have three of the winners of the Book Awards. I see all three of them are here. We just had some readings in the Legislative Library over the noon hour, and it was very interesting to actually hear excerpts from their books and some of their thoughts.

Anyways, we have Ken Dalgarno — thank you, Ken — we have Ernie Louttit from Saskatoon and Bruce Rice, all of whom won awards this year. We also have some of the Legislative Library staff, and we see Daniel Parr here as well who's with the Book Awards. So through you and on behalf of the official opposition, we want to welcome them all to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through

you, I'd like to join the member from Saskatoon Nutana in welcoming Ken and Bruce and Ernie, as well as Daniel, as well as those working in the Legislative Library.

We know that these Saskatchewan authors have been undertaking readings from their award-winning books this morning. They're also terrific proponents of literacy, learning, and libraries. And so I would ask all members to join me and the member from Nutana in welcoming these terrific Saskatchewan authors to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I have a few guests I'd like to introduce. First of all seated in your gallery, I'd like to recognize the organizers of the Twelfth Year, Mr. Speaker, a very special youth salute that celebrates and recognizes students and graduates from across Regina. The event was held on last Friday. It was spectacular. The member from Walsh Acres attended as well. And they just really put their passion and talents into really good use in recognizing very important success across our city. So I ask all members to recognize Ms. Andrea Norberg and Ms. Erin Ball, two very fine photographers here in Regina.

And there's a couple of other people I'd like to recognize as well. I see a friend, Mr. Keith Foster who's joined us here today, someone who is no stranger to this Assembly, who worked in Hansard for over 27 years. He's a writer. He's had some success writing one-act plays; he recently has one that's being produced right now. He's a historian. He's been published in *Canada's History* writing about the Northwest Resistance, and I know he has an upcoming contribution on that front as well. And he's a regular in involving himself in Regina's arts scene and so many activities that are important to our community. So I ask all members to recognize Mr. Keith Foster to his Assembly.

And while still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, in the east gallery, I'd like to recognize Ms. Maureen Eckstein, someone who's very active within our community, supporting many great causes, Mr. Speaker, very active in civil society as well in the labour movement. And I ask all members to recognize Ms. Maureen Eckstein.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to join with the member opposite and welcome both Erin and Andrea to the Legislative Assembly, this being Women Entrepreneurs Week. These two women have developed a very successful business here in the city of Regina, so I'd like to welcome both of them to the Legislative Assembly. And I have to tell you, Andrea did our photographs for Let's Do Lunch for a minister and myself, and we really appreciate her fine work. So I'd like everyone here to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — I guess there's nobody else left. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Through you and to you to the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two guests today that are seated way up top in the west gallery. I'd like to introduce Linda Machniak. She's the executive director of our Battlefords Chamber of Commerce. She's a tireless worker for our chamber up there, and we appreciate everything she does. A couple of years ago, Linda was honoured by winning the Canadian Chamber of Commerce executive committee award as the Executive of the Year for the whole nation of Canada. We're very proud of her for that. She is also the proud mother of Vicki, who is a great Special Olympian swimmer, and she's won numerous medals throughout Saskatchewan over the last few years. And we're all very proud of Vicki as well.

With Linda today is Brendon Boothman, the president of our chamber. Brendon was just inducted last January, I believe, and we're looking forward certainly to working with Brendon. He's a very tireless worker for the chamber and a great addition to our business community in The Battlefords. Welcome to both of these members.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from The Battlefords in welcoming Linda and Brendon to the Assembly today, thank them for their leadership in the community, the work that they do, and their commitment to ensuring that the people in The Battlefords and area have the best opportunities possible. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming them here to the Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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 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, skyrocketing home ownership costs. And 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.

And it's signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a petition that relates to the PPP [public-private partnership] transparency and accountability that is required for the people of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately pass *The Public-Private Partnership Transparency and Accountability Act*.

The people that have signed this petition are from Saskatoon, Regina, and Maple Creek, Mr. Speaker. And I so present.

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 has closed Yarrow Youth Farm and they've created an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall, which is a secure-custody unit for youth considered a greater risk to the community. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared that he cannot 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. 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 as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

[13:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Emergency Preparedness Week

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize that our government has proclaimed this week, May 3rd to 9th, as Emergency Preparedness Week in Saskatchewan. This nationally recognized event is designed to raise awareness of the importance of preparing for an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan, as we all know, the weather can change in an instant. It's not uncommon for us to experience severe summer storms, blizzards, and flooding. One way that Saskatchewan families can prepare for these kinds of events is to develop an emergency plan. This plan should always include an emergency kit which can sustain a family for at least 72 hours. The emergency kit should include items for every member of your family such as water, first-aid kit, non-perishable food, flashlight, radio batteries, as well as any medications that might be needed.

Recently our government launched SaskAlert, Saskatchewan's province-wide emergency public alerting system. In the event of an emergency, alerts will be shared directly with residents through local television and radio, online at SaskAlert.ca, and on the Weather Network website and smart phone app.

This is just one more tool to help keep families safe during an emergency. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that all members of this House join me in recognizing Emergency Preparedness Week in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Twelfth Year Gallery Show

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the pleasure to attend and to speak to a packed house for the Twelfth Year Youth Salute Awards at the Artful Dodger, along with the member for Walsh Acres. These awards and this program has been taken on and embraced by two talented Regina photographers, Andrea Norberg and Erin Ball.

Twelfth Year brings together four outstanding leaders from each of Regina's 17 high schools. Each of these students had a professional portrait done by Erin and Andrea, and they really took the time to capture each student's unique passions and talents. From sports to music to fashion to science to business, these young students represent the best of what our city has to offer, and I know that we'll be hearing so much more from these student leaders in the years to come.

It was also great to see so many in our community come out to support these students. The strong support each student has received from parents, coaches, teachers, and friends has helped each one grow and excel.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Erin and Andrea for their hard work and talent in organizing this great event, and importantly in celebrating the remarkable achievements of students being recognized at the Twelfth Year celebration, young people that will certainly play no small role in shaping and building a bright future here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Remembering Justin Gaja, Kristian Skalicky,
and Carter Stevenson**

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've made quite a few member's statements over the years, but today is the hardest one I've ever made in this Chamber. Many times I have stood here and talked about our Carrot River Wildcats in a positive way. Today it is different. Today it is almost unspeakable and incomprehensible.

Last Sunday three boys from our team were returning from a football camp and, through no fault of theirs, were killed in a tragic car accident. Carter Stevenson, Kristian Skalicky, and Justin Gaja had their whole lives ahead of them. School, hockey, drama, and friends are now forever gone.

Mr. Speaker, this loss has shaken our tight-knit community of Carrot River and the Carrot River Junior-Senior High School to the core. As you can imagine, in a small rural setting where everyone knows everybody, this tragedy has touched so many lives. Our hearts especially go out to the parents of all the victims at this time of great loss. I would like to ask everyone in this Assembly to keep Carrot River and the families of these young boys in their thoughts, minds, and prayers at this time of incredible hurt.

Mr. Speaker, in time we will recover, but we will never forget. This fall when the Wildcats take to the field, I'm sure Carter, Kristian, and Justin will be watching and chanting, "Go, Cats, Go." I just wish they were on the field. Thank you.

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

The Fiddle History of Canada Performed in Carlyle

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of attending a very special performance at the Memorial Hall in Carlyle. Michele Amy's fiddle studio and the Cornerstone Theatre partnered together for a well-attended, four-day run of Gordon Stobbe's *The Fiddle History of Canada*. Combining fiddle music from the Irish, Scottish, Acadian, Cape Breton, and Métis traditions, this unique production celebrates the important place that fiddling holds in the Canadian story.

The story begins with the first French settlers who arrived in what is now Canadian shores and then chronicles our history through the traditional live music that has been at the centre of community gatherings ever since the fiddle arrived in this land. It features each part of the country and the many cultures that make us strong as well as the key contributors to the genre, people like Don Messer who was played by young Kieran Stewart from Oxbow.

The production required 360 costumes, 84 props, 54 fiddlers, 8 musicians in the pit band, 5 actors, and 9 backstage assistants — no small task in a place like Carlyle. The fiddlers came from all across southeastern Saskatchewan to participate, including Alameda, Arcola, Carnduff, Estevan, Corning, Stoughton, Forget, Oxbow, Lampman, Manor, and Redvers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone who played a part in making this production a reality, including Michele Amy, Doug Waldner, and Gordon Stobbe, and all the committed parents. With the hard work of volunteers and professionals like these, our province's proud fiddling tradition is sure to continue for many more years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Remembering Vinessa Currie-Foster

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great sadness that I stand here today and recognize a constituent of mine who passed away suddenly just last week, Vinessa Currie-Foster.

Vinessa was tragically killed in a car accident on her way to a paddling symposium from Paynton to Saskatoon. Remembered as a caring and compassionate business owner and mother, Vinessa leaves behind her husband, Les, four-year-old twin boys, and a seven-week-old daughter.

Vinessa was an avid canoer and owner of Clearwater Canoeing. With the dream of owning her own business coming true in the spring of 2007, Clearwater Canoeing caters to people of all backgrounds and gives them the opportunity to enjoy the amazing splendours and rich cultures of northern Saskatchewan.

As a graduate from Lakeland College's diploma program in adventure tourism and outdoor recreation, Vinessa's love of canoeing and Canadian wilderness truly did show in everything that she did. Her dream of sharing a piece of that lifestyle came true with every guided tour of a lake or river with Clearwater Canoeing.

Mr. Speaker, Vinessa's family has set up a GoFundMe campaign with almost \$25,000 raised up to this morning. It is clear to see that this wife, sister, daughter, mother, teacher, friend, and paddler will be greatly missed by so many. I would ask all members to join with me in supporting Vinessa's family in their time of loss and remembering such a vibrant young woman. Thank you.

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

Autism Services of Saskatoon Opens New Group Homes

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to celebrate the opening of two new group homes for people with autism in Saskatoon. At the grand opening when I talked to the families of the participants, they couldn't thank our government enough for our investment.

These two homes have officially opened their doors to help enrich the lives of 10 individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Mr. Speaker, our government is proud to have invested a total of \$1.4 million in Autism Services of Saskatoon through the Ministry of Social Services in support of these important projects. This funding will provide the organization with capital and operating funding for two new group homes,

and leadership enhancement to support their expansion. Mr. Speaker, this funding will support 10 individuals, including one individual from Valley View Centre.

Mr. Speaker, since 1979 Autism Services of Saskatoon have been providing educational, recreational, and residential programs and services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Mr. Speaker, thanks to community-based organizations like Autism Services of Saskatoon, our government's vision of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities is becoming a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Autism Services of Saskatoon on the opening of their two new group homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Ms. Ross: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to stand in the House today to speak about our government's announcement to proclaim March 3rd to 9th, 2015 as North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. This year's theme is Make Safety a Habit. North American occupational safety week, which is observed throughout North America, promotes health and safety in the workplace and at home.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Labour Relations and Workplace Safety and the Minister of Corrections and Policing and myself had the opportunity to attend Saskatchewan's Construction Safety Association's Evening of Honour Gala last Friday. This event celebrated 20 years of industry-driven commitment to safety and formally recognize some of the volunteer board members and past Chairs who have shaped the success of this association.

Mr. Speaker, our government is making the workplace safer through launching a new user-friendly and searchable web-based asbestos registry. This is part of our ongoing work regarding asbestos safety. Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada with an asbestos registry of public buildings. It's important workers know where asbestos is present and how to safely handle it so they can prevent exposure. Our government has established an asbestos advisory committee to provide input on asbestos-related health and safety issues.

Mr. Speaker, our government takes safety seriously, and we'll continue to work to ensure Saskatchewan workers have a safe workplace environment. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Expenditures Prior to and During Government Trade Missions

Mr. Broten: — When exactly did the Premier and his cabinet ministers start using travel scouts? On how many trips have they sent travel scouts? And what has been the cost to Saskatchewan families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the international missions of this government, the government has used those who would go in advance of the mission to organize meetings.

The hon. member is being criticized across the province for his line of questioning in this regard, most recently in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* editorial where they begin with, and I'm quoting now, Mr. Speaker, "Mr. Broten's attempts this week to label two staffers of the provincial Intergovernmental . . ." Well they don't want to hear this. ". . . two staffers of the provincial Intergovernmental Affairs officer as Mr. Wall's 'travel scouts' and liken the premier to discredited former Alberta leader Alison Redford seems petty politics at best."

We'll go through this editorial, Mr. Speaker, because they do a pretty good job of making the case against this line of questioning and against the Leader of the Opposition. But they conclude with this: "Advance planning for such missions is a standard practice for many governments, and Mr. Broten only discredits himself by continuing with this line of attack."

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier's been criticized across this province for his sense of self-entitlement very clearly on display with the travel scouts. Mr. Speaker, these travel scouts, they're not hammering out trade deals. They're checking out hotel rooms for the Premier. His rhetoric does not match the reality, and the government's very own documents show that to be the case.

They're touring five-star hotels and choosing which ones are the best. They're inspecting the Premier's room, demanding upgrades to fancier rooms. They're demanding that staff at the hotel be assigned 24-7 and available by cellphone. They're reviewing menus. They're inspecting vehicles, arranging motorcades, arranging for separate transportation so the Premier wouldn't have to travel with the whole delegation. They're looking for the best VIP [very important person] lounges, Mr. Speaker. They're asking for extra tickets to cocktail receptions.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, defies good Saskatchewan common sense, but it clearly shows a sense of entitlement that we see from this Premier, Mr. Speaker. How on earth can the Premier possibly justify this practice?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the same way the NDP government of Manitoba justifies this practice, the same way the Liberal government of Ontario . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member from Lakeview wants to chirp up. Maybe he'd want to check with Manitoba and find out their policy. Maybe they want to find out what they do in British Columbia and Alberta. But you know, as I think my colleague mentioned yesterday, all of these governments are wrong, and *The StarPhoenix* editorial board is wrong. And frankly, the public opinion is wrong. The Leader of the Opposition is right. That's his view. That's what he's presenting here today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the deputy minister of Intergovernmental Affairs came out and confirmed that these officials — one is an executive director of international relations, one is the assistant deputy minister — do plan for logistics on the trip, but they are meeting as an advance for the actual mission. Here are some of the people that they met with, and I invite the member to kind of pay attention and maybe reflect a little bit on the list.

On the India-Bangladesh mission: Reliance Energy, Mahindra & Mahindra, the Brita Group, the Confederation of Indian Industry — doesn't sound like hotels to me — Cameco's in-market representative, Canpotex's in-market representative. You see, because when we travel, we're trying to help secure uranium sales deals and potash sales deals for the province of Saskatchewan. When we travel, we're trying to invest in the interests of this economy.

And, Mr. Speaker, the results are in on that, by the way. Because of our resources and our companies, and yes, international engagement, trade is way up. This province is the number one exporter per capita in the country. We'll defend the trade missions, how we go about them, and the results now, in the months ahead, and in the next election, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier needs to look at the documents of his very own government. You look at the itineraries. When they do meet with a company, Mr. Speaker, the questions are, can the Premier bring his own photographer? Where should he be standing? Who's going to be sitting where? Can the officials sit around the edge of the room? Mr. Speaker, it's not hammering out trade deals. It's looking after basic logistics. You do not need highly paid travel scouts going a month in advance to do that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, in all the documents that we revealed so far, the travel scouts, the travel scouts asked two questions about the Premier's hotel rooms that are blacked out. Mr. Speaker, this government says that that information is personal, and they've redacted it. They've taken a Sharpie and taken it out.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's in the public interest to know what the travel scouts are demanding on behalf of the Premier. So to the Premier: what exactly are these travel scouts asking that he does not want Saskatchewan people to know?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there was no request on my part for that to be redacted. There's actually no request on my part from them to ask the question. But these senior officials . . . And truly, Mr. Speaker, let's pay some respect. This is an executive director of international affairs that was there when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in power, and it's an ADM [assistant deputy minister], Mr. Speaker, who are not as the member describes. But they know me. They've been at meetings with me, and so they asked a couple of questions based on that knowledge.

And here it is, Mr. Speaker. Here's the smoking gun. They're asking — I didn't ask them to, but because of a preference I have — if there's Coke Zero available in the hotel. And they also asked — they know I like history — they said, are there sort of any historical points, any sightseeing around? You know what, Mr. Speaker? That's how we roll, Mr. Speaker. That's how we roll. This entitled group, every now and then after a long day of trade mission, we'll pop the top on a Coke Zero and go around and read historical plaques, Mr. Speaker. That's what sometimes we do in the off-hours.

But during the meetings, during the mission itself, Mr. Speaker, the advance folks and us, we're meeting with the companies. We're meeting with those purchasers of potash and uranium. Mr. Speaker, we're furthering the interests of the Government of Saskatchewan and our economy, exactly as we're asked to do, exactly as *The StarPhoenix* expects us to do. And we're going to keep doing that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Unbelievable to hear what this Premier is saying. He said, oh these are very important individuals doing important government work. It's very necessary that they go in advance. And what he reveals is they're asking about how the mini-bar is stocked — Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable — and where they should go for a tour. He's undercutting his entire argument that this is important work, Mr. Speaker.

He's also undercutting his argument, Mr. Speaker, that he didn't know what they are . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Well in the few days that I was absent, I got a chance to listen to the proceedings in the House, and I could hear very well what the members were saying. But it seems once I'm here, I can't do that any longer. So I would like to be able to hear both the questions and the responses if possible because I don't want to have to apply the cure that my doctor recommended for me, and that was, go home and stay home. So please let's tone it down a little. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier just admitted that he is sending two highly paid travel scouts to go to the other side of the globe to ask about Coke Zero in his hotel rooms, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier: will he table the documents unredacted in this Assembly?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well he's jumped the shark now, Mr. Speaker. Him and Fonzie, they've got two things in common. They can't admit when they're wr-wr-wr-wrong, and they like to go shark jumping every now and then.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, the professional public servants, when they're on an advance mission that *The StarPhoenix* and others say is reasonable — and the NDP government does in Manitoba, by the way — they're meeting with groups like Zen-Noh and Mitsubishi and Sojitz and Mitsui and Hitachi, advancing the interests of the mission to make sure we can get

some results.

So while they're there, I guess they're asking some other questions about what might be complimentary and what might be free, but the advance to the mission, as *The StarPhoenix* points out, is important. Here's what *The StarPhoenix* editorial said today:

Surely, it makes ample sense [to everybody, by the way, but that member] to do as much advance preparation as necessary to ensure that trade missions to countries such as Japan, Singapore, the Philippines and India by the premier occur smoothly and efficiently, with little time wasted on the minutia during the actual trip.

It goes on and on. I'll get into it, Mr. Speaker, but this is why other provinces do it. We advance the mission. We achieve things in market. Uranium deals are signed. Potash deals are signed. Our exporters make sales of our pulse crops, Mr. Speaker. They want us to keep going. They like how we do international engagement. We're going to continue to do it, continue to grow this province in unprecedented ways, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, no response at all about whether or not he'll table the documents unredacted, first of all. You know, Alison Redford, Mr. Speaker, she had the same high-paid professional civil servants travelling the globe, asking the same nonsensical questions that we see by this Premier, Mr. Speaker. This is a bad practice in any jurisdiction by any political party, and that Premier needs to realize that, Mr. Speaker.

We know that this Premier, Mr. Speaker, personally directed the leak of confidential information about a private citizen. He's confessed and admitted to that. But on Monday the Premier claimed he didn't know what kind of information was actually shared until the end of the week. Well we know for a fact, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier was told as early as April 23rd that the leaked information was highly specific, so why does the Premier claim, why does he claim that it was not until late last week that he learned what he was saying was wrong?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because it's the truth. The editorial in *The StarPhoenix* goes on to say:

The costs Mr. Broten revealed [I'm quoting] for the advance planning of two Asia trips — \$23,494 for the Singapore, Japan, and Philippines mission and \$13,909 to plan for India — are by no means exorbitant.

And by the way, the number he talks about in terms of Alberta is 330,000 by a former political staffer. But again, he's busy shark jumping.

They go on to say:

And to make a huge deal, as Mr. Broten attempted to do, [attempted to do] about the officials asking whether a complimentary upgrade was available for the premier was

simply silly, [Mr. Speaker].

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, there's important trade work to do. You look at the itineraries of what was submitted by government. It was not about hammering out trade deals. It was about ensuring that this Premier and his delegation had the best luxury accommodations available, Mr. Speaker.

You know, in a media scrum on April 23rd, three days after he ordered the leak of confidential information, the Premier was told that there was specific information included in that leak. Now the Premier got angry. He got annoyed with reporters for asking questions. But you know, he said, he said that he was "comfortable," comfortable with the information that was shared.

But the Premier's story simply is not adding up. He admits that he ordered the leak. For almost two weeks he stubbornly defended it, said he was comfortable with what was disclosed. He repeatedly argued with reporters, with the opposition, and disputed claims that the information that was leaked was specific. But now he's trying to tell us that he didn't know it was specific until the end of last week. Well it is simply not credible. And he just said it Thursday, even though the evidence shows that he knew about it on Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Premier, does the Premier actually expect us to believe that he never spoke with his chief of communications and operations about the exact nature of the information that was leaked?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well the evidence is in, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to address what he said in his preamble again that these professional public servants were there doing only logistics. This is the companies they met with in advance of the trip in Asia. By the way, these missions achieve results for Saskatchewan people, unlike the trips that cost more, that cost more even without the advance people that the NDP used to engage in.

So let's review them again: K-COLA; Chugai Technologies; Mitsui again; Sojitz; Hitachi; Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in India; the Confederation of Indian Industry, again, that's their major chamber of commerce; Export Development Canada to help facilitate agreements that are being signed. That's why these officials are travelling.

And as *The StarPhoenix* concluded with their editorial, they say, "Advance planning for such missions is a standard practice for many governments, and Mr. Broten only discredits himself by continuing with this line of attack."

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

Release of Information Concerning Worker

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the question to the Premier was, how on earth does he think it is believable for Saskatchewan

people to take his claim that he only learned about the specific details of the leaked information on Thursday, when it is very clear that this was brought to his attention on Monday and Tuesday? How is it, Mr. Speaker, that we are to believe that he did not speak with his chief of communications and operations about the true and specific details of this leak?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because it's the truth, Mr. Speaker. That's why. Because it's the truth. The first email, which is the one that we were directed with respect to general information about Mr. Bowden, was the email that I was referring to in debate. I first heard of, had read to me, the second email with the specifics on Thursday. And so therefore that was my answer earlier this week, and I provided that answer, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well they're saying they don't believe it. I guess that's their prerogative. I'm telling them today, as we have endeavoured to do on this side of the House since 2007, is to always commit to the truth, to simply tell . . . Keep your promises and tell the truth. That's what happened in this regard. We're going to let the Privacy Commissioner do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's story is not adding up one bit. Last Monday in a scrum, a reporter told the Premier, "Four out of the six allegations we were provided details on, and then we were given two examples and they were specific examples." That's what the Premier was told on Monday. On Tuesday, the *Leader-Post* reported a second email, which contained specific allegations about a private citizen. Later that day, the Deputy Leader asked questions in the House, directly to the Premier, about the second email. This goes directly to the credibility of the Premier. How can the Premier possibly claim that he only learned about the second email on Thursday, when he was specifically told about it at the beginning of last week?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're aware that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is conducting a review of this particular matter, Mr. Speaker. This is a question of process, Mr. Speaker. We need to let the Information and Privacy Commissioner do his work, Mr. Speaker, and that's exactly what was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition earlier this week. We should let the Commissioner do his work, and we'll be informed by the results of that work, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, these stories that we're hearing from the Premier and from the Justice minister simply do not add up. The Premier said this week that he only learned about the specific information of the second email at the end of last week, Mr. Speaker. We know for a fact he was asked about it by a reporter on Monday. He scrummed on it, Mr. Speaker. We know on Tuesday the second email was reported publicly in the papers, and we know he was questioned about it in question period on Tuesday. So the Premier needs to answer this. How on earth is it believable in any way, shape, or form that he did

not know about the specific details and the information provided in the leaked information earlier on in the week, when it's very clear in the written record, in the press, in *Hansard*, that he clearly knew. He needs to stand up and answer this question.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what I can add to the answer that I previously gave, Mr. Speaker. There is due process which will be followed. The Information and Privacy Commissioner will continue with his work, and we'll be informed by that work, Mr. Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about due process, but yet when it comes to the work of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, he's not interested in due process, Mr. Speaker. Let's let the Information and Privacy Commissioner do his work. We will be informed by his work, Mr. Speaker and, as I mentioned before, that's . . . [inaudible] . . . the opposition asked for earlier in the week.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Privacy Commissioner will do his work. And what this Justice minister, this government needs to agree to do is hand over the findings of that review to out-of-province prosecution, Mr. Speaker. We can't have this government investigating itself. But we need to look at the Premier's story. We need to look, Mr. Speaker, how the Premier's story simply is not adding up, not adding up.

[14:15]

You know, on Tuesday in this House, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said this. So, Mr. Speaker, members should listen to this because it's very clear that the Premier was informed about the specific details. This is what the member said:

We've now learned through media reports that the Premier's chief of communications and operations actually sent several emails to reporters when she leaked confidential information about a care aid. And contrary to everything the Premier has said, those emails contain very specific information. In fact, the Premier leaked more specific information to reporters than the care aid had even received himself from the health region.

So, Mr. Speaker, that was on last Tuesday, but the Premier says he didn't find out about specific information until Thursday. It is not believable. It is not accurate what the Premier has been saying. So the only way for the Premier's story to be credible is if he doesn't listen during media scrums, if he doesn't listen here in the House, if he does not read the newspaper, and if he doesn't speak with his chief of communications and operations. Is that what this Premier is trying to claim?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the question that was just posed by the Leader of

the Opposition and, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly it sounds like he doesn't have any confidence in the Information and Privacy Commissioner to do his work.

Mr. Speaker, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of this Assembly, and we have great confidence in him to do his work, Mr. Speaker. We are not going to speculate on the results. We are not going to speculate on the work that he's doing or any recommendations or results that come out of that work, Mr. Speaker. We will wait for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to finish that work, a man who we have tremendous confidence in on this side of the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this simply isn't believable, what we're hearing from this government. While the Privacy Commissioner does an investigation, we have a concern right now, Mr. Speaker, because the Premier's story is not adding up one bit. He's giving contradictory information based on the facts that we know as publicly reported and as stated in this House.

The Premier claimed on Monday, Mr. Speaker, that he did not know about the specific nature and the content of the leaked information until the end of the week on Thursday. That's what he said, and that's what he's sticking to now. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that on Monday he was asked by the media on this. We know on Tuesday the second email was reported in the paper. And we also know in question period he was asked about the specific nature and the details of that email. And then he claims, Mr. Speaker, that he only found out about it at the end of the week.

He needs to explain, how is it, how is it that he can make that claim? It is not believable. It is not credible. This Premier needs to explain himself around this confidential leak of information.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to hear the Leader of the Opposition express some confidence in the Information and Privacy Commissioner. I'm not really sure why he won't let that Information and Privacy Commissioner do his work. These matters will all be dealt with through his report, and we'll be informed by the recommendations and the results of that work, Mr. Speaker.

We have great confidence in the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Speaker. He's an independent officer of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Well let's let him do his work. These matters will all be dealt with through the work that he's doing, Mr. Speaker, and we anxiously await for the results of all that work.

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

Responsibilities of Care Aids

Ms. Chartier: — This government is now requiring many care

aids to also do cooking and cleaning. And with this government's horribly low staffing levels, care aids don't have time for that. But instead of adding more staff, the government used a John Black lean team to bring some hoshin kanri to the whole process of cleaning residents' rooms and bathrooms.

For the care aids at Prairie Pioneers Lodge, this government created a John Black lean standard work process for cleaning. Care aids are given just six minutes and 42 seconds — 42 seconds, Mr. Speaker — to clean an entire room and bathroom. How many care facilities have this restriction on cleaning?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of the way that care is delivered in a number of our long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that care aids have been engaged in this work of cooking and cleaning in resident facilities long before John Black ever came to the health system, Mr. Speaker. In fact Tatagwa View in Weyburn, which was built under the NDP, has a model where the staff members within a pod also do cooking and cleaning for their residents. And in fact, part of what is allowed to do to, in part, engage the residents is actually have the residents involved in some of the cooking, Mr. Speaker.

This is a different model of care that is being implemented. It is in place in places like Sherbrooke in Saskatoon, and in other places across the facility, Mr. Speaker. This has already taken place under the NDP, and it continues today. And we're looking at other facilities that we may be able to implement this kind of system to provide for appropriate care for our residents.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The instructions from the John Black lean team say that the toilet should only be cleaned if it's visibly soiled. That is disgusting. These are care facilities. Proper germ and illness control requires proper cleaning, even if toilets are not visibly soiled. The same thing goes for floors, Mr. Speaker. Does the Health minister agree with the John Black lean team that toilets in care facilities and floors should only be cleaned if visibly soiled?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have the document that the member is reading off of, but what I will do, Mr. Speaker, is I will look for it, because the last time they quoted from a document that indicated that it was John Black dictating times in terms of when activities would need to be done within a certain time frame, Mr. Speaker, what we actually learned after the fact, it wasn't dictation being done by John Black and Associates. It was a couple of examples of actual real-time work that had been done in a facility, Mr. Speaker. So we'll make sure that we check the facts before we rely on the members opposite, as we've had to do from time to time in this House in this session and other sessions.

But, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in terms of having staff members, care aids, doing things like cooking and cleaning in

facilities, this isn't new to health care in Saskatchewan. This has nothing to do with John Black and Associates; in fact it's been done in this province in care facilities even under the NDP. Mr. Speaker, this is once again inaccurate information that's presented by the members opposite.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 179 — *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move Bill No. 179, *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved first reading of Bill No. 179, *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Next sitting of the House.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

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. 177, *The Insurance Act* with amendments.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendments 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. 177, *The Insurance Act* with amendments, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read the first

time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 177 — *The Insurance Act*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 177 — *The Insurance Act*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now 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. 177, *The Insurance Act* 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

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — Committee of Finance. I do now leave the Chair.

[15:00]

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

**General Revenue Fund
Executive Council
Vote 10**

Subvote (EX01)

The Chair: — I'll call the Committee of Finance to order. Order. It now being 3 o'clock, the Committee of Finance has been called to order. The business before the committee is the estimates of Executive Council, which is found on page 55, vote 10.

Before we get into the business of examining these estimates, I would just simply like to review for members and for voters, citizens that are watching. Committee of Finance operates differently than a standing committee. In Committee of Finance and Committee of the Whole, it's only the elected members that can speak and participate. Officials cannot provide answers. Elected members can ask officials for information, but only it's the elected members . . . Another difference that members will notice is that in this setting, when members are speaking, they stand rather than sit.

This is a system, I would just simply like to put out there for information, this is a system that was used up until our changes of standing committees took place I believe sometime after 2003 when we went to the standing committees. When this committee is sitting, it's the only committee that sits, unlike our practices with our standing committees where we can have two committees meeting at the same time.

So with those introductory remarks, I will just simply outline the process that will get us started. I will first call on the Premier to introduce his officials, and then I will call the subvote, and then I will ask the Premier to make his opening comments. So with that, Premier, would you introduce your officials.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I will. Thank you, Mr. Chair of Committees, for the explanation of the process here. It's an important part of the spring session when we have a considerable period of time, three hours or so, to focus on the broader issues of the day. And so I know I'll get to introductory remarks in a moment, and I'll get right to introductions.

On my left is the deputy minister for Executive Council, the senior public servant in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Doug Moen. To his left is Kent Campbell who's the deputy minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. James Saunders is just behind Kent. He's the associate deputy minister, cabinet planning. We have Bonita Cairns, executive director of corporate services. Immediately to James's right and beside Bonita we have Graham Stewart from House business, and Reg Downs from Executive Council. We look forward to what follows next.

The Chair: — Thank you, Premier. The business before this committee is Executive Council, vote 10, subvote (EX01), central management and services. Premier, you may proceed to your opening comments.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Chair of Committees, and members of the committee, the Committee of

the Whole. This is an important part of the life of the session, as I was beginning to allude to when I should have been introducing officials, for a number of reasons. I mean early on in the term of the government, you know, I think it's more of an accountability session, and should be, and it will be, I'm sure, tonight. I'm sure the Leader of the Opposition will hold the government accountable, hold me personally accountable as . . . in my role obviously.

But I think as we get closer to an election it also has the opportunity, should the Leader of the Opposition choose to, to be a bit of a showcase for what's coming up in the next election — basically a platform for both sides to maybe describe their vision of the province, things that they would like to see happen in Saskatchewan so that our economy can continue to grow, so that we might be able to enjoy a high quality of life. And I'm looking forward to that, Mr. Chair of Committees.

This will be the last estimates before the next election. And obviously there'll be debates in the intervening months and weeks, and there'll be a campaign, of course. And there'll be a debate in the campaign, but this would be a great place to start to have that particular debate of the competing visions and plans that we each have.

I think we both want the same thing for Saskatchewan. We want it to be successful. We want it to be able to provide the best quality of life possible for all of our residents. We want people to share in what has been a remarkable period of prosperity. I think we have different ideas though, at least I'm guessing we have different ideas as to how to achieve those goals. And I say I'm guessing because I really don't know what the ideas are from the member opposite, from the Leader of the Opposition. So I'm hopeful that he takes this opportunity to begin.

I know he's not going to release a platform now — nobody expects that — but at least to begin to provide some idea of his own plans, even as he holds the government accountable in estimates, in Premier's estimates.

So, Mr. Chair, we thank you in advance for presiding over this and for your patience with all members of the committee. I thank the Leader of the Opposition in advance for his questions. And sometimes it's the practice for the Leader of the Opposition to allow others to ask questions. Should he choose to do that, well I look forward to that exchange as well. And thank you for this opportunity to provide an introduction, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for your kickoff to this period of estimates that we have. And thank you for the Premier for his opening remarks, and I welcome the officials who aren't the normal occupants of these seats in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. But I do look forward to the next few hours that we have together as an opportunity, Mr. Chair, to discuss issues of accountability as the Premier alluded to in his remarks. And we look forward to having information in those areas, most certainly, and talking about areas that matter to Saskatchewan families and where we've seen misplaced priorities by this government in a very clear way.

I want to start, Mr. Speaker, around the issue of the privacy breach, and this is something we talked about in the question period just leading up to this period in time of estimates that we have together. Because the story that we've been getting and the facts that we've been getting from the Premier and from ministers and their officials who have been commenting, it's not a story that's been adding up and making sense.

We know, Mr. Speaker, in a media scrum on April 23rd, three days after the Premier ordered the leak of confidential information, the Premier was told that there was very specific information that was shared. When he was confronted with this, Mr. Chair, through a scrum, we know that he got angry about that. He denied that there was a problem with the leak and he actually said that he was comfortable, comfortable with the information that his office put out.

So my question to the Premier is, did the Premier not bother to follow up after that scrum on April 23rd when he was told that very specific details were leaked, or was he given the wrong information by his chief of communications and operations? Which one is it?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair of Committees. Well the question's been answered and it was answered when I made my statement. We're talking about two different emails: one that was sent generally to the press gallery that had the general information that I asked be distributed, and one that had specific information. That was the one sent only to one reporter that I referenced. I'm talking specifically about the email which I became aware of on Thursday. I said that because that's the case.

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

Mr. Broten: — So we know, Mr. Chair, last Monday in a scrum, a reporter told this to the Premier: "Four out of six of the allegations we were provided details on, and then we were given two examples, and they were specific examples." That's what the Premier was told on Monday. Then on Tuesday, the *Leader-Post* reported that that second email, which contained specific allegations about the private citizen . . . A day later, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked questions here in the Assembly about that second email. As to what was said:

We've now learned through media reports that the Premier's chief of communications and operations actually sent several emails to reporters when she leaked confidential information about a care aid. And contrary to everything the Premier has said, those emails contain very specific information. In fact, the Premier leaked more specific information to reporters than the care aid had even received himself from the health region.

So it was very clearly stated in the scrum on Monday, in the media on Tuesday, in question period on Tuesday, about very specific, detailed information, about additional emails that existed and that were sent. So my question to the Premier is this. Did he not bother to follow up after that scrum on Monday? The media reports, did he not follow up on those

media reports? And did he not follow up on the statements that were made here in the House? So did he just say that this is an issue and he asked no questions — there was nothing? I can't imagine that because it was a fairly significant matter that we discussed. Or was he given the wrong information by his chief of operations and communications?

It has to be one of those, Mr. Speaker. After it was raised on Monday through a scrum, after we discussed it in the Assembly, after it was reported in the news, either the Premier didn't bother to follow up on any of that information, which is pretty hard to believe, or he was provided the wrong information by his chief of operations and communications. Which one is it?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair, and we thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The answer's the same. I was aware of the first email that was sent out, which was of a general nature, to all of the media. Notwithstanding scrums that happened after that, that's the email I was aware of. I was not aware of the email that had specific information that went to one reporter. I simply was not aware of it until Thursday. I took the opportunity to communicate the same to this Legislative Assembly when asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Chairman, the member may not like the answer, but it's the truth.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well we know, Mr. Speaker, that there was specific information in that email, and the Premier was told this. We know in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that there was a discussion about subsequent emails. So is it the Premier's position that following question period on Tuesday when he was notified about other emails and very specific information, did he have any discussion about that email with his chief of communications and operations?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, on Thursday, that's when I had a discussion with this person in the Premier's office, in our office, about the particular email — Thursday. That's what I've stated several times before, and I said those things because it's the truth. And we're going to let the Privacy Commissioner do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Okay. Mr. Chair, the Premier's story does not add up on this in any way with the chronology of events, but let's go with what he's saying and say that he learned on Thursday, Mr. Speaker. What is it that he learned on Thursday from his chief of operations and communications?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — [Inaudible] . . . that question on the record. The member can check *Hansard*.

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

Mr. Broten: — Was he told about the very specific and detailed information that was provided by his chief of operations and communications to the media?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, I've already answered that question. The answer is, yes, I know what's in that . . . I became aware Thursday what was in that email in terms of specifics. The answer is yes. It's already been answered.

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

Mr. Broten: — Did he learn about what happened on Thursday by reading Tuesday's *Hansard*?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — [Inaudible] . . . Thursday because we had a discussion on Thursday.

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

Mr. Broten: — Let's look at some of the timeline here, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier's been claiming about how and what he knew, and when. Could the Premier please explain how exactly it is that he came to know about this care aid's suspension?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, it's interesting. We've had this debate, these questions asked in the House, throughout the last couple of weeks. There's been a complaint. There's been a review requested by the Privacy Commissioner. I've been informed that the review is under way. We're going to let that process work itself out.

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

Mr. Broten: — Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we haven't had answers from the Premier on this, Mr. Chair, that add up or make sense. And we see very clearly in the timeline of events the fact that on Monday, Mr. Chair, he was notified about detailed information in a scrum. On Tuesday, Mr. Chair, it was reported publicly in the media about subsequent emails. On Tuesday as well, in question period, details of those subsequent emails and the nature of them and some questions about them were presented here in the Assembly. But somehow this Premier would have us believe that he actually didn't know about those emails and the content of them until Thursday. It just doesn't make sense.

In order for the Premier's position here to make sense, we would have to believe that he wasn't listening in the scrum where it was talked about, that he wasn't listening or responding to questions here in the Assembly when it was brought out, that he did not read the paper on this issue, Mr. Speaker. We'd also have to believe that he doesn't speak regularly with his chief of communications and operations, which also is not believable, Mr. Chair. So my question to the Premier: does he absolutely maintain the position that it was not until Thursday of last week when he learned about the

subsequent emails?

[15:15]

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The answer is yes. We're going to allow the Privacy Commissioner to do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — So, Mr. Chair, how is it that the Premier in the first place became aware of the care aid suspension? We know that he asked for a heads-up. We know that there was some type of communication from the health region, perhaps from the CEO [chief executive officer], to the Premier. Could the Premier please explain to this committee how it is he was notified of the care aid's suspension? Saskatchewan people deserve to know.

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, he just asked that question. He just asked it a couple of questions ago. This is a matter of review by the Privacy Commissioner. I think he's more qualified than me or the member opposite to vet this particular issue, and we're going to allow him to do that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Premier has said that he personally made the decision in the direction to leak this confidential information to the media. My question to the Premier is, what were his exact instructions to the chief of operations and communications when he directed this confidential leak to take place?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, once again this has been asked in the media. It's a matter of public record. My response is, it's been asked in the House. Now we need to let the Privacy Commissioner do his work.

An Hon. Member: — Unbelievable.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well the Leader of the Opposition says it's unbelievable. Do you know why? Because he thinks he's the qualified officer to make all these decisions. He does. He thinks when it comes to travel advance, he thinks he's smarter than the NDP Premier of Manitoba, smarter than the Premier of Ontario, he's smarter than the Premier of BC [British Columbia], smarter than the Premier of Alberta, smarter than any of the officials who come forward, by the way, earnestly to answer questions, basically to have the Leader of the Opposition come and disparage their comments.

The fact of the matter is, I have faith in the Privacy Commissioner. I have more faith in the Privacy Commissioner to look at this particular review than I have . . . Especially given his track record this sitting of erroneous information before the House, I have greater faith in the Privacy Commissioner than I do in the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, members opposite, they don't have to like these questions, but Saskatchewan people deserve some clarity and deserve some transparency about the Premier's actions on this file. This is not a minor issue. For the Premier to intentionally order the leaking of confidential information, employment information about an individual, at his direction, to his chief of communications and operations, Mr. Speaker, this is a question about the fundamentals of our democracy. These are the questions about whether or not a government thinks that they are above the law, whether the rules don't apply to them, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Premier: he has said on numerous occasions that he personally ordered the leak of confidential information, that he gave the instruction to his chief of communications and operations. My question to the Premier: how was that instruction conveyed to his chief of communications and operations? Was it done through a face-to-face conversation? Was it done through a phone call? Was it done through email? Was it done through a text, or was it done through Skype, as the Premier is now joking, Mr. Speaker? Not a laughing matter.

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've been honest and straightforward with the answer to this question, maybe not in terms of the detail, the manner of the conveyance, but I certainly said to the members of the House and to members of the media . . . Because it is a serious situation. They asked serious questions and I gave them answers. The answers are on the record, Mr. Chair, and we really should allow the Privacy Commissioner to do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, it's disappointing that at a time when this is to provide accountability to Saskatchewan people, provide an opportunity for the Premier to clear up a very confusing story that does not add up in any way, shape, or form, that he would simply provide such evasive answers, I think is concerning on this front in a big way.

What is the job description of the chief of communications and operations?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I just checked with officials. They don't have the job description with them. Obviously we will get that to the member. We should be able to get it prior to estimates concluding today.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I look forward to that information being provided. You know, Mr. Chair, to have members opposite scoff at this issue that we've been talking about, to have laughter coming, to have the Minister of Crown Investments, Mr. Speaker, to be heckling across, really I think is a tell that this government does not appreciate in any way the severity of what has happened with this privacy breach. The

consequences of this breach as prescribed in the legislation, Mr. Speaker, include a financial penalty as well as jail time. This is not a minor thing. The consequences can be severe and significant. I know the Attorney General would understand that, I would hope, and communicate the importance of that to Mr. Wall, to the Premier. Excuse me.

Mr. Chair, in earlier interaction, I think it was in a question period not too long ago, the Premier said that his chief of communications and operations had been taken off of this file. My question to him: what exactly does that mean?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — With respect to media relations or any communications, she's simply not working on this file. That's what it means.

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

Mr. Broten: — Is the chief of communications and operations continuing to advise the Premier on this issue and provide briefings and information about the events that are taking place?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, who is it within the staff who's assumed this role of providing advice to the Premier on this issue?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, it's various people. Whoever in Executive Council that has monitored the scrums to report back what things the Leader of the Opposition has said about this or any other issue, generally that would be the person that provides a report back. Other than that, Mr. Chair, there's a process under way with the Privacy Commissioner. So frankly there's not a lot of discussion, and there ought not to be on our side of things, other than to get a report on what's being said by the Leader of the Opposition in the media, or perhaps what the media are reporting, which is provided by someone other than the chief of operations and communications.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Chair, it's been clear that the story that we've been getting from the Premier does not make sense. It does not add up. The events do not fit with the evidence that we see, that have been printed in the papers, that have been asked in scrums, that have been talked about here in the Assembly. So there are many unanswered questions and a real lack of transparency available today by the Premier on this issue in a big way.

My question to the Premier: with respect to the investigation that is ongoing by the Privacy Commissioner, has the Premier or his office turned over any documents or phone records or text messages, anything of that nature? Has there been information that has been requested and provided to the Privacy Commissioner?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, we're following the process as prescribed, and so therefore legal counsel within the Ministry of Justice has been liaising with the Privacy Commissioner and will provide any information that's required.

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

Mr. Broten: — Now the Premier doesn't need to say what is in that information, but has information been handed over by the Premier or his office or his officials to the Privacy Commissioner? Yes or no?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, we're fully co-operating throughout this process with the Privacy Commissioner through representation in Justice obviously, Mr. Chair, making the presentation and answering any questions that may come. That's what we'll continue to do.

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

Mr. Broten: — Has information — either written form, phone records, text messages — has information of any nature, doesn't need to say what type of information it is, but has any information been requested by the Privacy Commissioner and has it been handed over?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair. We're going to respond to the Privacy Commissioner in a manner as he has requested us to respond. And so when and if there is a request for any of that information, it'll be provided.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, big concerns about the lack of willingness here to provide information, to provide transparency, to explain a story that simply is not adding up. My question to the Premier is this: does he have any regrets about ordering the leak of this confidential information?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. In previous question periods, one question that was presented to the Premier but fielded by the Attorney General was whether or not — and this should be a no-brainer, it should be a base-level position that the government has — whether or not any findings from the Privacy Commissioner will absolutely be handed out of province for prosecution, Mr. Speaker? Will this government clearly, will the Premier clearly commit today that any findings from the Privacy Commissioner will be sent out of province for proper review? It is not appropriate to have this government investigate itself and to then deal with any sort of consequences.

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Chairman, we're not going to prejudice the findings of the Privacy Commissioner. It's been the case in our province that they're the ultimate level . . . The ultimate level in terms of the findings has not happened in the province of Saskatchewan, and we're just simply not going to prejudge what the Privacy Commissioner is going to do. This is highly speculative. Let's let the Privacy Commissioner do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Chair, the responses that we've had from the Premier, the lack of willingness of the Attorney General to make that commitment to send it out of province, it is concerning because the story doesn't add up. The facts that we know, publicly reported here in the House, out in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, do not back up the claims that the Premier is making. And to have the Premier today say, he has no regrets about ordering that leak, that is, well it's telling, but it's worrisome as well.

Talk about another topic now, Mr. Chair, because the answers certainly aren't coming from the Premier on the previous. Does the Premier believe that any student in a publicly funded school that wants to establish a GSA [gay-straight alliance] should be permitted to do so?

[15:30]

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, the answer is yes.

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

Mr. Broten: — It is an important issue because it really is about life or death for many students. In looking at the . . . Now I want to back up one second. Based on the information that the education . . . Well based on what the Premier said, Mr. Chair, is it his position then that students have a right to establish a GSA in any publicly funded school in Saskatchewan?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Asked and answered and the answer's the same. It's yes.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've obtained some internal documents from the Ministry of Education, and this is some of the internal information that the ministry has provided and I'm sure has been made available to the minister and to the Premier as well. Here is some of the information that is shared:

Sexual minority and gender-variant youth continue to experience discrimination, prejudice, and abuse within school systems that have the responsibility to provide for their care and education.

Another quote: "Over half of GLBQT students, 47 per cent of

gay males, and 73 per cent of lesbian females have thought about suicide.” That’s 47 per cent and 73 per cent. “Gay-straight alliances are identified as a critical change agent that can help to create safe, caring, and inclusive schools for gays, lesbian, bisexual, queer, and trans-identified students and their allies.” “Research indicates that schools with GSAs improve student achievement and educational experience.” “In many cases, the resistance to establishing a gay-straight alliance in a school stems from a series of common misconceptions.” “Gay-straight alliances are about safety and security for all Saskatchewan students.”

My question to the Premier: does the Premier dispute any of these quotes from his government’s own documents?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. The government’s internal briefing materials say that the Education ministry has “expectation that school divisions will respond positively to students’ requests to establish GSAs in schools.” My question to the Premier: does he share that expectation?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, the Education minister advises me that first of all, that is the policy of the government and of the ministry. We’ve actually gone looking, through the ministry, for any examples where a student may have been refused. There are none that we’re aware of, certainly, but it is a policy of the ministry and we’d expect it be followed by schools that benefit from public funding.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we’ve heard of some evidence right from the ministry, from the officials talking about the importance and the value of GSAs, talking about the high rates of suicide and suicide attempts of lesbian or gay or GLTBQ [gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, queer] students. We know it’s important. We know that that’s, the Premier has confirmed that any publicly funded school should be, students should have the right to establish a GSA, that it’s an expectation. This is something that the Premier has agreed, agreed to, as I understand it at least in his responses. He can clarify if that is not the case. My question to the Premier: why won’t the Premier just agree to enshrine in legislation the right of Saskatchewan students to establish GSAs?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, again we’re simply not aware of any place, any occasion, any school where this has been denied. And this should be an affirmation for all the publicly funded schools in the province. I think we should affirm them. It’s the policy of the government, pretty clear, and the government actually writes the cheques. The government, through the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance, supports these publicly funded schools, and so we have certain policies and

expectations that they’re to live by.

You can do it by policy. You can do it by legislation. The fact of the matter is, it’s the rule in Saskatchewan and we’ll make sure the rule is enforced. And again I want to repeat, this is . . . We’re not aware of any particular problems with this approach. If the opposition is, we would like to know about it and we’ll look into it further.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, does the Premier think that there should be any limits or conditions placed on the ability of students to establish a GSA in their school and, if he does believe there should be any limits on that, what are they?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, we want kids to be in class, obviously. So just in a general sense, this is the school boards’ decision and purview, but Education’s involved. We want kids to be getting their hours of instruction in the classroom. Other than that, what restrictions could there be? If they want to have, if a GSA is requested, it should be granted and it should be formed.

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

Mr. Broten: — So, Mr. Chair, if the evidence as prepared by the ministry clearly states that GSAs are of a huge benefit, if it’s the position that the Premier has stated that there should be no limits on students’ ability to organize a GSA, if that is the expectation of the ministry as well and of the Premier, as he stated, why not enshrine that right in legislation for Saskatchewan students so there’s no ambiguity, there are no question marks, and there are no barriers for students who want to establish a GSA under any circumstances?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, there is no ambiguity today, none whatsoever. If you wish to receive dollars from the Government of Saskatchewan, this is the policy that you will follow as a school in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — In the past when the Premier and I have discussed this issue or it’s been brought to his attention and he’s commented, he’s raised the concern about how the establishment of GSAs could infringe on religious freedoms. I think that was some of the initial responses that he provided. Does he think that the requirement to establish GSAs would infringe on religious freedoms?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Early on in the debate, Mr. Chair, we were canvassing the various issues around it, and obviously the central issue is the rights of those who wish to form a GSA and benefit from those GSAs. There is the question, as I’ve raised in the House, with respect to schools that are religious schools, Muslim or Christian, even the Catholic system. I can share with

members, and I think this is good news, the ministry and the minister have worked with the bishops. We have worked with the religious schools, so to speak, in the province, and they just simply have no problem with the policy.

This is a very good thing. It didn't need legislation to force it. The policy is being adhered to. It's being adhered to on a voluntary basis. And we thank those partners for ensuring that GSAs can be formed without any problem at all per the policy of the Government of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. So we have the government claiming that every student should have the ability to organize a GSA if they want. We have the Premier clearly stating that this is the expectation. We have the Premier stating that this does not infringe upon religious freedoms. He said that that was perhaps an initial concern that was flagged but he says that's not a concern now. So I can't understand, Mr. Speaker, why there would be a hesitancy by this government, if there's no problems with the requirement, if it's a priority, why this would not be enshrined in legislation.

Mr. Chair, as you would know, we've introduced legislation touching on a number of issues around human rights for students, including the right of students to be able to establish GSAs in their school. And as recently, Mr. Chair, as April 29th, 2015, there was a government email that was provided when they were being asked about the legislation that the NDP introduced. And the question, Mr. Chair, that was posed was this. It says, "How does government feel about the Act the NDP has introduced?" And it says, Mr. Chair, "This bill appears to infringe upon the local autonomy of boards while increasing the workload of front-line educators." So that's the position that was given by a ministry person on this topic.

So my question to the Premier is, if the expectation is there, if we know that the evidence backs it up, how is it that the bill that we have introduced around the establishment of GSAs infringes upon the local autonomy of boards?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I have the assurance of the Minister of Education that that brief from the ministry has nothing to do with GSAs. Their bill that they introduced would have potentially required the principals have a responsibility for bullying, you know, all day long, on and off the school grounds. There was real problems with respect to the bill and the pressure it would place on front-line educators. And so the memo is presented as the hon. member has quite rightly read. It has nothing to do with GSAs.

Mr. Chairman, legislation, I think, I think we should reserve the option for legislation — back to his original question — for where there are problems. Here in this particular example, we should be focused on affirmations of the public system, of the Catholic health care system, of religious schools in the province who are abiding by the policy of the government with respect to GSAs. Why would you want to slap them with legislation? I don't understand that.

If there is a problem, then we need to act. But the fact of the matter is, there is a policy. Funding flows through in part because of the policies of the ministry, so we're covered off there. And finally it's a chance to affirm all of those schools, whether they're public or Catholic or religious schools in the province, affirm them for the decision they've made with respect to allowing GSAs.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, there are problems. Students don't always feel secure in who they are. Students don't always feel they have the ability to establish a GSA, Mr. Chair. These individuals may not be in a position where they can speak up, where they can always voice their concerns. But the evidence shows that, when you hear from students . . . Think of those suicide rates, of attempted suicide, presented. This is real. These are about kids. This is about students in the province.

And I don't understand, Mr. Chair, how the Premier could equate . . . I think he said, slap them with legislation. This is about human rights. This is about doing the right thing. This is about the Legislative Assembly of the province showing leadership, taking a clear stand, telling any kid who feels bullied, any kid who doesn't have support at home because they are gay or lesbian or transgendered or whatever the case may be, this is about saying, I believe it should happen through legislation that we, as the province of Saskatchewan, we respect your rights to be supported, to find friends, to find allies, to find help, to find the support that's required if they're facing suicide, the thoughts of suicide.

We have an opportunity in this legislature to do that. We have an opportunity in this legislature to do the right thing, to support those students, to support those kids, to support those teachers who want to be strong allies in their school community. And to say it's slapping legislation, that's a horrible characterization of what this could be. It shows a real hesitancy and a reluctance to take the clear stand. This is right. This is what the stand should be. This is right. This is appropriate. We're taking leadership as a province saying, you have the right to establish a GSA and we think that you should be supported.

So is the Premier definitively saying that he is shutting the door on legislation that would guarantee the right of students to have GSAs in their publicly funded schools?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well you know, Mr. Chair, we completely agree on the benefits of GSAs. We completely agree on this particular debate.

We don't agree that we need legislation. We have a policy of the government. Funding is tied to the policies of the Government of Saskatchewan. We know that it is being adhered to by all schools in the province. We're not aware of a single example where it isn't. So we don't think . . . No, we don't think there's a need for legislation.

And you know what else, Mr. Chair? Dan Shier, who's with Queen City Pride, on Global News, March 12th, 2015 said, he was asked if Saskatchewan needs legislation for GSAs, and

here's his quote. I'm taking his counsel on this; I think we all should. He should, too, Mr. Chair: ". . . I don't see it [currently] as being a huge necessity [just] because students are getting the services and the spaces that they require."

[15:45]

So I think we're going to agree with the folks at Queen City Pride. And we have this policy of the government. It's working well. We don't need legislation. You don't have to take it from me, you can take it from the gentleman whose quote I just read, Mr. Chair. Should there ever be a problem in the future, then legislation's a option. Right now, thankfully, this is a happy circumstance. We don't need it. We don't need legislation. Queen City Pride doesn't think we need legislation. Does he agree with Queen City Pride?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, a happy circumstance? Mr. Chair, this is about ensuring that students are protected, that students have the right, that that message is clearly sent, that this legislature takes a stand and ensures that that is provided through legislation.

You know, some of the stats that I read that were prepared by the government ministry talk about the high suicide rates, Mr. Chair. Do you think a student who is at the end of their rope, discouraged, feeling isolated, feeling alone, maybe not getting the family support that he or she might need — those individuals aren't necessarily going to be coming to the rotunda of the legislature voicing concerns. That's why we need to set the tone. We need to set the direction. We need to take a clear stand as a province through legislation guaranteeing that right. Why not take that step? Why not do it?

The Premier suggests that the boards are supportive. But why not take that step and enshrine it in legislation? And if you look at the evidence, if you look at all of the people in the community, Mr. Chair, who want this, I think it is the right thing to do. And I would hope, Mr. Chair, that the Premier would in fact change his view on this because it is the right thing to do.

Has there been a discussion within the ministry, between the Premier and the Education minister about the prospect of introducing legislation that would enshrine GSAs for students here in the province?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, this province has taken a stand. This legislature, this government has taken a stand. It's the policy of the government, and what could be more clear than that? Legislation doesn't mean anything without the services, without the intent. That is what is existing in the province of Saskatchewan today without a challenge. So we can debate about whether policy is good enough or legislation is good enough. Fair enough, I guess. I note again that the gentleman from Queen City Pride didn't feel the necessity for legislation. We happen to agree.

I can tell you, Mr. Chair, that there were no discussions

between me and the Minister of Education about potential legislation because we have a policy, because it's not needed. And our government's not going to react to everything with legislation if there's not a particular problem, if there's not correction that might be needed.

In this case, the policy is working, and we hope that continues. If it doesn't, I guess every option will be on the table.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Chair, I would hope for a stronger and clearer leadership than what we have seen because this shouldn't be a controversial item. This is a no-brainer, Mr. Chair. We see the government's very own documents talking about the need. We have certain members opposite, I think, that would support this, and I think it's important. I know it's important, Mr. Chair. If it is the policy of the government, why not enshrine it in legislation? Why not take that step so that every child has the security and assurance that they need?

I want to talk, Mr. Chair, about the youth companion program. This is something that we've discussed in question period and has received attention in the paper and in the news. My question to the Premier: why did the Premier scrap the Radius youth companion program?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, I'm going to answer specifically on the program that the hon. member just asked about. But first let me just say this. There are many policies of the Government of Saskatchewan, including when members opposite formed the government, that didn't have attendant legislation. We would never leave this place if there needed to be legislation for every firm policy of the government. It sort of betrays a lack of understanding. I mean all . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member from Nutana is chirping from the back about protecting kids.

This is the policy of the government tied to funding, supported — supported — by the government, Mr. Chair, and we don't have a problem in the province. So I believe this: I believe if a policy is working, we ought to let it work. If there's something more that's needed, we'll be able to provide that.

Mr. Chairman, I'll answer the question with respect to the Social Services funding program shortly.

Well, Mr. Chair, as members of the House will know, we brought down a difficult but balanced budget and made some hard choices in the budget. But, Mr. Chairman, with respect to this particular part of the program, it was felt that it fell outside the core responsibilities of Social Services in terms of child protection. And further, it was decided to . . . we decided to make the cut based on our review that indicated that supports for children provided by the funding could be provided elsewhere. I think the minister has indicated that if folks want to come forward with concerns that she will work with them, the ministry will work with them to try to identify through CBOs [community-based organization] those same supports.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well it's strange, Mr. Chair, that this government would take a program that is working well, that is serving a big need, that is really helping young individuals and helping families and say that they've cut it, but they're open to providing supports through other things, Mr. Chair, when we know that it's working, that it's important, that's helping many young people and helping many families.

You know this is a cut that will significantly affect young people with severe cognitive disabilities, and it will save just \$64,000 for the government. My question to the Premier: is he open to reversing this decision or is it closed?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, while I'm sure the families that used the services would rather that they continue, there's 40 families and we've had one complaint. So the Leader of the Opposition, as sometimes he's wont to do, is painting a much broader picture than might actually exist. Still it's a difficult decision because 40 families are 40 families. We have had the one complaint. I've indicated the reasons for the complaint.

And you know, budgeting is a process where sometimes a 3 or \$4 million savings you can find is important. And towards the end of budget finalization, the hundreds, the many hundreds of thousands of dollars of individual savings you can find — 60, 70, 80 — repeated over time gets you into balance. We do a difficult assessment.

The Minister of Social Services did the difficult assessment asking the question, is this part of the core child protection mandate where we really want to focus, where we have been focused as government? Witness the 90-plus new front-line child care workers we've invested in, with much more needed, granted. That's the focus of the government. This particular program was deemed to fall outside of that particular focus, and so we've made the decision. There were 40 families, again for the record, and we've had one complaint.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, many families are furious. We have heard from them. Not everyone is willing to speak publicly, Mr. Chair, but this is important. It's a nonsensical and it's a mean-spirited cut.

Samantha Neill is the mother of a young man with severe cognitive disabilities. This is what she says, "I can tell you that there are virtually no other resources for families in terms of locating potential caregivers for our children." She goes on to say, "This is completely unacceptable." And we know that Samantha has fact-checked the things that the minister has said on many occasions, Mr. Chair, as incorrect information has been provided by her.

My question to the Premier: will he listen to Samantha, and will he reverse this very harsh decision?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Chair. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I'm looking at a

letter sent out April 16, 2015 from Radius to their clients that highlight the different agencies, the different CBOs that can provide service, that can work with the 40 or so, if indeed all 40 wish to continue with some form of service. And so it is as the minister said; we want to work with those who've used the program in the past. There were other decision in the budget we made in terms of discontinuing funding or decreasing funding. This is one of them.

I also want to point out, with respect to the minister's work on this file, when it was raised in the Legislative Assembly, her chief . . . We have emails. We have the email. Her chief of staff contacted the individual that the members raised and reached out, and certainly asked officials to reach out, answer the questions, and provide some sort of service as we wish to do when matters come before the Assembly. Ministers' offices take that seriously and want to ensure that we are reaching out to those who've raised concerns.

You know, the answer's not always going to be yes. The answer is not always going to please everybody. That's the nature of government. You could take actually any individual decision that the government makes over time, including the New Democrats when they were in office. Maybe they make a \$100,000 decision here or a \$50,000 decision here. The cumulative impact either puts you in deficit or surplus or balance.

[16:00]

And so all those decisions are important and the amount of money is not unimportant at all, Mr. Chairman, but when we put together this most recent budget, we were achieving balance and looking for efficiencies. And in this case, as I've already said, we looked at, what is it that we want the core services of Social Services to be in terms of child protection in the province of Saskatchewan? And we just felt that this part of the program, which was more about pre-screening and some other supports for parents, fell just a little bit outside of that, and we made a difficult decision to decrease the funding.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, the information that was just provided by the minister, Samantha clearly says that the chief of staff did not call her. She wrote about that in an article that was published in the paper. So we have again inconsistencies from this minister with what is the reality, based on what the individual who has brought this forward is clearly stating.

And of course, I mean the Premier read a letter from Radius to the families that were benefiting from this important program. Of course Radius is going to try to help and find some sort of options for these families. But this does not change the fact that this decision to cut this \$64,000 program left a lot of families in the lurch and a lot of families concerned, a lot of families facing barriers to ensuring that their children with cognitive disabilities can in fact receive the safe and proper care that they need.

You know, here's another quote from Samantha Neill:

From the outset I honestly believed the minister would change course once she learned the impact of this cut on

some of the province's most vulnerable citizens. As it became clear that neither she nor her officials really understood the program they were cutting, I held on to hope they would ultimately find a source of funds for the program.

She goes on to say that families that rely on this program "... have been treated like a political problem and dismissed with an ever-changing volley of inaccurate answers." And, Mr. Chair, we see that same dismissive approach from the Premier today about the importance of this program and the value that it provided to Saskatchewan families.

So my question to the Premier: how can the Premier plow ahead with this cut to an important program that will hurt youth with cognitive disabilities and their families? How can he plow ahead with that plan?

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and thank the member for his question. I'm looking at an email from the minister's chief of staff almost immediately after question period that day, Tuesday the 21st. It is to officials, but it's about the case that Samantha raised in the House through the Leader of the Opposition, and here's what it says:

Can we get an official to call Samantha Neill at 30... [and the phone number]. She has some concerns with the funding decision with respect to Radius Community Centre in Saskatoon and wants to share them. Some alternative services people she could access would be also appreciated.

Then he says in his email, "She is free for the rest of this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon." He is able to say that, he says, because he contacted her and found out her schedule. He said, "She is free for the rest of the afternoon and tomorrow afternoon. She's not free tomorrow morning because she's in court." How would the chief of staff have known that if he didn't phone her and ask her? "I said we'd either do it today or this afternoon." Then it goes on to say, "Can you have someone do this and then loop back to our office once complete? This is fairly urgent."

So that's the email from the chief of staff to the Minister of Social Services, to officials in Social Services. It referenced the fact that the chief of staff knows her schedule and her availability, that she's available that date. You know, it's because he talked to her, I would say to the member respectfully. He also notes in here that she won't be free tomorrow morning because she's in court. Now how would he know that if he hadn't talked to Samantha? I think he did. I believe that he did.

Then I have the details of the information. She had a long conversation with officials and, granted, she didn't agree in the end. You know, other services were offered through community living. You know, I've seen the nature of the conversation. She decided she wasn't interested in any other services, and I respect that.

Again would we rather a situation where we don't have to make

any of these changes, any of these reductions in spending? Well sure we would. The fact is we do have to make the decisions. We looked at this with respect to the core services in child protection. This falls outside. Forty families are affected. We've had one complaint, and we'll proceed with the decision.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm going to be taking the word of Samantha for the chronology of the events and with whom she has spoken, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, last week the Rural Health minister tabled a petition calling for legislative restrictions on abortion. What is the Premier's position?

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair. It's the policy of our caucus, when an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] receives petitions from constituents in the province and we're asked to lay it on the Table, that is done. That's what the member did in this case. There's no change currently planned for policy in this regard.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — I don't believe that they were his constituents, but anyway, that matter aside, Mr. Chair, so is the Premier clear? Does he have any plan? Can he be clear? Does he have any plans to implement restrictions on abortion services?

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — No. And furthermore, Mr. Chair, does the hon. member, do his members present petitions only from their constituents or perhaps from people around the province?

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm simply curious about the petition. It would indicate a policy change for the government, so I simply want... I think it's of note when a minister of the Crown presents such a petition, so I want to know whether or not there will be any change, Mr. Chair, with respect to the government's position on those services. I think it's something that those who signed the petition can know, and those who haven't signed can also know, Mr. Chair. So I thank the Premier for his response.

Looking at another step that this government took that has hurt Saskatchewan families and imposes a concern to many people in the province, the Saskatchewan employment supplement is supposed to give a little extra money to low-income, working parents with children, but this government chose to cut that supplement for parents whose children are over the age of 12.

My question to the Premier: is he willing, is he ready to be willing to admit that that was a mistake?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Well

we've been discussing difficult decisions that were made as a result of a very tight budget. Members of the House will know we were short about \$700 million in oil revenue and we wanted to achieve a balance without increasing taxes, Mr. Chairman. It's been the experience in our province in previous times when governments have faced some fiscal challenges that their first reaction has been to increase taxes. I think the member would agree that was the practice of his party in government. We chose a different path, but that required us to make some decisions around budget.

And so here again with respect to the employment supplement that the member has asked about, we want to make sure that there's support through the supplement which is principally used — not only, but principally used — to help obviously with the costs of care, child care, that it be focused on . . . If we had to make a change, that we'd still provide it up to the age of 13, 13 and under, or under the age of 13, and made a change with respect to 13 to 18. That's the part that was changed in the budget, Mr. Chair.

So there is still the support there for young kids, for child care. And as they get older, where their child care needs are lessened obviously . . . That was our experience in our own home as our kids got into their teenage years, got a little older. There wasn't child care needs, which is a positive thing.

And so, Mr. Chairman, it's worth though exploring the huge amount of supports that we've provided for low- and middle-income — especially low-income — families in the province of Saskatchewan over the last eight years or so. We introduced the children's drug program. No parent pays more than \$20 for their children under 14. Mr. Chair, we eliminated the PST [provincial sales tax] for kids' clothes to the age of 17. We've doubled the low-income tax credit, Mr. Chairman, which is particularly helpful to low-income families. The child care subsidy is available to low-income families to help also with the cost of child care. 114,000 low-income people don't pay any provincial tax at all now, income tax, because of the changes that we made.

Additionally, minimum wage we've increased 28 per cent since 2007, and it's now indexed. Here again, that's something that the social democrats would talk a lot about, about boy, wouldn't it be good to index the minimum wage, but they never really got around to it. Never really got around to actually making a lot of these changes. Didn't get around . . .

We were just talking about the disabled community. Never got around to really providing the supports that those in the intellectual disability community need. You know, Mr. Chairman, I remember I was surprised when the current Minister of Social Services — and this work was completed by the subsequent minister, member for Kelvington-Wadena — surprised when she reported to cabinet that under the NDP, who talk a lot about the vulnerable, who talk about . . . They're for the little guy, you know. We hear all the rhetoric. I've heard a lot of speeches. I've been here since 1999. Surprised then to hear when the minister reported to the House, and I know the member for Saskatoon Centre's interested in this because he had a chance to change things when he was on the government side in cabinet, 440 people with intellectual disabilities languishing on a wait-list for the dignity of a home.

Now they would say, well we had some fiscal issues. No, they didn't. Not the last three or four years. They were sitting on \$700 million, a mountain of money. They had a mountain of money in their bank account. And yet when families with intellectually disabled kids were saying, we can't find them the dignity of a home; there's no respite programming in this province . . . We have this great social democratic government that has turned a blind eye to this issue. So we were surprised to hear about it.

Do you know what we did, Mr. Chair? Sometimes this member, well he hasn't been asking it much lately, but they used to ask in some commercials and maybe one or two question periods, where did the money go? Well about, I think, about \$40 million of the money that we've received because of a strong economy went to eliminating that wait-list. And we still have work to do because people get added on to the list but, Mr. Chairman, gone are those days when over 400 families with a family member with an intellectual disability was waiting for a place to live in Saskatchewan. It's sort of what we see from members opposite.

Now it's on the low-income supplement. Now they're going to raise concerns about it and be the champion for this issue in opposition. Were they ever to get on this side of the House, heaven forbid, we'd find again complete inaction. More speeches, more talk about 1960 this and Tommy Douglas that, but a lack of action for people that need it.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the low-income supplement, this support is there for kids 13 and under. It should be there. We made a change with respect to older kids. Most of it's for child care, but there are many other supports in government and we're proud of the record of the government in this regard.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, when you look at the costs of raising a child, yes, there are costs when children are under the age of 12 and child care is required. But it's expensive to raise teenagers as well, Mr. Chair. There's a lot of expenses there and families that were benefiting from this support, from this program, and with teenagers, they have expenses too. They needed this help. It was helping them, and this was a cut that is not certainly in their best interests.

You know, I think of the statements that were made by Reverend Peter Gilmer of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry. He says this: “. . . at a time when we are now tied for the lowest minimum wage in the country, losing that support is going to have a significant impact.” He goes on to question how committed this government is to the anti-poverty strategy because this kind of cut “doesn't move us in that direction at all.”

Now I think Reverend Gilmer is right. Does the Premier dispute what Reverend Gilmer is saying?

[16:15]

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I want to thank the member for his question and point out that . . . and thank the minister for moving ahead

with the poverty strategy for the province. It was referenced in the Speech from the Throne, and the government is certainly serious about that. The poverty strategy is going to look at the entire continuum, if you will, those who are facing short-term issues related to poverty. But really, really we need to get at and do a better job on the structural side, the root causes, those facing long-term poverty.

Here's the good news though about the economic confluence . . . the confluence, I should say, of the economy and this particular program that he's asking about. Because we have a very strong economy in the province of Saskatchewan, I'm proud to share with members that the average time for a family on the SES [Saskatchewan employment supplement], on the employment supplement, is down to seven months. Now this is very positive. This means folks are taking advantage of the employment supplement and then they're finding, then they're finding that they're moving forward. The economy is providing some solutions. The workplace is finding some solutions.

I should also point out, Mr. Chair, that those who are currently in the program will be grandfathered. And I had not said that yet and that's my fault. So let me state that for the record for those that might be watching, that there's no particular change today for those who are in the program. They'll be grandfathered. It's something that's moving forward, post-October 1 I believe it is. And again I think it's worth noting that the good news is that folks are transitioning off of the employment supplement. It's lasting on average about seven months.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — What we know, Mr. Chair, for the many families that will have children going from that 12-year-old bracket into the teen years and for other people, this is an important program that has helped many families. And Peter Gilmer clearly illustrates and states the significance of it.

Just a question to the Premier. When was the decision around grandfathering made?

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think it was in the budget.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Premier. By slashing the Saskatchewan employment supplement, this government says it'll save roughly \$1 million. So that's \$1 million less for those families with teenagers who are trying to ensure the basic needs are kept and that their kids can do well, Mr. Chair.

Meanwhile, if we look at some of the places where this government, where this Premier has been happy to spend dollars, we see examples of a lot more than that. You know, we know this Premier spent \$3 million on his American lobbyists. We know that there's been about \$4 million spent on accommodation and travel for the \$40 million American lean consultant.

We know about the . . . of the \$5 million research grant that was given to the failed American smart meter manufacturer, yet this government is choosing to cut the employment supplement for low-income working families just to save \$1 million. My question to the Premier: how can he justify this type of harsh cut for working families here in Saskatchewan?

The Chair: — Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Chairman, we can get into this, you know, you cut here but you still spent here . . . There's another long list of other areas where we've spent for vulnerable people in the province of Saskatchewan — hundreds of millions of dollars. Millions of dollars to ensure that the children's drug program is implemented in the province of Saskatchewan, I can certainly point to that. Millions of dollars to eliminate the PST for children's clothes, obviously families benefit from that. Millions of dollars to double the low-income tax credit, that's also very, very important. Millions of dollars to drop 114,000 low-income residents off of the payrolls altogether. Mr. Chair, we've invested 200.4 million in 2015-16 budget alone in the area of disabilities, 100 per cent more funding — 100 per cent more funding — since '07-08. So there's a long list of where we've provided support for people who need it the most. SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] clients will have up to 4,200 more per year in their pockets by July 2, '15. There are now over 13,200 people enrolled in the program.

And here's an old friend of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Ryan Meili, who ran against him for the leadership, notwithstanding the conflict they had in Saskatoon Sutherland in the election prior to that. He said, quote, this is what Dr. Meili said:

We have seen some progress. This is a good opportunity to say we mustn't always criticize everything that the other guys do, and the improvements in the SAID disability rate have been positive for many people with disabilities.

And so, you know, we've got to focus on a low-income supplement in terms of age. There are many, many other supports. When you total those supports for low-income families in the province, you'll find, the member will find, they're much, much greater now than they ever were, when what people got from the members opposite — too often I would suggest with speeches and not enough action — when they did have \$700 million worth of money in the rainy day fund. But they're happy to sit on it while these issues were unattended.

The Chair: — Leader.

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Chair, when we look at decisions being made, we know this \$1 million cut will have an effect on many families. And we see choices being made by this government, you know, \$4 million for John Black's hotels and accommodation, dollars that are being wasted that should be going to things like helping these families. And we talk about the anti-poverty strategy. What we're very closely watching and hearing from members in the community, Mr. Speaker, is what sort of follow-through takes place and is actually there.

I simply wanted the opportunity to address the comments that the Premier said on that instance. I understand by mutual agreements on this side, there's a pause for five minutes.

The Chair: — We'll take a 10-minute recess.

[The committee recessed for a period of time.]

The Chair: — I'll call the Committee of Finance to order and we'll continue. I'll just like to inform members that within the setting, the Committee of Finance, the rules do permit members to ask questions and the Premier to answer without the Chair intervening. If members are agreeable, we'll do that and perhaps we can get more accomplished. However I will issue a bit of a proviso to that. If the Chair feels that things are getting somewhat out of control, the Chair will intervene. So we'll proceed on that basis.

Mr. Leader, you have a question and you're ready to go? Okay. Let us continue.

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Chair. I suppose we get in the habit of being recognized before we speak, and so thank you for that reminder that it's a little different here in the committee setting.

Moving on to a different topic today, this afternoon, looking at the issue of travel as well. We know that Alison Redford didn't just get in trouble for her use of travel scouts. She also got in a fair bit of hot water for her use of government planes. So my question to the Premier is whether he would agree to release the passenger manifest for all exec air flights under his government?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, officials remember this being released with respect to a FOIP [freedom of information and protection of privacy], although we wouldn't know who had made the freedom of information request. But I don't see why it wouldn't be available through that process to members opposite. There may be a fee, as there is from time to time with respect to the compilation of this information, but I don't think there would be a problem. In fact I think we could go a step further and provide members with a manifest of who was on those planes, you know, for both governments, for our time in government and for when members opposite were using the executive aircraft as well.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we did request the passenger manifest information, and we were told that we'd have to pay \$1,410. Mr. Speaker, I think it's in the public's interest to know who's been flying on government planes. So my question to the Premier ... I couldn't quite ... Maybe just to restate his response here, was he saying that if people want this information they should get it through freedom of information requests? My question to the Premier: would he be willing to simply table this information and present this information, release it to the public?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Right. You know, Mr. Chair, when there's ... There's a professional public servant that is involved with the freedom of information requests when they come in. And it's interesting the member now says in a subsequent question, they were the ones that asked, which is fine. That's obviously

their job as an opposition. We did the same thing in opposition. So you go through a process, and when there's a fee for the compilation of it ... We were faced with bills in opposition as well and had to make a decision whether to go ahead with the request or not. I invite members to do that. That's part of their prerogative, to use caucus funds to provide ... It doesn't sound like an onerous amount, but reflective I guess of the amount of work that's going to go through it.

And we'll go a step farther. I guess we could have a debate about the manifests themselves, but the information's available to the members opposite. They've already made the request, and if they respond to the freedom of information officer accordingly, then the information will be provided.

Mr. Broten: — Why can't the Premier just agree to release information? Why require an FOI [freedom of information]? Why require a fee to be paid? I think Saskatchewan people deserve to know who's flying on government planes. I'm not suggesting anything untoward, but I think it would be good for the sake of transparency to have that information available. Will the Premier agree to that?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well I would just say to the hon. member, why can't he follow the process? He says, why can't you just release the information, which by the way, is the same question we asked in opposition. There's a process involved. It's the same process that you had when you were the Government of Saskatchewan. We followed it. We'd expect you to do the same.

Mr. Broten: — Why won't the Premier just post this information online so Saskatchewan people have access to it?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've already answered the question. I would say to the member opposite that no government in the history of this province has posted more information with respect to travel than our government. In fact we just learned last spring that when the NDP were in power, they never provided any information at all. And the former leader, the member's mentor, Mr. Lingenfelter, made some comments about how he didn't think it was really important for any disclosure to occur of travel.

Well the members are smiling about those good old days when his mentor was here in the House, working directly with him and helping him develop the platform, and they're enjoying that reminiscence. And I don't blame them. I have fond memories of that as well, that time in the House.

Mr. Chair, no government has provided as much information as this government has with respect to travel. We're going to continue to do that. It's interesting, when we do it, we note that with respect to travel, the numbers for the government are just way, way down, way down.

And it's worth revisiting, for those who are glued to their televisions for the proceedings, to note that the number of out-of-province trips in 2014-15 compared to their last year, the number of out-of-province trips for the government last year compared to their last year, down by 72 per cent. Seventy-two per cent, Mr. Chair. The cost of provincial travel decreased by 75 per cent compared to '06-07. That's unadjusted for inflation.

That's just a straight-up savings for Saskatchewan people. Because you know what, Mr. Chairman? We're worried about these things. We watch them carefully. These are taxpayers' dollars.

With respect to who's on the planes, I can assure members opposite that we're following the NDP policy. The NDP policy is that members . . . It spells out who of the elected members can fly on the plane, and it specifically mentions that family members can. Mr. Chairman, I would point out to members of the House that it's been the practice of members opposite when they were in government to have family members on the plane. That's continued under our administration. We can, I guess, get into sort of the details of that. I'd be happy to do it actually because I think that this has been reduced significantly as well.

The bottom of this line is we are using the government aircrafts way less than members opposite did, but we're disclosing more information ever than was disclosed by members opposite when they were the government. Because we think it's important, we're going to continue to provide that level of information to the taxpayers. They will know that as long as we are on this side of the House, we'll carefully watch the costs with respect to travel. We'll ensure that we're doing it at a lower cost than members opposite when they had the chance to be in the government for some number of years.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we know when we have these travel comparisons that the Premier's providing and government members and officials have provided, that they do not compare apples to apples. We've seen with very different approaches they've taken with what they include, what they don't include, the types of trips, and so on. The numbers presented, when it comes to travel by this government, simply cannot be trusted.

And we see, Mr. Chair, we see, Mr. Chair, that the comments made by the Premier here, Mr. Speaker, about a lack of a willingness to provide this information. I think the information should be made public. I think that individuals have the right to know, and I would like to see the government take that course of action, Mr. Chair.

In his first term in government, the Premier billed very little for mileage through Executive Council. He was paid just \$858 for mileage through Executive Council in that first term. In his second term, he has been paid \$32,059 for mileage, and that's just through the Executive Council, not counting the mileage that would have been billed through MLA expense accounts.

On his MLA expense travel, we also saw a significant increase in terms of travel costs in the second term. There's about 140 per cent increase in travel costs on the MLA side as well. And so my question to the Premier: what changed in the second term to account for the big increase that we see on the Executive Council side as well as the MLA side?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chair, for the first term, I had a CVA [central vehicle agency], a government vehicle. And subsequent to the election in 2011, I bought my own truck.

[16:45]

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we've obtained internal documents

from Executive Council that shows that it's almost always a lot more costly for taxpayers for a cabinet minister to use personal vehicles and bill mileage than if they were to use a vehicle from the government fleet. My question to the Premier: was the Premier aware of that when he chose to start using his personal vehicle and billing mileage?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes actually. We've done the analysis in government, and the member's wrong. That won't come as a surprise to very many that watch these proceedings. We're going to get into a long list of the things that the member's been wrong about in this session because there should be an accounting for that as well.

Mr. Chairman, we've done the analysis of our own government because throughout our government we've had ministers, some will use the CVA — that's a government vehicle — and some who will use a private vehicle. So here is the analysis. Actual cost to the government for the way we've been operating, in other words some using, many using their own vehicle and some using a CVA, actual cost for '13-14: \$111,667.90. He should write, he's writing this down. I hope he's writing this down now. Cost if we all use CVAs: \$134,803. That would be more.

Here's the other advantage of using your own vehicle. And it's up to members of cabinet to use their own vehicle. It's actually also up to the Opposition Leader. The Opposition Leader also gets a CVA. And I believe that, I believe the Opposition Leader uses a CVA. I think you do, right.

So the advantage of me using a truck, for example, is if I'm going to a party event, I bill the party. I'm not going to bill the taxpayers. That's none of their business. When I get to the outskirts of Swift Current, that meter's off. I'm not billing them beyond that, beyond me getting to my house if I'm going back and forth to work. If I'm going to get groceries on the weekend, no one . . . The taxpayers shouldn't be paying for that. Not going to submit mileage for that.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, that's the advantage. And I wonder if the member should confirm, since he gets a CVA, does he do that? Does he rigorously keep track of the use of a taxpayer-funded van so if he's going to a party event, he either uses a private vehicle or reimburses taxpayers for that trip to the party event?

Or what I used to do, for example, Mr. Chair — and I think many members did — is that maybe twice a year, certainly at the end of the year, I'd try to write a personal cheque out to the Minister of Finance. I can inform members of the House, he dutifully cashed it. He's very thorough that way, a little too thorough in my estimation. But I wrote a cheque for what I thought was probably the personal use of the CVA that I had. I had a Jeep Liberty. And I just think that's the right thing to do. And I want to give the member a chance to confirm that's exactly what he's done with respect to the use of his vehicle, that he's made sure to reimburse the taxpayers for any personal use for his government-supplied van.

Mr. Broten: — Yes, that is the case, Mr. Chair. And you know, it's interesting. I heard some of the members comment about car seats in my van, Mr. Chair. I have a baby, a toddler, pre-schooler. My kids come with me to events. I mean I could

put them in an apple crate I suppose, but I don't think the law would like that. And so that's very clearly why I would have car seats, Mr. Chair. It's important in order to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are used, Mr. Chair, in the most responsible way.

The document that we've obtained from Executive Council says the break-even point, so the point where it's either cheaper or more expensive to use a CVA and have a privately owned vehicle, they point out that the break-even point is 1654 kilometres per month. From the FOI that was received, this is the quote from it: "The break-even point between a CVA Impala and a privately owned vehicle is 1654 kilometres per month."

We know, Mr. Chair, that the Premier's monthly mileage claims through Executive Council alone, through Executive Council alone are between 30 and 45 per cent higher than that, and that doesn't include any expenses for travel that would be claimed through MLA expenses. So my question to the Premier: on average, how many kilometres per month does the Premier claim on his MLA expenses?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, we can get into this — sure, absolutely — if this is the burning issue for the member opposite. He's referring to the analysis done for the government. When we were trying to make a decision, we provided the ministers the option. What I just gave them were the actual results. I'll table them for him. These are the actual results of us doing what we're doing, which is some members with a CVA, some members using the mileage system with their own private vehicle. That's what I just gave him. And it won't help much because, you know, with this particular member, you just sort of get up and say the same thing. We can have an official say, here are the facts, and it doesn't really affect him. He just keeps saying the same thing. Fine. I think there's an accounting for that coming in just a few months here in the province of Saskatchewan.

But I want to share it with him again, and we'll send the document over to him. He's talking about an analysis of what might be. I'm giving him the facts . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . our facts. The member for Nutana said, our facts. Yes, because we asked the Minister of Finance and we asked officials in the Ministry of Finance would they just please manipulate the government's mileage record for one day in estimates when this bizarre line of questioning would happen. That's exactly what we did.

Mr. Chair, actual cost to the taxpayers for the system we use today — this is from '13-14 — actual cost of the system we use, some with mileage, some with CVA, \$111,667.90. The cost that it would have been were all the cabinet using CVAs, \$134,803.59. So from an actual basis, we're saving money, and I hope the member will recognize that.

Maybe he'll want to change policies as well because I can tell him that we've done an analysis, and the cost of my mileage has dropped every year since I've stopped using the CVA in 2011 and '12, a 40 per cent decrease in '13-14 mileage costs over the last full year of CVA use. My mileage in 2014-15 for the entire year was \$8,290.95. His cost for a CVA for just April to November of '14, \$9,893. So you're costing the taxpayers more

money.

Now if you want, there's options out there. Now he doesn't like it. He doesn't like it. You're costing the taxpayers more money, Cam, Mr. Broten. And I would say to the member opposite, I'd say to the member opposite, these are the facts, that what we're doing now, with some members using a private vehicle and billing for mileage and some using a CVA, costs less money to the taxpayers than when we all got a CVA under the NDP, when everyone got a CVA.

So you know, I guess we can debate this for a long time. I think he's got another question. He's all fired up to go. But the facts aren't on his side. We'll continue doing what we're doing. I'm going to watch what we spend. We're careful to make sure those members that have CVA vehicles, to make sure that they're recording personal use as it should be, Mr. Chairman. We understand the value of the taxpayers' dollars, and we act accordingly.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, the question simply was, how many, on average, how many kilometres per month does the Premier claim on his MLA expenses? We know from the government, through an FOI, that they say the break-even point between a CVA Impala and a privately owned vehicle is 1654 kilometres per month. This is a number created, produced, released by this government, Mr. Speaker. So again my question to the Premier: on average how many kilometres per month does the Premier claim on MLA expenses?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, the total mileage is available. We all file reports for our MLA reports. It's really not a matter for Premier's estimates. It's a Legislative Assembly account.

The same for his. He's got his own travel account. He might use his for his opposition . . . [inaudible] . . . duties or he might be using them for his MLA duties. He might be using them to travel to BC for media training. I don't know. I guess that would be within the rules. Maybe he's not. I don't know. But it's up to him to use those accounts and all members to use their accounts accordingly. I can tell members of the House that it's all a matter of public information.

I can tell members of the House that it's more cost effective to operate cabinet the way we operate it, with an option for a private vehicle. I could tell members of the House that my particular travel, year over year, is down. And we're careful to mark the mileage as is appropriate, and I'm comfortable, Mr. Chairman, with the information we have to date. And I've already supplied the members of the Committee of the Whole that the way I'm operating right now, using my own truck, is more effective for costs for taxpayers than when they were providing me a Jeep.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, I'll release the information provided and released, which shows the break-even point between a CVA Impala and a privately owned vehicle is 1654 kilometres, released by this government. I do not have confidence in the numbers that the Premier is stating on this one bit.

My question, Mr. Chair, to the Premier is, on whose instructions did the Ministry of Central Services undertake

planning for the Premier's library?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, on no one's instructions was there any planning undertaken for the premiers' library.

I remember we were having a blue-skying session, planning session at Government House. We were talking about projects that would be something that government should want to pursue perhaps, and obviously there were pretty important issues in that discussion around health care and education and infrastructure and the economy.

But we did get around to the history of the province, and there was a discussion around the rich political history of the province of Saskatchewan. And frankly in that room full of precisely no members of the New Democrats, no CCFers [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] certainly, the first name we were talking about was Tommy Douglas. We have this very rich history that is of national import frankly from the province of Saskatchewan. We have others who have, in the case of his immediate successor, Premier Lloyd, who actually implemented the vision for medicare that Tommy Douglas had, and is sometimes forgotten in this regard, I would say, by history, pretty impressive achievement for him.

We had Walter Scott, this amazing man who was debilitated by mental health issues, as my hon. friend will know, and managed to preside over not only the detailed design of this building but also lay the groundwork for what became SaskTel and our school system and built the University of Saskatchewan and built the Sask Hospital and any number of projects.

We've had, in the case of Premier Romanow, a premier who took over from a very difficult situation financially, made some difficult decisions that we might not agree with, everyone on this side of the House, but in the main I think they've served the province well.

And so the member opposite likes to talk about this library or this institution as something related to me. It's quite the opposite. We thought it would be . . . In fact we thought about the Territorial Administration Building, which is underutilized and such a significant historical site in the province. If we had a few extra dollars — and we don't — but if we had a few extra dollars, wouldn't it be nice to have a museum celebrating the political history, a premiers' library, "s" apostrophe, not apostrophe "s," so all of the premiers that we've had in this province. We've had such a rich history. We don't as a province, I don't think — there's a few busts around — we don't pay enough homage to that history, to Premier Scott or to Premier Douglas. And we have the territorial building or the administrative building on Dewdney that is underutilized.

So we asked . . . I said to the minister at the time . . . The current Minister of Highways was somewhere. There she is. She was then minister of Central Services. You know, let's look at this. Is it possible? What's the state of that building? And report back. Unfortunately is that it would take a lot of dollars to try to achieve this. It's not something . . . It'd be nice, but it's not at the top of the government's priority list, this historical building, this historical museum that we could put together to honour our political history and our premiers. One day maybe we will be able to. Maybe one day we'll be able to, through

private donations, to achieve this and honour the history of our province and the great premiers that have served from all political stripes in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, it sure sounds like the Premier has a passion for this project. It sure sounds like it was his idea as well. When you actually look at the information, Mr. Chair, when it's provided, it's actually Premier apostrophe "s." That's the way that it's recorded in the documents, Mr. Chair, and the information provided show that it was to be modelled after the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in the US [United States], that it would display manuscripts and prints, photographs and fine art. So it's hard to believe that the Premier was not pushing this in a significant way. But punctuation's a side point, Mr. Chair.

My question on the Premier's library: we know it was brought to treasury board on January 14th, 2014. Which cabinet minister brought it to treasury board?

[17:00]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well I'll see his apostrophe "s" and raise him an "s" apostrophe, Mr. Chairman, because I'm looking at our own briefing note. And I guess maybe there was a mistake on that one because here it is, premiers' library, with information on the history that he's recounting.

I would imagine it would have been the Minister of Central Services that brought it forward. As mentioned, we'd like to celebrate the political history of the province. We'd like to honour the premiers who've served, and preserve their record and that memory in this way.

Unfortunately, treasury board made the right decision, unfortunately then and now. There aren't the resources to do it. I hope there is one day though. I hope we have the resources in the province of Saskatchewan, especially to use this building, one of the oldest . . . The territorial building is the second-oldest building in Regina. And members will know it was built in 1890 to be a government administrative building for the North-West Territories. It has a great deal of history. The Territorial Administration Building was constructed, as we mentioned, in 1890. It served as our first Legislative Assembly and it's, I mean it's underutilized. It would be very expensive to rehabilitate it. I hope we can one day. I hope the members opposite would support us honouring the political history of the province which is rich and vibrant, obviously not without controversy. The advent of medicare, we all know what that wrought in the province of Saskatchewan and then delivered for Canada and Canadians since.

So I'd like to see it done someday, but there's simply not the dollars to have a museum for the political history of the province, for the premiers that have served down through the decades in Saskatchewan, and for the issues that they might have championed.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we prefer to focus on what matters to families, and a museum of this nature, Mr. Speaker, are not the issues that are at the forefront for Saskatchewan families.

My question to the Premier, perhaps he said it earlier on and I missed it, but my question to the Premier: when was the blue-skying session when this idea was brought forward?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I don't remember when the planning session was. We can provide that information to the member if he's dying to know about what date that was. Fair enough.

With respect to the treasury board presentation, Central Services presents to treasury board early on in the process, in terms of a general report on its assets and maintenance that might be required on its assets. And you can imagine the territorial building, as old as it is, built in 1890, is going to be on that list. So the specific discussion in treasury board, the specific discussion was the state of the building, the financial implications because of course it's owned by the province and not about this museum for political history.

Mr. Broten: — But it appears, Mr. Speaker, that a significant amount of work went into the proposal, based on documents that was released. My question to the Premier is, how long was this project worked on, and what expenses were associated with this project?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, I have to correct the record. I think I probably had members believe that I was the author of the idea. I quite liked the idea. But I just want to be clear and the minister's reminded me, driving over to cabinet planning that day, she had this idea for a political history museum for a Premier's meeting. She met with myself and the Lieutenant Governor at the time to discuss it. We said, well go find some general information, and so she did with her assistant deputy minister. She got a quick estimate on costs to rehabilitate the building, and obviously they were prohibitive, and we didn't proceed. So the cost to people for this idea that came up would have been zero; the time spent would have been probably minutes, Mr. Chairman.

I hope that our cabinet members and others in our caucus will continue to come forward with new ideas. We would try to vet those ideas out, and if they fit within the budget, in the parameters of government, we would move on them. And if they don't, we won't.

Mr. Chairman, I think it's important for us to be careful with the history of our politics. I remember in opposition, and some members on this side of the House will remember a great deal of controversy over a movie that was funded significantly by the New Democratic government. The movie was about Tommy Douglas. I think the story of Tommy Douglas was fine, his history. But the movie had to be pulled from schools because of its treatment of Premier Patterson. The family of Premier Patterson were contacting us daily because this movie vilified him as the Liberal premier that, I guess, did battle with Premier Douglas in the Legislative Assembly.

So you know, not only should we preserve and mark well our history, and maybe a museum like this is something we could do down the road if we could ever afford it, but we should also . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Premier Gardiner, right. It was Premier Gardiner, Jimmy Gardiner. But we should also be careful with the history of the province because here we saw one of the most egregious things I've ever seen, that an NDP

government funded a movie about Tommy Douglas at the expense of Premier Gardiner, of his reputation and his great contribution to the province of Saskatchewan.

See we believe . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They tried to put it in schools, I'd say to the member for Arm River, but it was yanked out because it was inaccurate, if you can believe it. They portrayed him as a drunk, and he was a teetotaler. They did this to Premier Gardiner.

So we should be marking well our history. That was the idea behind this. There's not the resources in the budget to do it now or any time in the near future. One day if there is, I hope we could do this to promote not just people like Premier Douglas, but also people like Premier Gardiner.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, the information provided by this government through a freedom of information request, Mr. Speaker . . . The information obtained here, Mr. Speaker, is lengthy. It's detailed. For the Premier to suggest that a couple of minutes went into this project — a proposal, Mr. Chair, that clearly talks about the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library as an example — how on earth would that simply come to pass, come to be, in mere minutes? Does the Premier stand by the information that was released by his government?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, I don't know if I understand the question. Sure, we stand by the information. I'm saying in terms of the amount of work that the ministry would have done on it to ask for sort of a general and cursory review of what would be needed at the building and what the other options are, that work was done, Mr. Chair. And there's no particular expense to government for this.

We're going to vet some ideas from time to time, and I really don't have much else to offer the hon. member except that he should, you know, sleep well tonight knowing that not a lot of time or resources were wasted on this. It was a good idea that was vetted but, for want of money, we couldn't provide the resources to build a museum that would honour our political history.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we clearly see a document in the review report by the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner, point 14:

In its submission, Central Services indicated that the proposal was created for the consideration of Treasury Board as part of Central Services 2014-15 budget submission. Further, that the record was presented before Treasury Board on January 14th, 2014.

Finally, Central Services, Mr. Speaker, presented that information, it goes on. Not a little passing idea, Mr. Speaker. Work went into this. And I wish this government, instead of thinking about some museum as a shrine to politics, would be focused on the things that matter to families like better health care, like better schools, like fairness, and affordability. That's where they should have their focus, Mr. Speaker.

You know, we also have concerns with the spending and where this government has put its priorities around the Premier's use of an American lobbyist. We know that \$3 million, \$3 million

of taxpayers' money has gone to an American lobbyist. My question to the Premier: what specific results have Saskatchewan taxpayers received as a result of this massive spending?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I thank the member for the question. I'm happy to answer this. The number I've used, of course, is over the span of the contract over seven years. Many provinces in Canada have an in-market representative, a permanent representative in an office paying overhead, to be represented in the US capital. The United States represents 60 per cent of our export market. And we're slowly seeing diversification actually in part, I think, helped by trade missions to Asia where we see less reliance on the United States, but I think all members of the committee will agree that we're always going to be reliant on the United States with respect to the trade relationship.

We have a story to tell in Washington, both to the legislators that are there, the administration in the White House, and also to the media. Because whenever we go down there, because of the work of the firm, there is a very heavy media program, both for back-home media to get Saskatchewan's message out, but also to promote the province there in that community. And I remember Saskatchewan for some period of time was on the front page of the CNN [Cable News Network] website, in large measure because of the good work of this firm to put us in contact, whenever we're there, with CNN. That's pretty significant coverage for the province.

More importantly, we want to engage with legislators and decision makers on Capitol Hill but also in the White House. And we've had it in the firm of Nelson Mullins, a firm with bona fides on both sides of the aisle, Democrat and Republican. And so whether it's John Kerry when he was a senator; or Max Baucus, the Democratic senator from Montana; or Senator Graham; most recently, Senator McCain; or White House officials, we've been able to engage. Because of Nelson Mullins, the firm, we were able to engage with the Secretary of Agriculture just towards the end of the last White House.

And we obviously need to do that on behalf of our agricultural producers, especially on the issue of country of origin labelling. We need, as a province, to take every chance we can to lobby all those legislators in the United States about the importance of getting rid of what is clearly a non-tariff trade barrier: country of origin labelling. And I know I've heard from stock growers who say thanks for going down there. Thanks for getting the meeting. We're not quite there yet, but we'll keep winning at the WTO [World Trade Organization], and I think eventually the Americans are going to relent. We need to continue the pressure, and certainly that's part of what we do.

Interesting as well, the most, one of the most recent trips to Washington, we were able to get into a very good meeting in the administration building just by the White House where, as members of the committee will know, most of the White House, many of the senior White House staff are working, to talk specifically to the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] and other agencies about our clean coal project.

The history of our province is one where the United States Department of Energy has made an investment. Credit the Romanow government for attracting an investment from the US

Department of Energy — not a big amount but important, about \$5 million — that got the ball rolling on our leadership in carbon capture and storage. I think now about a third of the world's stored CO₂ is stored in the province of Saskatchewan and done so efficaciously because of this arrangement that came together when two national governments, the provincial government, and at the time Pan Canadian I think was the company, and Apache and Shell and a few others got together on our CO₂ storage project.

Now we want the US Department of Energy involved if they can, if they're interested in our clean coal project. We think there's a real application for clean coal technology in the United States. They continue to burn coal, and of course coal states are concerned about that going away, so we wanted to make sure that they're aware of it. We've had visits from the US Department of Energy. We've had visits from Senator Heitkamp in North Dakota who's very, very interested in the project and is advancing it for us in Washington.

We would have, we have many of these contacts and many of these visits to the province in no small measure because we have representation there. When we got elected, we said you know, Saskatchewan under the NDP had this strange sort of contracted mode. They didn't tell our story anywhere. They weren't engaged in markets. They'd go on the odd trade mission. One time they went to a trade mission to France where they were going to meet with Areva. I mean, we do business with them. The ambassador was here. We do some uranium business with them, little bit of agriculture, but principally they'd be there because of Areva. And the premier at the time, an NDP premier, refused to tour a nuclear plant. What a strange message this would send around the world. He just wouldn't go. I think he sent Cline. I think Eric Cline went, and he didn't go. We have a record of it.

I mean that's not the kind of engagement we need. We need to get our story out in an unambiguous way about what we have to offer the world, especially the parts of the world that wants food security and energy security. We need to be engaged in the United States, and so we have an in-market presence. We said that we would and we do, Mr. Chairman. And the amount of costs over the years, there's been a return for it. I think we're going to see more this spring. I would invite members to stay tuned for some real attention, some special attention to our leadership in clean coal technology as a direct result of this relationship.

[17:15]

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, having this lobbyist send an email to CNN and asking that the Premier be interviewed and keep his bio on file, Mr. Speaker, is hardly good value for taxpayers' dollars and has not brought concrete results as we would want and what we would expect. My question to the Premier: how much is the government spending this year on American lobbyists?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — 575,000 this year, reduced to 475,000 next year.

Mr. Broten: — Will the Premier agree to table all the reports the government has received from Nelson Mullins?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Absolutely not, Mr. Chair. Here we have, engaged on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan, an agent that is representing our diplomatic interests, representing commercial interests in the province of Saskatchewan. No, we won't be tabling those, Mr. Chairman. It would be irresponsible of the government to do it, regardless of the stripe of that government.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, the commercial interests can be redacted if necessary, but Saskatchewan taxpayers deserve to know what in fact is being produced for the kind of dollars that are being spent. This is not legal advice that is being given. We did an FOI again on this, Mr. Chair, and it shows the government said it would cost us \$3,060 to get the information. I think, Mr. Chair, that this information should be disclosed. It should be available. My question to the Premier: why will he not agree to table this information for Saskatchewan taxpayers?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, once again we're back to the long-standing process of the House that members, when we were in opposition, we had to live by. I assume it's the same standard now. I assume you accept that the standard that applied to the Sask Party in opposition should now apply to the NDP. If you've made a request and there's a bill been presented, if you pay the bill, you're provided the information. That's how it was for us, and that's how it should be for oppositions.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, if the Premier wants to be open, if he wants to be public, if he wants to share this information, this type of information is in the public interest. The Premier should not be hesitant to release this information. I do not know why he would not agree to it. Why would the Premier, why would he be so intent on digging in his heels and not releasing this information which is in the public interest?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, these contractors provide advice to the government which should be treated the same as advice from officials. Members opposite know the rules around that. They understand about the sensitivity with respect to advice from officials. Sometimes they're going to come in the form of cabinet. Sometimes they're going to come in the form of information provided by those who are contracted by the Government of Saskatchewan to represent us.

Mr. Chairman, the programs that we have been able to execute in Washington, DC [District of Columbia], the meetings that we've been able to have and the profile we've garnered for the province is something that's well worth having in-market representation. We're going to see even further evidence of that just in a month or so, as our clean coal project at Boundary dam 3 is a bit of a showcase not just for the world but specifically with respect to US interests who understand there's still going to be coal burned, but we should be doing everything we can to clean it up.

You know, he's been provided a way forward in terms of some of the non-sensitive information that's there, but this is akin to advice from officials, and he very well knows the rules around that.

Mr. Broten: — Well it's telling, Mr. Chair, that example after example today, we've had a government that has been reluctant to share information and give information to a Saskatchewan

public when they are being questioned, when it is available, and when it is in the public interest. We also see, Mr. Chair, that the independent Provincial Auditor has been highly critical, highly critical of this government for its use of consultants.

We know across government, the Premier has ramped up the use of consultants by 228 per cent. In the Ministry of Central Services, the use of consultants has jumped by 168 per cent, and this is very concerning. And 70 per cent of the time, 70 per cent of the time the Provincial Auditor highlights that they aren't even tracking what the consultants are doing, unbelievable that 70 per cent of the time they would not know what the consultants are doing even after that huge spike. My question to the Premier: what is the Premier's explanation for the fact that 70 per cent of the time government isn't even documenting the reason for the consultants?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, a couple of points, Mr. Chairman, and to my hon. friend. These are consulting engineers, so let's be clear about that in terms of referencing the answer that I am providing to members of the committee.

There are now more engineers in the Ministry of Highways than there was in 2007. That's a starting point, so we do need to continue to invest in in-house capacity and we are doing that. I would also point out that with respect to Highways alone, the capital budget's increased by 135 per cent from 2008-09 to this year. Our government's put record amount of dollars into highways, and some of the projects are pretty unique, so then rather than hire or add to your core group of engineers, your permanent staff, you're going to use consultants. If you're building more, you're going to use consulting engineers more. If you're building more highways, you're going to need more consulting engineers.

Here's some interesting statistics. The number of culvert projects alone — and members of the committee will be aware of the amount of flooding we've had in the last little while over the last number of years — the number of culvert projects alone from '08 to 2014 increased by 2,143 per cent. The number of TMS [thin membrane surface] upgrades from '08 to '14 increased by 24 per cent. And so the ministries had to adapt quickly to this because obviously, in the case of a flood, reparations need to be made as quickly as possible.

In some cases we went through significant flood mitigation programs in government over a number of years. Each of those required consulting engineers, so the use of consulting engineers is up across government. There's no question about it. The overall amount of full-time equivalents in government are down significantly, but we are using more consulting engineers because we have these immediate needs because projects come along.

We've had some disasters in terms of flooding. We've had increased budgets for highways. We've provided more resources even on the municipal side of things as well, and so you're going to have more consulting engineers working in the province because we're investing more in infrastructure and working hard to build the economy, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, there's no explanation there as to why there is no documentation in 70 per cent of the instances as

identified by the independent Provincial Auditor about why the consultants are being chosen. How is that not alarming to the Premier that you have such a huge percentage of these contracts being given out? What it does, Mr. Chair, is causes a problem for all consultants when there's not the right documentation going on, an explanation for what is happening. So my question to the Premier: is he not concerned by the fact that in 70 per cent of the instances, as identified by the Provincial Auditor, there's not a paper trail?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — The Finance minister has indicated that this has been discussed there, and I think some members of Public Accounts have discussed this as well. There's a recognition that we need to do a better job in this regard, and we will be.

I think it's probably fair to say that the government was, you know, we were surprised ourselves significantly by floods in terms of the need for the consultant engineers that would flow from both increased investment in infrastructure and also the disasters we've faced. But the Minister of Finance has certainly confirmed that when the auditor makes a report like this, we're always working hard to do better to listen to the advice, and we'll be doing that in this case as well.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, it is concerning that you would not have an explanation here as to why there would be 70 per cent instances without the right paper trail and the right rationale recorded, Mr. Chair. We submitted an FOI. We requested “. . . any analysis comparing the use of consultants versus the use of government employees.” Now the Ministry of Central Services said that no such records exist. My question to the Premier: how can he explain that?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, I want to point out what the auditor says here, and it's close to what the member's represented. It's pretty close:

However, we found that over 70% of the contracts with consultants that we tested did not document why a consultant was preferred over using in-house resources.

Mr. Chairman, this wouldn't have been a . . . When the government moves to contract something out because they don't have the resources in-house, because we don't have the consulting engineers in-house, if that's not an option, it's hard to understand the benefit of the comparison. I mean, if we had the engineers in-house to do it, we wouldn't be going to the consultant engineer in the first place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, when we see an increase of 168 per cent, a significant increase in the use of consultants, there ought to be a record as to why consultants are being chosen over those in the ministry. That is basic. Saskatchewan people deserve to know why that choice in fact is taking place.

So my question to the Premier: how is he not concerned? When we asked for an FOI, we asked for information on this, they said that no such records exist about that comparison. How is he not concerned about the fact that there is no analysis available that can be given to Saskatchewan people and there is not the right tracking of this information in 70 per cent of the instances?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well I just answered the question. But I would note some understanding and I appreciate this. One of the members of the Committee of the Whole is the member for Athabasca who was, on the 27th of April — just a short time ago, of this year — was commenting on this particular issue, and here's a quote from him: “I agree, you do need specialized services.” So credit the member for this:

I agree, you do need specialized services. And we don't need five or six individuals sitting in the Highways ministry that are going to be used once every two or three years. I agree with that, that if there's an instance where, where you're able to look out and find some private firms that can do some of the specialty work required . . .”

And that's exactly what's happened.

Mr. Broten: — Well then, Mr. Chair, there needs to be a rationale as to why government's going down this path, this Premier to be much more concerned about this than what he is showing. When you have the Provincial Auditor identifying that there's not the right analysis going on, that there's not the right track record of information, that the analysis is not available as the ministry said in the submission, this should be much more concerning to the Premier than what we are hearing.

We also put a freedom of information request for “. . . all travel expenses including transportation, accommodation, hospitality, meals, incidentals, and miscellaneous for Ministry of Health staff to attend meetings and events related to John Black and Associates' contract from January 1, 2010 to present.” Mr. Speaker, that is a reasonable request, because this government should be tracking what it has spent, what has been shovelled out the door, Mr. Speaker, with their lean pet project. But government said it would cost a massive amount of money for us to get that information.

[17:30]

It was a ridiculous amount so, Mr. Chair, we narrowed that. We narrowed that down to eight officials, eight officials highly involved in lean who should be able to . . . government should be able to provide information on their expenses. We narrowed it to Max Hendricks, Mark Wyatt, Pauline Rousseau, Kimberly Kratzig, Traci Schmekel, Tracey Smith, Sharon Smith, and Brenda Russell. So eight people. It was narrowed down to a reasonable amount. The government said it would take 70 hours to find that information and that we would be billed \$5,378.

My question to the Premier: why isn't this government tracking all of its lean expenses?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much to the member. I will get to the specific answer on health care travel, but I will just say once again, in the preamble to his question he said, well why doesn't the government provide a rationale for contracting out? We've done that several times. When we don't have the resources in-house, we contract out. And that's what organizations do, governments do, and that's what we're doing. And we want to make sure we're doing so in a way that's effective.

Just if I can, before we get to the travel question, it's come to

my attention that ours was not the first political museum that was planned or looked at for the province. I wonder if the member would agree with this. I'll send it over to him. But, Mr. Chair, it's a picture of the legislative dome. The name at the top says, from Eldon Lautermilch. Eldon Lautermilch used to be the minister for the NDP. Remember him? The minister of SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. I think he was responsible for that.

In 2006 . . . Now the member for Lakeview's been sitting beside the Leader of the Opposition this whole time while the Leader of the Opposition's been in somewhat of a dudgeon anyway about the fact that we would be even looking at a political museum. Here it is. There's several in the dome of the legislature. How expensive would that be? Several places where you can go to have a political museum in the province, and yet when someone else does it and looks at it and even rejects it, it becomes a central part of estimates. It becomes part of question period. The problem I would say to my hon. friend is, he's got to stop having one standard for the NDP and another standard for everybody else. He's got to stop that or you're not going to have the credibility that you need, that you want.

We'll answer your questions on health travel. I thank the member for the question. First of all, I think the provision of specific receipts can be made through the correct process. I think there will likely be a cost to that as a result of the freedom of information request.

But I can provide a pretty good breakdown here for members in terms of health care administrative officials' costing. And again we trust our officials to abide by the policies of the government with respect to per diems and the receipts that they are submitting for payment. We think that was the case when the members opposite were on the government side, and we trust the officials now, since 2007 when the government had changed.

And so in 2013-14 is the most recent year. We have in terms of total spent on travel costs, including flights and ground transportation, 2013-14, \$478,973. That's about a 30 per cent decrease in the same cost when the NDP were in power in 2007 — decrease — even with the North American tour, the lean tour, as the member refers to.

The total spent on meals on per diems in '13-14, the year we have a record for currently, 49,918. That's a 47 per cent decrease from when the members opposite were in . . . apples to apples. This is health care administrative travel, not adjusted for inflation.

And then total spent on accommodations and incidentals, '13-14, under our government — this includes whatever travel was happening with respect to lean — \$189,330. When members opposite were the government, under the same category, health care officials, accommodations and incidentals, \$225,940 — 16 per cent higher, unadjusted for inflation.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, when we asked for lean travel expenses for eight individuals, this government said it would take 70 hours to calculate that. These are eight individuals that are high ranking. They are not even tracking the expenses around lean. So my question to the Premier: how can we have

confidence in these numbers that he puts out around lean when they're clearly not even properly tracking the expenses?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Okay. With respect to the North American tour specific request the NDP made, it was the estimate because it was going back over a number of years. It covered five years, back to 2010, for the individuals he's referenced. It was estimated not by political people in government but by officials that there'd be 177 hours for eight officials on the lean travel expenses.

The member for Riversdale made the request, did not mention that the request covered five years of material dating back to 2010, contained extensive amounts of personal information that would have to be removed as per the freedom of information and privacy Act. All of this information was provided in a detailed cost estimate that is fully in keeping with the legislation, so all of the rules were followed. And finally the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, I don't think has failed to mention . . . The member asking the question has failed to mention that I believe our privacy office worked with you in opposition, the opposition, to reduce the cost of their request to 75 bucks.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we asked for the comprehensive information in order to get a true picture of the cost of lean. We have seen this government not provide an accurate picture around expenses around lean, so we narrowed it. We narrowed it to eight individuals. They should be able to provide the information. My question to the Premier: how can we have confidence in their claims around lean expenses when we know they're not even tracking the expenses?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, what the member just said is flat wrong. Of course the expenses are being tracked. I've just provided a report to all members of the Committee of the Whole that in fact the numbers are being tracked. They're being tracked globally and they're being tracked specifically. The global numbers have Saskatchewan Party government numbers for the same travel down significantly in every single category every single year that we've been in office.

Well he's going to turn back and talk to the former Health minister, and I hope he does because maybe the Health minister can provide a bit of highlight, some information for the Leader of the Opposition so he can get his facts straight. Moreover I just read to him, for the record, a note that speaks to the interest, the privacy interest of the information he asked. I mean I think, I know the member cares about privacy. I know he does because this has been an important debate we've had here over the last number of weeks. So the privacy office, privacy department's work with you to eliminate any sensitive information, provide what you want, and brought the costs for your requests down to 75 bucks, what in the world is wrong with that, Mr. Chair?

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, that was for one individual. The point here with the Premier I'm making here, Mr. Chair, is that they are not tracking the information. And we cannot have confidence in the numbers that they claim around lean for these supposedly good savings because they don't know what they're shovelling out the door when it comes to the expenses, when it comes to all of the costs, the total picture of the lean pet project

by this government.

We also know, Mr. Speaker, in January *The StarPhoenix* reported that at last count there was “\$1.5 billion backlog of school construction and renovation needs.” We FOI’d any analysis or reports around that \$1.5 billion need. The government denied access to those records and said, “The reason for refusal of these records is that they could potentially disclose a confidence of the Executive Council.”

My question to the Premier: why does he think this issue is a cabinet secret?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you to the hon. member for the question. Education capital is a very important issue. It’s been an important issue for our government since 2007. And, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out and, you know, there’s certainly lists readily available about projects that need to happen in the province of Saskatchewan. We want to make sure that folks know what those priorities are and when there is the possibility that there’ll be completely new school construction or replacements or renovations, and we provide that, Mr. Chair.

The most important question here though isn’t the process. My hon. friend, he likes to talk about the process and lists and when is this really... The most important issue with respect to education capital is actually spending it. The most important issue is to build the schools. The most important issue that we face is to renovate the schools that desperately need renovation. The most important issue for us in 2007 was to look at just a woeful disregard — the Minister of Finance was then the minister of Education — a woeful disregard for basic maintenance in our schools, basic maintenance in our schools. And so in those early budgets we had to start with that. And now the population’s grown, and now we’re building schools.

So here’s the bottom line. And I want to have this debate now and during the election campaign because in your last few years when you were the government, you were sitting on a mountain of money. I think the balance was about \$700 million cash in the bank account. You could have done the right thing in terms of maintenance, in terms of education capital. You might have released a list, which is all good but, you see, you’ve got to actually do something with the list when you release it, I would say to my hon. friend.

Here is I think an example of that, if I may submit respectfully: \$948 million invested in education capital since we took over from your party, the NDP. That’s a 320 per cent increase. That’s the most important part of any of this debate is actually, are you getting the job done? Are you investing in capital in schools or are you worried about process and lists? People will know here is a number of projects that are next, the capital list that’s coming for the province of Saskatchewan. And you know what? I can’t wait for the election campaign to talk a little bit about the record. We can talk about their priority on releasing the right list, and our priority, which is to build schools.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, these questions are fundamentally about this government being open and transparent with students, with parents, with school boards, with everyone in the province, Mr. Speaker, the \$1.5 billion of needs for schools. Think about the reality here that we have. We have schools in

this province being propped up with two-by-fours, with lumber, Mr. Speaker, because of structural problems, because of concerns. And this government, instead of being open and transparent with the public about what is the real need, about what the total need is, you know what they do? They spend money to take ads out to run against school divisions. That’s their desire. That’s their intent. That’s what you see in their actions, is picking fights with school boards instead of being open and clear and transparent about the amount. What we have from government, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, is not saying that this information doesn’t exist, but they say that it is a secret for cabinet and that Saskatchewan people — students, teachers, and parents — don’t deserve to know what the needs are when it comes to our school buildings.

My question to the Premier: why does he think it is a cabinet secret, that they can conceal \$1.5 billion of infrastructure school needs in our province? Why won’t he release that information?

[17:45]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, in answer to the member’s question: emergency funding approvals, École Notre-Dame-Des-Vertus in ... It’s a Conseil des écoles fransaskoises school that’s on the emergent list. These are emergent projects of the government. It’s very much public. Here they all are. Langenburg High School, that’s air quality and HVAC [heating, ventilating, and air conditioning]. We know about that one. P.J. Gillen, that’s an HVAC issue. École St. Margeurite, the Holy Family School, Connaught, Langham Elementary, Delisle Composite, Hanley, Hague, Aberdeen.

Major capital projects requested, there’s a number of them: Sacred Heart; St. Mary; Weyburn Junior High School; Yorkton Regional High School; Rosthern Elementary, High School. This is publicly available information. The list, I’m reading the list now: Colonsay School, Sidney Street School, Glen Elm Community School, Argyle elementary. So you have an emergent list. You have the major capital project list.

And here’s something. Here’s another list, here’s ... This is pretty important. Here are schools right in the middle of your constituencies of members opposite, where there’s certainly been a need: Athabasca, a brand new school in Turnor Lake; Cumberland, \$33 million in renovations at Churchill High School in La Ronge. I know the member appreciates that. Saskatoon Nutana. Finally, finally money for Saskatoon Nutana, after years of the NDP with a member in that seat for all these years. She was the Education minister in Nutana, for all these years. You know what they were probably talking about? If we could just put Saskatoon Nutana on a list. That’s what you were probably thinking in government. If we could just put Nutana on a list, that would be good. You know what, Mr. Chairman? We decided that’s probably not good enough. We should probably get the job done in Saskatoon Nutana, \$14 million in renovations.

Regina Elphinstone-Centre, two replacement schools, Sacred Heart and Seven Stones; Regina Lakeview, we’ve talked about that member a little bit today, replacement school for the Connaught community; Riversdale, a new state of the art school facility, St. Mary School; Saskatoon Centre, another member’s seat, 6 million in renovations for E.D. Feehan School; the

deputy leader's seat, new licensed child care spaces in the same building as his constituency office. He'll know it well. And the Leader of the Opposition, a brand new joint-use school in Hampton Village that he now opposes, that he is now on the record opposing because he doesn't like the funding vehicle.

You know, Mr. Chairman, I want to have this debate. I want to have the debate. I just read you a list of the emergent needs and the major capital projects, but there are other lists that we're going to get into, projects that we finally got to after years of neglect by members opposite. Towards the end of their term they had hundreds of millions of dollars, but they didn't have money for schools. And so we're building 90 new schools, Mr. Chairman, 25 major renovations and additions, 32 million for preventive and emergency maintenance, 10 million for up to 31 new relocatables, money to assume — I like this list; this is a pretty good list — money to assume 100 per cent of funding for capital projects, 155 million to begin working on 18 new schools, 9 joint-use facilities that the Deputy Leader opposes, that the Leader opposes because they'd rather have lists. We would rather have schools.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, there's a \$1.5 billion need in our schools. We have schools being propped up by two-by-fours. This Premier is claiming that the information of \$1.5 billion is a cabinet secret. My question to the Premier: why is he hiding that information from the Saskatchewan public?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I just read the list of emergent needs in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, there's a \$1.5 billion need, \$1.5 billion, and the Premier reads off a few projects. Saskatchewan families in every part of the province deserve information on that \$1.5 billion need. They can laugh at this, Mr. Speaker, but we have schools in Saskatchewan that are concerning when it comes to the safety of students. We see schools being propped up by two-by-fours. Why does the Premier think that the \$1.5 billion need, why is that a secret? Why won't he share that information with the Saskatchewan people?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, was the member paying attention? I provided him a list of emergency needs with respect to safety issues, with respect to air quality. I just gave him the list, in addition to the capital list. So I'm not sure what else the member wants.

I would just say this, you know, if in the next election people want to choose somebody that's good at making lists, they should choose the NDP. If they want a party that's prepared to do something about what's on the list, they might want to choose members on this side of the House.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we know there's information on the \$1.5 billion need. This government is holding that back. They're not releasing it. They say it is a cabinet secret, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people deserve to know the complete and accurate picture. That information needs to be provided very clearly.

We also requested documents, Mr. Chair, related to school division funding for urgent repairs, and we've had a bit of discussion about this, the urgent repairs since January 1, 2013.

That request went out on January 20th, 2015, but we still have not received a response. This government, Mr. Chair, is breaking the law. It's keeping this information secret, and parents deserve to see it. Why is this government not providing this information?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, we don't make the decisions around FOI timing. There's a public servant that's responsible for that. My understanding is that the request is in process.

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Chair, they are well outside of what the legal requirements are when it comes to the releasing of information. That's very clear. Mr. Chair, we also see concerns, we've had a big discussion around . . . when we talk about lean and we talk about the role of the Health Quality Council. Is the Premier aware that the Health Quality Council hired a freelance journalist to promote lean?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that an RFP [request for proposal] was sent out for this communications support through SaskTenders on May 2014. It was obviously a very public process. It was responded to by 10 candidates. Interviews were conducted and a contract was eventually signed with a writer for this communications work. Last December a decision was made to end the contract. The in-house resources were identified to be as sufficient, and existing resources are being used to support communications efforts.

Mr. Broten: — Sadly what we see, Mr. Chair, when it comes to the Health Quality Council is the role of this government in redirecting what Health Quality Council has traditionally done, good work that they have traditionally done, into being, Mr. Chair, more of a mouthpiece and a political speech machine, Mr. Speaker, for their lean pet project. And it's been at the detriment of the traditional work that the Health Quality Council has traditionally done.

Here are some of the examples, Mr. Speaker, what the HQC [Health Quality Council] is no longer tracking or reporting, important work that they traditionally did, Mr. Chair, that they are no longer doing: reporting things like patient's rating of their hospital, or if patients suffered medical errors, or if patients had a long wait for a room, or if they received the help they needed, or how they rate the cleanliness of the hospital and the environment. All of these, Mr. Chair, are now listed as historical indicators.

Well I think these are important indicators that can give a glimpse, Mr. Chair, as to how this government's lean pet project has gone very wrong. They are no longer being tracked. My question to the Premier: why are these important indicators no longer being tracked?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, we've seen this Leader of the Opposition take a run at officials in the scrums, basically saying what they had reported with respect to travel wasn't true, just categorically stating it as fact. We've seen his deputy leader take a run at a developer here in Regina without any facts to substantiate it. He almost was found in contempt of the legislature. He had to apologize. Didn't do any research, didn't call them, just a drive-by smear of a company that's investing in this province and creating jobs. This is the MO [modus

operandi] for those two, the future of the NDP, the leader and the deputy leader.

What he just got up and said a moment ago was that the Health Quality Council was a mouthpiece for the government. I think that was a direct quote. We should visit who exactly is on the Health Quality Council. Dr. Susan Shaw is there, obviously; Dennis Kendel. We can get into some of the bios. Ross Baker, who's been there for a long time, his member for Lakeview, the minister of Health, will know some of these people because they've served the province in this capacity, some of them from international places, some of them from the province, and some from other provinces in Canada.

Dan Fox, I think is an acquaintance of the Health minister. Is he a mouthpiece for the Government of Saskatchewan? He needs to stand up. He can take exception with some of the decisions they've made. I understand that. That's his job. He should be able to stand up and say, I don't agree with the health care quality council on that. But that is a significant difference than what he just did, which was to smear them. He didn't single any of them out or any specific reference. He called them a mouthpiece for the government, this independent group of leaders and doctors and people who serve from international places.

Now would be a good opportunity for him to stand up in the House and apologize for that. We'll have a debate about what he doesn't agree with, things that the health care quality council has done that he doesn't agree with. Absolutely, that's fair game. But he should probably start with an apology to this independent group for smearing them as a mouthpiece for the government.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, we have absolutely, absolutely seen this government push and steer the Health Quality Council in a direction that takes it away from the traditional important work they've done. We've talked about the lean go-teams. We've talked about the focus that they have pushed onto the HQC, onto regions, through the ministry pushing the Health Quality Council to be more consumed, more consumed with the interests, Mr. Chair, of this government when it comes to their lean pet project, as opposed to the important work that needs to happen for Saskatchewan patients here in Saskatchewan.

And it's sad what this government has done to the Health Quality Council. I do believe that, Mr. Speaker, because they have taken the HQC in the wrong direction. You can look at the internal documents from the HQC, Mr. Chair. They said that taking over the provincial kaizen promotion office would significantly disrupt its ability to fulfill its mandate and undertake the important work that it is supposed to do.

For example, what's the status of long-term care surveying? Is that still happening? And when will we see the results?

[18:00]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well first of all, Mr. Chairman, I want to get something else on the record. I really, I truly think the hon. member should have done the right thing there and apologized for calling the Health Quality Council a mouthpiece because of the people on this committee, some of whom were appointed by

members opposite.

You know, Mr. Chairman, it's important for the record and for the hon. member to know that this was not something we forced on them in terms of their involvement with lean.

An Hon. Member: — Oh, as if.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Oh, he just . . . There's his "as if" again. "As if" is the response. It's absolutely the case. They wanted to take this information on. They wanted to take this information on. And rather than disbelieve every fact that's presented, I think he should be more measured and more circumspect, especially when he's referencing a third party group like this that are serving this province. To write them off as a mouthpiece is not acceptable. I think he should just do the right thing and apologize for that, and we'll have this debate.

With respect to the long-term care survey, I want to share with the member that what we used to do was a survey that would happen after the fact. Sorry, the patient survey that we do. We do an after-the-fact survey three months down the road. Perhaps some would fill it out and send it back. But the realization by the system was that there wasn't the fulfillment. People were not responding as we wanted them to. So right now we're not discounting or disregarding or discontinuing surveys of patients. We're piloting a new real-time survey.

We're piloting a new real-time survey in the province. The Health Quality Council is monitoring it to see what kind of information we're getting. So while patients are in the middle of care and in the hospital — providing their feedback, good and bad, providing whatever constructive advice they have — we're going to pilot this. And if the Health Quality Council feels that it has the chance to be expanded, then we'll do that. If it's not working, we may have to return to the imperfect survey that we used to have.

But to say or to try to make people to believe that we're not doing a survey is incorrect. It's not right. And again, and again, you know, it's okay every now and then to say, I misspoke. I've done it. I think the member should at least apologize, should apologize to the Health Quality Council, apologize for what he called them. He just called them a mouthpiece for government. That's not acceptable here or anywhere else.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, everyone in the province knows that this government has taken Health Quality Council away from the important work that it has traditionally done. We see surveying, Mr. Speaker, that happened before that they now call historical indicators, very clearly, Mr. Chair.

When we talk about admissions that should be made, Mr. Chair, this is the Premier today who stands by his decision to leak confidential information about a private citizen. That is of no concern to him whatsoever. He's very clearly shown, Mr. Chair, a story that does not add up, a story that makes no sense, a story of when he learned about information, about leaking confidential specifics about a person. He says he learned at the end of the week. We know it was early on. We know, Mr. Chair, that this Premier is stubborn on this front and is unwilling to admit that he has made an error. In fact today he said he has no regrets, Mr. Chair.

I fully believe that this government has steered the Health Quality Council in a direction where it has taken it away from the traditional work that it has done. We have seen on so many instances from this government where they have been so concerned with the optics, with saving face, and trying to salvage something out of this lean pet project experiment that has gone horribly wrong.

My question to the Premier was, what is the status of the long-term care survey? The Health Quality Council said because of the lean work being shoved on it by this government, that that is being put at risk. My question to the Premier: what is the status of this long-term care surveying? Is it happening, and when will we see the results?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Members of the committee, and to my hon. friend, we're getting that information with respect to the survey. We should have it momentarily.

And while we're waiting, we've just noted that the member asked a question earlier in estimates about the fact that the member for Yorkton had tabled a petition with respect to the issue of abortion. And he was asking it, he said, to find out if it's an indication of whether or not our position's changed. I told him it hadn't. His House Leader, the member for Elphinstone also tabled the petition. He didn't mention that in his question, and I just wanted to know if his position also remains the same.

Mr. Broten: — Yes it does, Mr. Chair. When we think about the important work that is at stake here when we come to the care of seniors in this province, sadly, Mr. Chair, here in the Assembly, we've had many examples where there have been premature deaths in care facilities. I think of Margaret Warholm, Jesse Sellwood, Lorne Rowell, Fern Chingos, Irene Hohne, Lois Rein, and the elderly gentleman with dementia in Moose Jaw. We've heard many heartbreaking and tragic stories that have come forward to the legislature that haven't been made public, and we know that the Ombudsman has received 79 formal complaints about seniors' care here in our province.

We've had a big discussion about what needs to happen for seniors' care here in Saskatchewan in order to guarantee that every citizen has the protection, has the quality of life, and the dignity that they deserve.

My question to the Premier: when it comes to minimum care standards, why has he been so stubborn?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, we have minimum care standards. The document's 193 pages.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, to suggest that they have minimum care standards is simply not credible, and you don't have to actually take anyone's opinion for, or view of that, except for the political staffers of Sask Party ministers when we talk about minimum care standards. We know that it was this government that pulled them. Here is what one former Sask Party political staffer — he was the chief of staff to the Minister of Health — said, "Is there any further policy development or requirements under each of the items under section 1.4 for care standards? These are good but extremely general." A senior ministry official wrote back saying, "I do not believe there are more

specifics."

When we're confronted here in this legislature in this province with story after story of seniors who are dying prematurely, of seniors who do not have the care that they deserve, the quality of life they deserve, the safety that they deserve, Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier pretend that these standards are anywhere close to adequate when his very own political staffers say they are extremely general and bureaucrats say that there are no specifics?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — With respect to the long-term care survey, we have officials including the deputy minister on the other end of an iPad with the minister who are unaware of the long-term survey that you're referencing.

There is the hospital, the acute survey, and I've already answered that question. So maybe that's it. I don't know if it's something else that you're aware of. We're not, but we would be happy to try to find out a bit more about it and answer your question. We're just not aware of such a long-term care survey that would be the purview of the Health Quality Council or any other agency or partner within the health care system.

You know, Mr. Chairman, I think it's fair to say, we know that improvements are needed with respect to seniors' care in the province. I think it's fair to say that we recognized this immediately upon election and even when we were serving in opposition because in opposition we watched the government of the day close long-term care beds. At a time when the population was rapidly aging, the NDP closed long-term care beds in government, and so we knew that it was an issue then, and we have sought of course to meet the challenges around long-term care.

We freely admit there's more work that needs to be done but, you know, there are over 800 more front-line workers in LTC [long-term care] and integrated facilities in the province than there were when the members opposite were in government, over 800 more front-line workers. There are more nurses of every designation, many of them involved in seniors' care.

We're building new long-term care facilities after members opposite were closing long-term care facilities. We're investing through, as we did, a partnership with the Catholic Health Ministry, early on in the life of the government, and Amicus. That was one example. There's a Swift Current project. There's 13 others in rural Saskatchewan.

We know there's more that needs to be done, Mr. Chair. There's no question about it. But again I would say, if the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour, the best chance for improvement and progress for long-term care in this province is with members on this side of this House versus the record of members opposite.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, it is concerning that they would not know about the effect of forcing lean on the Health Quality Council and what that means for the important work that's being done. This survey in particular is talked about in the PKPO [Provincial Kaizen Promotion Office] transition plan, and we can talk about this on subsequent days as well.

I know time is marching, but my question to the Premier, Mr. Chair, is this: does the Premier support regulated staffing ratios in child care facilities?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well I'm interested in this notion from the Leader of the Opposition to regulate staffing levels, I think he said, in daycare. Certainly the ministry, the government is available if anyone has a concern with respect to the quality of care that's provided. The member will know though that there are many daycare operators in the province, many of them who perform a very valuable service, who do a great job of providing care in their home that would fall out this category. So is he suggesting that all of them should now be regulated? I'm not sure where he's going. But I would say that if there's any concerns that someone has, the Minister of Education has confirmed that those can be looked at if they're presented.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, in the same way that regulated standards and ratios are required for child care, you know, at a child care centre for example . . . You have so many staff members and care providers required for infants, for toddlers, for preschool because there are standards in place because it is recognized that in order to ensure that the right care is there, you need a certain number of people to do the job. And that's why they're there for child care.

My question to the Premier: we think about seniors' care. We know that a certain number of people are required to do the job in order to provide enough care so that we don't have examples of seniors dying prematurely because of short-staffing, because of a lack of availability of staff to make sure that needs are being met. So my question to the Premier: if standards are needed for things like child care to have the right number of staff present, why does he believe that they are not required for seniors' care here in Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, if the hon. member is trying to present the fact to the House that it's a strictly per-child ratio or standard within child care, that's not the case. He knows it's about workload. He knows there's flexibility within a child care environment for the needs of those . . . Well it's true. The member from Riversdale doesn't believe it, but it is true. And that's precisely what the standards are in long-term care as well. They're very much about the individual resident, the individual patient.

Mr. Chairman, we're going to continue to increase resources, as we have in the past, for long-term care in the province of Saskatchewan. And I look forward to a bit of a wrap here, as we have concluded the evenings proceedings. But you know, with respect to long-term care, the record of the government is one of significant progress over what was the case when members opposite were in government. We acknowledge there's more to be done.

[18:15]

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Chair, the regulations in place for child care show the maximum number of children that one person can be responsible for. Very clearly they are provided on the ministry website because it's recognized that those standards need to be in place in order to ensure that people are properly cared for. If the rationale applies to children, I believe it applies

to seniors as well. This government needs to be recognizing that.

Mr. Chair, I know we've reached the end of our time here for the questions and the time where we have sought answers, sought accountability, and we have looked for transparency from this government. But you know what? The responses that we've seen have not shone a light on what Saskatchewan people deserve to know.

You know, we talked about, at the beginning, Mr. Chair, about this Premier's decision to leak confidential information on a Saskatchewan private citizen. He says he does not regret the decision to do so. His story does not add up with respect to the timelines of events, but we have seen a stubborn decision to stick with the story even though it doesn't make sense.

We've talked about cuts, Mr. Chair, that have been experienced by Saskatchewan families, some of the vulnerable people here in the province. At the same time, we've seen the misplaced priorities and the poor spending decisions this government has made on a number of fronts when it comes to the expenses that they incur, the things that they're willing to spend money on, the use of consultants without documentation and a rationale, when we see the decision for American lobbyists, when we see the decision to spend money on the things that don't matter to Saskatchewan people and are not at the heart of the concerns that people have.

Saskatchewan people deserve to know the information. They deserve to know about the \$1.5 billion of needs in our school buildings here in the province. But this government says it's a secret, and they don't want to release that. Well, Mr. Chair, on this side of the House, we will stay focused on the things that matter to Saskatchewan people. We will stay focused on their priorities. That is what we're committed to doing, Mr. Speaker, absolutely.

Mr. Speaker, as we come to the close, I do want to thank the Premier for this opportunity. I've not been satisfied with the responses, but it is an important opportunity. And I want to thank the officials for their role in this process as well, and I thank members for their presence here in the Chamber. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, I want . . .

The Chair: — Premier. Are there any more questions from members? If not, I would ask both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition if they wish to make concluding remarks.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Chairman, thanks very much for this evening's proceedings. Thank you as well to the member opposite for the question he's asked. I want to thank the officials for being here. I'll get this done now before I wrap up. We have talked a lot about a number of issues here, important issues. They've ranged from health care to social services to education to other matters of travel that are all certainly part of estimates and part of government accountability.

But with respect to the important issues of health care and education and social services that have been raised by the Leader of the Opposition, I think he understands — I know that

he understands — that there's only one way to pay for improvements in any of those things. There's only one way to sustain a quality health care system, education system, social safety net. The only, only way to do it is the economy, is a strong and vibrant economy with as broad a base as possible and low taxes as possible so that we can, you know, complete the virtuous circle with that low, broad tax base attracting even more investment capital. That's at the heart of our growth plan.

We're at a time in the life of the province today where there's significant economic pressure, where families are losing their jobs in the oil sector. Where I live and in southeast Saskatchewan and up the west side and even in Regina where Halliburton has made some decisions for layoffs, we're at a point in the economic life of the province where that pressure in the oil sector is real for families and real for the economy and real for the budget, down about \$700 million in revenue.

Mr. Chairman, you might know this. Throughout the spring, while we've been debating in the House various issues, we've had volunteers and MLAs door knocking, 20,000 doors knocked this spring. Do you know what we're hearing on the doors? Not a lot of what the member had to ask today. What we're hearing on the doors is the economy. There's a concern out there about the economy. The good news is we appear to be diversified. The good news is a great announcement from Evraz responding to the budget's new growth tax incentive, great announcement from Edgewood Products in Carrot River responding to our government's budget and our growth plan. \$1.7 billion expansion in a potash mine. New uranium sales, 7 million pounds.

So there's hope that we have this diversified economy to overcome what's happening in oil, but government needs to play a role in that. We need to be engaged internationally, in the case of resource sales. We also are the ones that need to provide the tools like new growth tax incentives to see the jobs expand. And if the opposition members can't in three hours raise one economic issue, not one issue of the economy, the number one issue in the province, central to the provision of any quality of life we want, that is very telling. It's telling tonight. It has been through session. There's been virtually nothing on the economy.

In the months ahead . . . Because in the election campaign that's upcoming, and in just about 10 months, people are going to be asked to choose which party, which individuals have the best plan to keep the province's economy moving forward to support health care and education and social services. And based on tonight and based on the session we've seen so far and what I expect to see or not see from members opposite, Mr. Chairman, the members opposite are not going to give them any reason to vote their way simply because they won't talk about the economy. They will not. They refuse to talk about the most important issue facing Saskatchewan today.

And so, Mr. Chairman, I think they're a reasonably good opposition. I think the Leader of the Opposition is also a pretty good Health critic. But in about 10 months from now, that is not the decision Saskatchewan people are going to be making. They're going to decide who the government should be. They're going to decide who they want making these decisions. And based on what I've seen so far and the hard work we're

going to do to try to earn support over the next 10 months, I think they're going to keep those folks over there and keep this party on this side of the House.

The Chair: — I will give the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition a short period of time to thank the officials if they so wish. Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I don't think we can thank them enough. We have thanked the officials that have joined us tonight, but they represent thousands, thousands of public servants across the province who deserve not just the respect of members in this House but our thanks and the thanks of the people of the province. And so perhaps through you, Mr. Chair, and through the deputy, the senior deputy in the public service, we offer our thanks to these officials but to all of those who deliver services across the province, public services across the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do thank the officials for their input. And I think it's also appropriate at this time, as all members in the House have spent considerable time going through the committee process, that we thank everyone involved with the committee process and the scrutiny that is provided of the budget: those at the Clerk's Table and those working in committees and those that keep this place looking great and keep us fed and everything else. So I'd like to extend my thanks to all those individuals involved. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: — We'll now proceed to vote the estimates. Subvote (EX01), central management and services in the amount of \$7,774,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX07), Premier's office in the amount of \$600,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX04), cabinet planning in the amount of \$1,121,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. Subvote (EX05), cabinet secretariat in the amount of \$499,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. Subvote (EX03), communications office in the amount of \$1,373,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried. Subvote (EX08), House business and research in the amount of \$442,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX06), members of Executive

Council, \$133,000. That's statutory and does not need to be voted.

Subvote (EX10), Intergovernmental Affairs in the amount \$4,480,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX11), francophone affairs in the amount of \$779,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Subvote (EX12), Lieutenant Governor's office in the amount of \$684,000, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2016, the following sums for Executive Council, \$15,752,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Members, there being no further business before the committee, I would invite a member to move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. We await the Speaker.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of committees.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move 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 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 18:28.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	7107
Morgan	7107
Broten	7107
Kirsch	7107
Sproule	7107
Norris	7107
Wotherspoon	7108
Ross	7108
Cox	7108

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes	7108
Vermette	7108
Belanger	7109
Sproule	7109

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Emergency Preparedness Week	
Huyghebaert	7109
Twelfth Year Gallery Show	
Wotherspoon	7109
Remembering Justin Gaja, Kristian Skalicky, and Carter Stevenson	
Bradshaw	7110
<i>The Fiddle History of Canada Performed in Carlyle</i>	
Sproule	7110
Remembering Vinessa Currie-Foster	
Doke	7110
Autism Services of Saskatoon Opens New Group Homes	
Merriman	7110
North American Occupational Safety and Health Week	
Ross	7111

QUESTION PERIOD

Expenditures Prior to and During Government Trade Missions	
Broten	7111
Wall	7111
Release of Information Concerning Worker	
Broten	7113
Wall	7114
Wyant	7114
Responsibilities of Care Aids	
Chartier	7115
Duncan	7115

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 179 — <i>The MRI Facilities Licensing Act</i>	
Duncan	7116

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Ross	7116

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 177 — <i>The Insurance Act</i>	
Wyant	7116

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 177 — <i>The Insurance Act</i>	
Wyant	7116

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund — Executive Council — Vote 10	
Wall	7117
Broten	7117

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