



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

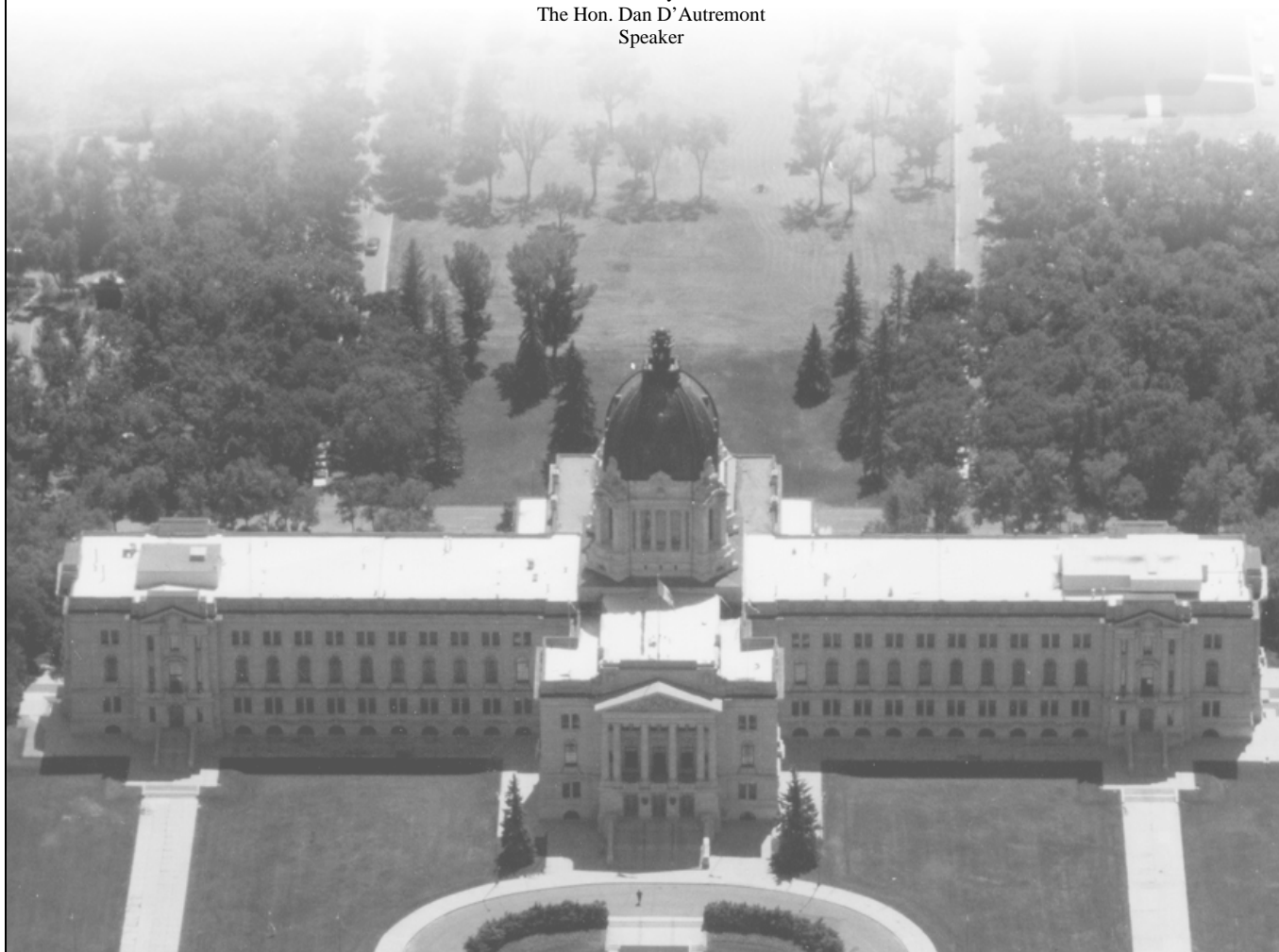
of the

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 Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege and an honour to introduce a number of people seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the front row are a number of people from Saskatoon and area, and I'm going to begin by introducing, first of all, David Buckingham and his wife, Karen — if they would give us wave — secondly, Jim and Kathy Buckingham, and of course David's niece, Jennifer and Patrick McGillicky.

Mr. Speaker, today we're honoured to have David Buckingham here in the legislature. David is born and raised in Saskatchewan on a farm near Shellbrook, has had the opportunity to grow up with three brothers, three older brothers, so that must have been a chore in itself. I'm sure all the chores on the farm got done with four boys.

But, Mr. Speaker, David entered the business, the car-hauling industry, an entrepreneur, has been in that business for 36 years. And an interesting statistic, because he's crossed Canada-wide in terms of the business, probably the number of autos that he has transported across Canada is about 70,000 from Ontario to British Columbia.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to recognize somebody like David who has served as the mayor of Borden. And of course during 2013, at a very difficult time, David took the lead as a key individual in dealing with the flooding.

So, Mr. Speaker, the most important part though of David's next career is going to be the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Westview because David won the nomination for the Saskatchewan Party in March of 2015 and will be the next MLA representing Saskatoon Westview. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming David.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I also would like to welcome a gentleman from Prince Albert, Mr. Joe Hargrave. Joe and his wife, Fran, of course have lived in Prince Albert for the last 14, where Joe has been the owner and operator of Riverside Auto Group and prior to that served with BMO [Bank of Montreal] for 20 years. Mr. Speaker, in 2007 Joe expanded his business. He has another location in Melfort, and of course he created Hyundai in Prince Albert — a very successful entrepreneur, a member of the Rotary Club, Board of Police Commissioners for Prince Albert, and a board member for the Prince Albert and District Communities Futures. And, Mr. Speaker, most importantly he will also be the next MLA for Prince Albert Carlton, and I ask all members to welcome him.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two groups to introduce to you today. First of all, to you and through you to the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, some individuals from the Saskatchewan public service.

These public servants are part of the new 57-member civil service response team that are going to support the government's response in an emergency situation. These members, in addition to their regular jobs in the civil service, have taken a three-week training program at our emergency management and fire safety base in Prince Albert, and they're now ready to be called up to help and deploy to support our emergency management staff and rapid responders as they respond to emergencies around the province.

Mr. Speaker, joining us today — I'd ask them to please stand and be acknowledged as I introduce you — we have from Regina, Donna Ackerman who's with the Public Service Commission. We have from Saskatoon, Desiree Hesson with the Ministry of Justice. We have from Regina, Trevor Leggett with the Ministry of Justice, and from Yorkton, Kevin Ross with the Ministry of Justice.

They're also accompanied today by our Fire Commissioner and Executive Director of Emergency Management Duane McKay, Deputy Commissioner Rick Galloway, and Logistics Emergency Services Officer Nolan Carter.

This is a very unique program in the country, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned. These public servants are dedicating, besides their regular full-time jobs in the civil service, have taken the training and are there to be deployed when needed. We want to recognize that today. There's four of them here today. The entire group is 57 members, and we're just delighted with the way this program's turning out. You're going to hear more about this unique program in just a few minutes during member statements, but for now, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of this Assembly to please give them a warm welcome and a thank you in their Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd also like to introduce, in the west gallery we have a group of 58 grade 4, 5, and 6 students from the great community of Eston. They're here to tour the Assembly. I look forward to an opportunity to chat with them a little bit later. They're also accompanied by chaperones: Jocelyn Nash, Collin Fox, Jenna Johnston, Chris Toth, Lily St. John, Cary Andrew, Marla Colley, Marty Wagner, Fay Krenz, and also teachers Tawna Hansen, Kylie Lorenzen, and all members of the Assembly will recognize the last name, Jodi Bjornerud.

Mr. Speaker, before I finish I would just like to point out that Eston, the great community of Eston is also home to the Minister of the Economy, and I mentioned Jodi is the daughter of the MLA from Melville-Saltcoats. And a number of other members, I believe, want to welcome the students to the Assembly today to the point that our Whip today asked me if he was the only member of the Assembly to not welcome them today. So, Mr. Speaker, I know a few more people would like to welcome them; the Minister of the Economy is especially anxious. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to please give them a

warm welcome to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming, in your gallery, our fire commissioner, Mr. Duane McKay, along with the civil servant emergency response team that's been established. Certainly we're ever so thankful day in, day out for the leadership and work of Fire Commissioner McKay and the civil servants across Saskatchewan, in conjunction with volunteers and hard-working people across our province, that keep us safe and respond to emergencies. So whether it be in wake of a fire or whether it's flooding or wind or other circumstances, we know that these individuals will respond on our behalf in communities all across Saskatchewan to ensure the safety and well-being of communities. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Fire Commissioner McKay and the new emergency response team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And while I'm on my feet, it's my honour to welcome some very important guests from Thom Collegiate here today, Mr. Speaker, my former high school. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to welcome two teachers here today that are also friends, Ms. Karen Howard and Mr. Brian Gatin.

Ms. Karen Howard is an incredible teacher of course, but she's also incredible in other aspects of her life. She was part of the Olympic team that went over for the Sochi Olympics and was a figure skating judge. Her husband, Brad, is an awesome principal as well in Regina. Her daughters are incredible students and basketball players, one daughter Kabree at the University of Saskatchewan and the other daughter Kylee at Brandon. I know my wife briefly got to know these girls as they were growing up, and I believe played a . . . coached them a little bit back in their elementary days. But it's a real honour to welcome Karen to her Assembly.

It's also an honour to welcome Mr. Brian Gatin to his Assembly. His mother was here last week and I think I made a crack about his poor fishing and hunting skills, Mr. Speaker. You know, I guess to be fair, I have seen him catch a fish, Mr. Speaker, and he is an exceptional cook and teacher and coach and a good friend, Mr. Speaker. So they're here today with students from Thom Collegiate. I had a brief chance to meet with them before the proceedings. I've had the chance to meet with them over at the school as well, and certainly they have good thoughts and ideas about how to better our province.

But I'd also like to mention about Thom Collegiate, Mr. Speaker. This is a school that punches well above its weight. It's recently raised \$17,000 for cancer under the leadership of Ms. Bahia, Ms. Back, Ms. Gates. The principal, Mr. Steciuk, I know played a part in I think taking a pie, Mr. Speaker, and the SRC [student representative council] played a very important leadership role. So I know that it's my honour to welcome these teachers, these students, and also to recognize the exceptional leadership of so many at Thom Collegiate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I

would like to join with the member from Rosetown-Elrose and welcome the school group from Eston to the legislature here this afternoon. It's a very special occasion when the groups from Eston come down because there's so few opportunities for them to travel as far as they did to come to the legislature here this afternoon.

I wanted to single out one young student in that group, Quintin King. He is the younger brother of my son's partner and girlfriend, and so Quintin, wave to everybody here so they know you. There you go.

Mr. Speaker, as you would know, there's a long-standing tradition around this Assembly that when a school group comes down, that the member that represents them provides them with some ice cream. So I'm sure the member from Rosetown will be happy to do that, and given the size of the group, I might have to chip in a few bucks myself. But I look forward to doing that. So, Mr. Speaker, I as well would like to welcome the students from Eston and their chaperones here this afternoon. And I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you might have noticed, and I've got an introduction here, but you might have noticed that it's going to take three or four of us to introduce the Eston group here today. On the east side of the province, it takes one MLA to represent a constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome, along with the Minister of Municipal Government and the Minister of the Economy, but I want to single out one person that's very special to me, my daughter Jodi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Jodi has taken part in the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] group of teachers that has come in here and got quite familiar how the legislature works in here and then has brought a number of school groups in.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I'm most grateful about is that she's provided me with three great grandchildren that I'm very, very proud of. And of course I'm very biased, Mr. Speaker, but very much appreciate what she's done for me and just ask all members to welcome her here today. It might be my last opportunity. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleagues as well to extend an invitation to the Eston group and, more specifically, my nephew Chris Toth who's now a pastor in the community of Eston, and his daughter Julia and son Peter who are here with them as well. It's unfortunate that Chris had to move his family to the west side to actually get a trip to the Legislative Building, so thank you so much. But I'd like to extend a welcome. And just one little note here: my nephew's son Peter, while he's quite young, is quite an avid cook. I'm amazed that a person that young would really enjoy being in the kitchen. So Peter, keep it up. And to all the students that are here, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, Mr. Speaker, I have no ties to the Eston group, but I certainly hope they will be enjoying their ice cream that the member from Rosetown-Elrose will be providing a little later on today.

But what I'd like to do, Mr. Speaker, is introduce a long-time friend, a university friend of mine that's seated in your gallery, Terry Martin. He's somewhat behind the clock. If Terry would just give us a little bit of a wave. We met many years ago at the University of Saskatchewan, College of Agriculture, and have been friends ever since. Terry's now retired from his employment and has become quite a world traveller. In fact, Mr. Speaker, probably a half a year may go by before I hear from him, and then one day my phone will ring and I see it's Terry. And instead of saying hello, I just ask him now, so where did you just get back from, and he's always had some adventure to relate to me, Mr. Speaker.

But besides travelling, doing a lot of travelling, Mr. Speaker, Terry's very involved in charitable organizations that do a lot of good work in Third World countries, and he supports them in a very generous manner. And I think I wouldn't be mistaking it if I would point out one charity in particular. It's a charity headquartered in Vancouver called First Steps. The mission of First Steps is to provide food and nutrition to the starving children of North Korea, and Terry's very involved with that organization. As a matter of fact, he travelled a few years back with the CEO [chief executive officer] of that organization to North Korea to see the good work that Terry and a number of very generous supporters from Canada and around the world are providing for those starving children in North Korea. So I would ask members of the legislature to welcome Terry Martin to his legislature.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through the rest of the Assembly, seated in your gallery, three individuals associated with the Regina Symphony Orchestra. I would like to ask them to stand and be acknowledged.

Today we have with us Tanya Derksen, the new executive director of the RSO [Regina Symphony Orchestra]. And seated beside Tanya is Jason Zhao, Chair of the RSO board of governors. And beside Jason is my good friend Kama Leier — hi, Kama — and Kama is a member of the board of governors.

Mr. Speaker, the RSO is Canada's longest continuously performing symphony orchestra. It was established in 1908. They perform the masterworks series. They also do the Shumiatcher pops series. The RSO provides fine entertainment for the city of Regina and its residents.

This year instead of doing a concert in the park, the RSO is moving their concert out to the Motherwell Homestead. So we're encouraging everyone to pack a picnic basket, take a

blanket, lots of bug spray, and go out to the Motherwell Homestead, enjoy the setting, and enjoy the RSO. We are so proud of them. Thank you very much for joining us today.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite, with my member here, and also welcome the group from the Regina Symphony Orchestra. I've had the opportunity on a few occasions this year to see the symphony and to be very proud of them. They're absolutely an awesome group and this is amazing.

I look forward to meeting again with them. I've met with all of them at one point or another here and I'm looking forward to more meetings because they're a vibrant part of the culture of Saskatchewan. So I'd like everybody to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in the welcome of these representatives of the oldest continuing symphony in Canada. We often forget about how this Regina Symphony has the longest history of any symphony in Canada. So a special welcome to Tanya Derksen who is the new executive director. She's already added a whole number of very positive aspects to the work. And Jason Zhao is the Chair of the board — they have a big task — and then also Kama Leier who is part of that board. It's a very great honour to welcome you here. And as you know, I've been many, many years as a subscriber and I will continue to do that until I can no longer get to the Centre of the Arts. So thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to just follow up with a couple of introductions here to their Legislative Assembly. But first to a couple of constituents from Rosthern-Shellbrook, Jim and Kathy Buckingham who are down with Jim's brother David. David and Jim grew up on the Cameo Buckingham Road — we've named a road after the Buckingham family in the rural community of Cameo — along with their other brothers. But I would like to welcome David and Karen but especially Jim and Kathy Buckingham to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, another constituent from the community of Parkside is Mr. Terry Martin. Terry and my late mother-in-law were first cousins, Mr. Speaker. They were formidable bridge opponents as they attended tournaments all over Western Canada and North America. Mr. Speaker, as the member from Cupar had noted, Terry travels a lot and is involved in a number of world charitable organizations. Mr. Speaker, he's also involved . . . He's an accomplished pianist, and he is involved in a number of local fundraisers and charities, Mr. Speaker, lending his talents to a number of different fundraisers in the community. So when he's not travelling, Terry is a constituent of Rosthern-Shellbrook, and I'd like to also welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Well I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome the last three people in the House in the east gallery that were not introduced.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of better schools here in Saskatchewan. We know that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced and the Sask Party government has eliminated hundreds of educational assistant positions and that students often don't get the one-on-one attention they need. And we know that the condition of many of our schools are rundown, unsafe, or uninspected, and this government refuses to release the information on the \$1.5 billion of known repairs that are needed in our schools, and that the government's plan to rent schools from private corporations is expensive and reckless. And none of this is acceptable given the record revenues this government has had over the last eight years. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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 is 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.

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. I am proud to stand in my place today to present a petition on behalf of the many communities in the Far North and the Athabasca Basin. And this petition, Mr. Speaker, relates to calling for an increase in services for the Internet. And, Mr. Speaker, there is an incredible program called Mathletics that needs a good, solid

Internet service support. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To cause the provincial government to extend fibre optic cable to Points North and beyond and provide better Internet service in northern communities and provide equal learning opportunities for all of Saskatchewan's children, and that includes the Far North [Mr. Speaker].

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from Fond-du-Lac, from Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Black Lake, and many other communities all throughout that region. And I'm very proud to present the petition as it relates to Internet services for the Far North. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition in support of adequate treatment for children living with autism. The petitioners point out, Mr. Speaker, that children ages zero to 19 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder living in Saskatchewan do not have access to adequate treatment options through the public health system.

They point out that current research indicates that early behavioural intervention for children with autism has best outcomes at about 20 to 40 hours per week. They point out that other Canadian provinces fund autism treatment services through the public system at levels of up to approximately \$60,000 per child. They point out that Government of British Columbia provides individualized funding to families of autistic children in the amount of \$22,000 per child age zero to six and 6,000 per child age 6 to 18. 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 provide families who have children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder with individualized funding of a minimum of \$22,000 per year per child age zero to six and a minimum of \$6,000 per year for children age 7 to 18 in order to access adequate treatment services for their child through either the public or the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, there are about 240 signatures on this petition from folks in Saskatoon, Hudson Bay, Viscount, Porcupine Plain, Yellow Quill, Englefeld, Humboldt, Watson, Muenster, Weekes, Spalding, Melfort, Souhey, Yellow Creek, Luseland, Quill Lake, LeRoy, Naicam, Regina, St. Gregor, and Langham. I might add too that there's 170 more signatures that weren't done correctly so I won't be submitting them, but I wanted to put it on the public record for the folks who are wondering what happened to their signatures. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Well it's interesting, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of maintaining hyperbaric services at the Moose Jaw Hospital:

In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly require the Sask Party government to reverse its decision to scrap the hyperbaric chamber and to instead ensure that this service continues to be provided in the new Moose Jaw Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens of the city of Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. As we know, 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 their communities. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he can't endorse such a rationalization as low-risk teens could be influenced and pressured by close proximity to high-risk youth who may be involved in serious crimes or gangs. Also, Mr. Speaker, Kilburn Hall is a more institutional environment that can 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 provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Ile-a-la-Crosse Nurse Honoured

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in my place today, International Nurses Day, to recognize a remarkable nurse from my riding. Last week Marlene Thompson received the Nora Armstrong Award for Excellence in Mentorship from the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association. This award recognizes the investment of time, energy, and personal knowledge by nurse mentors in assisting new nurses in their professional growth and development.

Marlene Thompson lives in Buffalo Narrows, and she is the patient care coordinator at the St. Joseph's Health Centre in her hometown of Ile-a-la-Crosse. She began her first three years of work at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon as a CNA [certified nursing assistant] and then worked as an RN [registered nurse] for seven years. In 2006 she began working as an RN at St. Joseph's Hospital until 2014 when she became the patient care coordinator.

Marlene was nominated and recommended by her colleagues for her competence as an RN, her communication skills which includes the use of Cree, her compassion and her dedication to her patients, her excellent clinical teaching, and her professionalism, along with her humility. All these attributes make her an excellent role model for the nursing program who come to work and are mentored at St. Joseph's. Marlene is a lifelong learner and continues her own professional development.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Marlene Thompson for her excellent work as a mentor and ask all members to join me in sending out our thanks for her commitment and dedication to serving the needs of northern residents. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Holodomor Statue Dedication

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the honour of joining Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Senator Raynell Andreychuk, Mayor Michael Fougere, Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod, members of the clergy, and many members of our Ukrainian community to officially dedicate a statue that will serve as a reminder of the Holodomor. The bronze figure is located in Regina's Wascana Park and is an exact copy of the Kiev statue entitled *Bitter Memories of Childhood* by sculptor Petro Drozdowsky.

Mr. Speaker, an estimated seven to ten million Ukrainians became victims of Holodomor, a man-made famine that devastated Ukraine during the early 1930s. It is estimated that at one point people were dying at a rate of over 24,000 people a day. Mr. Speaker, that's the combined population of the cities of Weyburn and North Battleford.

The statue features a sombre peasant girl holding a wheat sheaf, and it will serve as a reminder of the devastation caused by the Holodomor. It will honour the memory of those who perished and the legacy of those who survived, including many who found refuge in Saskatchewan.

Approximately 130,000 people in Saskatchewan are of Ukrainian descent, and projections indicate that last year we welcomed nearly 500 immigrants from Ukraine to Saskatchewan. So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members here to take time to visit the new statue as we honour the many people of Ukrainian descent who lost loved ones during Holodomor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Upcoming Pride Events

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year, June is filled with pride events right across Saskatchewan. Pride parades are happening on May 30th in Moose Jaw, June 5th in Swift Current, June 13th in Saskatoon, and June 20th in Regina.

Queen City Pride has asked that June be declared Gender and

Sexual Diversity Celebration Month in Saskatchewan. They write:

Although today lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals enjoy most of the same rights and privileges as heterosexual or traditionally-gendered individuals, as a group, LGBTQ individuals are still working for equality and non-discrimination in the workplace, in business dealings, and in various other areas. We are lucky to live in a province which has embraced and continues to embrace diversity, regardless of gender or sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, or beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, I always like to attend the Welcome to the Gaybourhood event only a few blocks from my office, this year on June 10th, and this year Saskatoon Pride is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Pride parade. It should be a good one.

I'd like to end with a quote from Danny Papadatos, Chair of the Saskatoon Diversity Network:

Pride is our opportunity to stand, walk, march and celebrate the people we were and are as an LGBTQ community united. We plan to bring you a festival that not only has you proud to be part of our community but gives you a chance to say: Look At Us Now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to get out in their communities and take in some pride events, promote diversity, and celebrate Saskatchewan's LGBTQ community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Civil Service Response Team

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform the Assembly of the establishment of a 57-member civil service reserve team that will assist our government's emergency management and fire services branch to respond to emergency situations. This new 57-member team is comprised of current provincial government and Crown corporation employees from across this province.

We know that being ready to respond to emergencies can protect lives and property. Our EMFS [emergency management and fire safety] staff and rapid responders do an amazing job of assisting municipalities in preparing for and during emergencies. The new CSRT [civil service response team] will be there to support their efforts at any time and anywhere in this province. These responders will help municipalities with everything from installing sandbags, creating fire barriers, equipment deployment, and assisting with evacuations.

All 57 members of the CSRT recently completed three weeks of training at the emergency management and fire services base in Prince Albert, and several members have already put their training into practice. Some were deployed to my own constituency to assist in suppressing the wildfires in the North Battleford area. Their efforts helped to save lives and property, and we are so thankful for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the CSRT is a unique approach to building our province's emergency response capacity. It reflects the nature

of Saskatchewan people to pitch in and lend a hand when others are in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

National Nursing Week

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, May 11th to the 17th is National Nursing Week. We set aside this time to recognize the outstanding contributions that nurses make to our health care system and to Saskatchewan residents. As part of these celebrations, we also recognize International Nurses Day on May 12th and Licensed Practical Nurses Day on May 13th.

Mr. Speaker, we're fortunate in Saskatchewan to have many dedicated registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses, and licensed practical nurses. They are extremely important members of health care teams and often go above and beyond to serve their communities and make their patients receive the best care possible. Anyone who has come into contact with the health system can attest to their expert, compassionate, front-line care on some of people's worst days. Nurses are also using their expertise in administration, education policy, and research in diverse health care settings across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to all nurses currently working in Saskatchewan's health care system for their hard work and commitment to patient- and family-centred care. I would ask all members join me to extend a warm welcome to nurses coming to the province as well as to new Saskatchewan nursing graduates. They're making a real difference to our health system and to the lives of Saskatchewan residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supporting Women in Leadership Roles

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last week was proclaimed Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. I also had the opportunity to host an event with the Sask Party candidate for Regina University and my colleague, the Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing. With over 185 attendees, it was an excellent opportunity to talk about the values of women in leadership. We had a future leadership speaker, Lilly Jedlic, 10 years old. Mr. Speaker, Lilly rocked the house.

Working in a number of different fields, women bring their strong talents to the table. In education two very successful women stand out: Vianne Timmons, president and vice-chancellor of the U of R [University of Regina]; Kathleen McNutt, incoming executive director of Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. And in the arts, I would like to recognize Tanya Derksen, the new executive director for the Regina Symphony.

In business we have Nadia Williamson, a business owner and 2015 Chair of Regina Chamber of Commerce; and Cathy Warner who runs the audit practice in private and public affairs

for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba as a managing partner at Deloitte and also sits on the Canadian Deloitte board; and scientists such as Margaret-Anne Hodges, incoming president of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan. All these women keep Saskatchewan strong.

Our government supports organizations like Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan dedicated to helping women achieve their entrepreneurial and business goals. Mr. Speaker, our government supports women in leadership roles. That is how we keep Saskatchewan strong. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Taxation in Saskatchewan

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we've worked hard to keep taxes low and to ensure that families keep more of their money in their own pockets. About a year ago, the members opposite were really trying to convince the public that the government was making the cost of living unbearable. Well, Mr. Speaker, you don't hear much of that anymore because maybe that's because the Minister of Finance brought in another budget with no tax increases.

This past weekend, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business released a breakdown of taxes and living expenses between Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, the CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] found that a dual-income family of five earning 75,000 per year will pay \$3,311 more in personal income tax than the same family living in Saskatchewan. That same Manitoba family will also pay twice as much PST [provincial sales tax]. The amount of basic personal income tax to be exempted is still at 9,130 in Manitoba while Saskatchewan's amount is closer to \$16,000. Elliot Sims of the CFIB, Manitoba's director, even says, and I quote, "The Manitoba advantage is our province's biggest myth."

Well I'll tell you what's not a myth, Mr. Speaker. We believe in keeping more money in the people's pocket in Saskatchewan. This government believes in keeping our economy strong, and this government believes that we can never go back to the days of the NDP and their tax-and-spend policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Buy Local Day Legislation

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Assembly passed *The Buy Local Day Act* on March 12th. My question is for the Premier. When will the government finally agree to bring it to committee so it can pass the final stages and become law?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, in the very obvious absence of the Premier, I'll be happy to take these questions. Local

business in Saskatchewan is indeed big business in our province. We support the fact that people should be encouraged to shop locally, and the benefits to Saskatchewan communities are very real, no doubt about it. However, Mr. Speaker, we don't think, given the common sense that people here in Saskatchewan have, we don't think that there is legislation that is needed to encourage Saskatchewan people to shop locally, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. First we have this government. They say, oh, the legislation isn't needed. That's their line, Mr. Speaker. The Health minister was probably saying those types of things as he beaks from his chair. Then they say, oh, we need this legislation, Mr. Speaker. They actually voted in support of this legislation. The minister went out to the rotunda and said that they support it. And now we have this minister flip-flop here, Mr. Speaker, being all wishy-washy, unwilling to pass this legislation — absolutely unacceptable — willing to let it die.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen for six straight months, six months, small business optimism has dropped in our province. We have the second worst small business optimism in the entire country. *The Buy Local Day Act* won't fix that, but it is an important, common sense step that this legislature can take to help boost local businesses.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business supports this legislation, wants to see it passed. The Broadway Business Improvement District supports this legislation and wants to see it passed. A network of small businesses and local ownership through Sasklandia want to see this passed, and many other business owners want to see this passed. My question to the Premier: when will this government . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government voted in favour of this legislation. We had a standing vote in this Assembly. The minister went and spoke out in favour of it in the rotunda, and now we see them allowing it to die on the papers. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: when will this bill go to committee, and will he guarantee that it's passed by the end of this week?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Given the fact that the Premier still isn't here, I'd be happy to answer that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite likes to suggest that somehow he knows something about business here in Saskatchewan but yet, when they had the opportunity to be government of this province, they lost money outside of this province on venture after venture after venture. Whether it was Guyana where they would invest Saskatchewan taxpayers' money, they weren't buying anything local there, Mr. Speaker. They weren't buying anything local in Guyana other than losing

taxpayers' money.

When they were in Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Speaker, what were they doing? They were spending more of Saskatchewan's money, not in Saskatchewan but in Atlanta, Mr. Speaker. When they were in Manitoba spending money, there was nothing being spent in Saskatchewan, lots being spent in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition likes to suggest he knows a little bit about running a business here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Well maybe he can explain venture after venture where they lost money outside of this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government needs to explain something here. When this legislation came before the House, every Sask Party government member that was present, Mr. Speaker, stood in the Assembly and supported it. My question to the Premier: what has changed? Why are they not supporting this legislation?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, when you give second reading approval, all that really means is in principle that you're prepared to get their support for it. What the government is prepared to do, Mr. Speaker, is at some point in the near future, we'll be making a proclamation around five Saskatchewan hearings in this province which will do the common sense thing here in the province and encourage people to invest and to buy locally here in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's one other thing that I would like to add about when it comes to running a business here in Saskatchewan. The NDP are so good at running a business here in Saskatchewan, they put on fundraising dinners here in the province. The only problem is, if you look at their last return, all of their fundraising activities around those kinds of things, they lost \$12,000.

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

Provision of Hyperbaric Treatments

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, an absolutely pathetic answer from a senior member of that government, absolutely pathetic.

Sandra Hassler had a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery in 2011. She says:

As a former hyperbaric patient, I can attest to how very important this treatment is. After major surgery, I developed three large and non-healing wounds. The hole in my abdomen was so large you could have dropped two golf balls into it. Hyperbaric treatment was key in healing that mess in six weeks. As a nurse with extensive experience in wound care, I can verify that it would have taken many months and repeated surgeries to remove dying tissue and grafting new in its place, if infection didn't kill me first.

My question to the Premier: what does he have to say to Sandra Hassler today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we certainly know that the hyperbaric unit has been used for a number of different reasons over the last 16 or 17 years that it's been in operation, and problem wounds has been a large part of that.

Mr. Speaker, I can confirm what I did say publicly is that the hyperbaric unit will remain in the province of Saskatchewan. We did look at a number of options, a number of options, Mr. Speaker, including providing this service out of province. And, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to do that, although keep in mind that some people, regardless of where it would be located in the province of Saskatchewan, some people may have to go out of the province for hyperbaric services just as they did under the NDP when we did have a hyperbaric unit.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that we are looking at options, and I look forward to making a decision around that in the coming weeks and providing to the public where in fact that service will be provided going forward.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Sandra needed 30 hyperbaric treatments, five days a week for six weeks, with each treatment lasting two hours. Here's what else she says:

For Mr. Michelson to say it's no big deal shows a complete ignorance of what health care professionals do and why they do it. My dressing changes were anywhere from three to seven days a week, and the specialized products I needed cost hundreds of dollars per day and hours of nursing time. Hyperbarics actually save Sask Health a great deal of money. Tell that to the government bean-counters. For anyone who actually cares about people, tell them hyperbaric saves lives and alleviates needless suffering.

My question to the Premier: does he recognize that the hyperbaric chamber provides critical medical treatment, or will he continue to downplay its importance to justify sticking it in a little private storefront somewhere?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do want to be very clear that members on this side of the House, most particularly the members from Moose Jaw Wakamow and Moose Jaw North have been very active on this file and have been very engaged in terms of bringing forward the concerns of their constituents I think, and I thank them for their work on this.

Mr. Speaker, certainly we know in terms of the numbers of times that it has been used, I think that in terms of the usage

over the last year, the numbers are down. But despite that fact, Mr. Speaker, we do want to see this chamber being able to provide services into the future for the people of this province. We are looking at where that location will be to best serve the people of this province going forward, Mr. Speaker, looking at a number of different options, as I said before. You know, I think that we'll certainly be in a position over the coming weeks to make that decision and make that announcement and be able to provide for the public how in fact that service will be provided in the province now that it has been determined that the chamber will continue to be in use for many years to come.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, if the Moose Jaw members have been so active in advocating for this for their city, why is the minister now at the 11th hour trying to scribble a plan on the back of a cocktail napkin? It simply doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker, and we know we've had silence and we've had ineffective representation by those two Moose Jaw members.

Dr. Amies, Mr. Speaker, is the foremost expert on hyperbaric treatment in our province. He says the hyperbaric chamber should be in a hospital. Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, a place this government is very fond of, Mr. Speaker, they've sent about 800 health care workers to Virginia Mason to tour. They have a hyperbaric chamber. Where is it, Mr. Speaker? In the hospital. In fact Virginia Mason brags about having a 24-hour critical care hyperbaric chamber in their hospital. And they brag, Mr. Speaker, "the only Northwest facility with physicians who are board certified in hyperbaric medicine."

Mr. Speaker, if the Premier won't listen to experts like Dr. Amies, perhaps he will listen and look at the example of his beloved Virginia Mason Hospital and see that this type of treatment should be provided in the hospital. My question to the Premier: why won't he follow that lead and put it in the new Moose Jaw Hospital?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the public and remind members of the House that for a long time in this province there were two members on the government side of the House from Moose Jaw. It was when the NDP were the government. And what did the city of Moose Jaw get out of that? They didn't get a new hospital. That took place under this government, Mr. Speaker. They didn't get an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] to serve the people of southern Saskatchewan in that new hospital. That's thanks to the works of the two members on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, members of this caucus, that we're seeing that work being done.

Mr. Speaker, there are a variety of opinions on this in terms of where is the best place to put this chamber. We're evaluating all of that. Certainly there are options within hospitals as is done in Edmonton, however Calgary doesn't have an in-hospital hyperbaric chamber. It's a clinic setting.

The former CEO of Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton sent an email that says, when the only hyperbaric chamber between Vancouver and Toronto was installed, that's when he was the CEO, and then concludes by saying that, "I concur with Five

Hills' decision not to move the hyperbaric chamber to the new hospital." That's one opinion. We're looking at all those different opinions. We're looking at the numbers in terms of what makes sense for the province, and we'll be making a decision accordingly.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — We have two days left in this session, and we may be going to an election before we have another session. I have yet to have the pleasure of ejecting anyone on either side of the House from the House, but if we carry on as we have been today, over the next two days you may give me that privilege. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's been like pulling teeth to get this government to recognize that the hyperbaric chamber should stay here in Saskatchewan, and now they need to realize that the hyperbaric chamber should stay in the hospital and it should be in the new Moose Jaw Hospital. It makes no sense for this government to take the hyperbaric chamber out of the hospital. It also makes no sense to take the hyperbaric chamber away from Moose Jaw, and we've heard this clearly from people in Moose Jaw and throughout the province.

Moose Jaw has three physicians that have gone to the United States and been certified in hyperbaric medicine. Moose Jaw also has three full-time respiratory therapists that are certified in hyperbaric treatment. This is additional training and certification.

My question to the Premier: does the Premier think that the trained and certified hyperbaric doctors and technicians should leave their job at the Moose Jaw Hospital? Is that his plan that he's scribbling out now in the 11th hour?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, we are looking at a number of options when it comes to providing hyperbaric services here within the province. Mr. Speaker, I would note that in terms of its existing use, we know that the largest number of referrals come from the Moose Jaw area, so in that respect it probably is underutilized. We're not seeing additional referrals in a great number coming from additional areas around the province, Mr. Speaker. That's something that obviously we need to educate the system that this service in fact is provided in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that in the case of Alberta, in terms of both on the outpatient and the in-patient side, both are in tertiary centres, major tertiary centres. That's one option that we have to look at if we actually want to see this unit being used to its greatest capacity.

Those are all the things that we're looking at as we're evaluating this. As I said before, I expect to be in a position to make a decision on this in the coming weeks after all of that analysis is done, and look forward to making that announcement coming soon.

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

Gay-Straight Alliances

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no legitimate reason for this government to refuse to implement legislation to enshrine the rights of students to form gay-straight alliances or gender sexuality alliances, and the explanation from the Premier, the Education minister, and the Sask Party MLAs just don't add up. To the Education minister: what's the real reason this government is so afraid to pass legislation on GSAs [gay-straight alliance]? Is it because the Sask Party is afraid to offend social conservatives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite and I agree on the benefits and the values of having GSAs in our schools. Both of us have seen the benefit that that gives to students. This isn't a matter about social conservatives or where you sit on the political spectrum. It's a matter of doing the right thing for students.

We have by policy directed that they shall exist in schools in each and every school where one has been requested by students. Everywhere we have checked, where there's been one requested, we have determined that one has been provided. Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite know of a place where one has not been provided, we would be pleased to continue to look at that and verify whatever is taking place. If a student is unable or unwilling to come forward and do that, have them do it through second-hand . . . through information, and we can check and follow it up there, or use the online reporting tool which is totally anonymous.

Our focus, Mr. Speaker, is and will continue to be to make sure that we do everything to ensure that our students have the supports that they need.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, here's a quote from government's own internal document, and I quote, "Sexual minority and gender-variant youth continue to experience discrimination, prejudice, and abuse." And we know that over half of LGBTQ students have thought about suicide, yet for some reason the Premier argued last week that we have a happy circumstance in our province where students don't need a legislated right-of-way to GSAs. Does the Education minister actually expect us to believe that he hasn't heard about kids encountering problems when trying to set up GSAs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether GSAs are enshrined by way of policy or by way of legislation makes no difference. It's difficult for a student to be willing to come forward and ask for it where they need it and where they require it. It is the goal of this government to ensure that it is required. Having it enshrined in legislation doesn't make it any more easy or any more appropriate for a student to come forward if a student is having difficulty. We will continue to work to make sure that they are available in each and every school where a student has asked for it and, Mr. Speaker, we will reach out to students where we think that they're not

being heard.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard the same kind of allegations that the member opposite has put forward. We have tried to follow up on any of those that we've heard. It would make no difference whether it's by way of legislation or by way of policy. We intend to find any place where the GSAs are not made available and make sure that in fact they are made available. We have not yet in fact found such a situation but, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with students because that is the first priority of this government.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, Amanda Guthrie is the youth and education coordinator at the Avenue Community Centre in Saskatoon. She says, and I quote:

A lot of students that I work with have needed the support of friends or teachers when asking for a GSA, and the addition of legislation would only help students to feel more confident in their ask. Having legislation sets a precedent and puts power on the side of the student rather than the school or school division.

Amanda knows of students who have been denied or discouraged from establishing a GSA. Chandra McIvor has also worked in this area and knows of many students who've been denied or discouraged from establishing GSAs, and she says that this minister has heard about these circumstances too. Why is the minister bending over backwards to please social conservatives instead of the kids?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd indicated earlier this has nothing to do with social conservatives or a political spectrum. This has only to do with providing services that are necessary. Whether it's enshrined legislation or otherwise makes no difference.

Mr. Speaker, I have a quote from Dan Shier, Queen City Pride, Global News, March 12, 2015: "I don't see it currently being a huge necessity just because students are getting the services and the spaces that they require." Mr. Speaker, our goal is to make sure that we provide the services wherever they are provided.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite and I will agree on one thing. We've heard students speak. We've heard students talk about the need for it, and if students aren't comfortable coming forward and raising the issue, we want to be able to reach out to them either through social media, through the online reporting tool, or whatever else. If a student isn't willing to give us their name, if they will at least tell us the school, then we can go to the school and find out.

Any time where we've heard the name of a school before, we've gone to that school and in fact found that a GSA existed. We haven't found a situation where one has been refused. We have confidence in our schools that they're compliant with the policy and, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work that way.

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

Mr. Forbes: — I would encourage the minister to read the whole quote when he's quoting folks about this issue. It's very, very important to do that.

That minister and that Sask Party government needs to recognize it's not good enough to leave this up to vulnerable youth to stand up and speak out. It's up to us in this Assembly to take a stand and enshrine this right in legislation. That would make a big difference for our students in our province. The minister's talk of possibly pulling funding is nothing but a ploy to avoid passing legislation.

To the Education minister: what will it take for the Sask Party government to shelve the social conservative . . . the excuses and finally show some real leadership when it comes to GSAs and vulnerable youth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite can talk about making a symbolic gesture, and I appreciate that they may wish to do that. Our goal, Mr. Speaker, is to reach out to the students that need help, that need support. That is the one thing I agree with the member opposite the most on, and it's something that we want to do by finding the individuals that need help, working with them, making sure that supports are available in the school.

We've had good support from the schools. I give the schools credit for it. I give the school divisions credit. I give the individual teachers that are participating in it . . . And, Mr. Speaker, we want to continue going down that road.

Passing laws doesn't make it any easier for a student to admit that that student needs help. What does help is that we know that the students can find the resources. The students have a method of accessing it. And, Mr. Speaker, we encourage students to use the online reporting tool to write to us, write to us anonymously. We at least need to know where the school is so that we can do something within that school.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue doing that and I would urge the members opposite if they know of situations, help us bring them forward so that we can identify if there are gaps in it. Passing a law isn't going to make the gaps go away. Identifying where the gaps are and working with us will.

[14:30]

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

Health Quality Council and Long-Term Care Surveying

Ms. Chartier: — When this government made the Health Quality Council its provincial kaizen promotion office, the HQC [Health Quality Council] said it would have a major impact on its other work. The transition plan warned that there could be a delay in implementing long-term care surveying. Last week the Premier and the Health minister said they didn't know this. It's concerning that they weren't paying attention to

the impact of their decision. Does the Health minister have an answer today? What is the status of long-term care surveying?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the work of the Health Quality Council and their board. I do want to put on the record, I think it was indicated that half of the board members were appointed by this government, Mr. Speaker. Half of the current board members were actually appointed by the former NDP government, so I wouldn't want anybody to think that they are simply mouthpieces to the Government of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what is taking place is, in terms of an acute care survey that has been done over the past, what they've moved away from, they've changed the methodology because what had happened in the past was that was mailed out after the fact. That was really dated information. It didn't tell us much. The people filled that information out many months after they actually were in the hospital.

What is now being tested is, in five or six sites they're testing, on the acute care side they're testing a real-time survey that is done in the hospital in those locations. And they'll be making a decision on whether or not that's the decision that they want to go forward, knowing that real-time information is more valuable than dated information.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the Health Quality Council said they wanted to do long-term care surveying. When they released last year's annual report, the Health Quality Council said their work was ". . . primarily focused on understanding and executing . . ." the functions of the provincial kaizen promotion office.

We know that HQC is not readily making available any new research reports since early 2012, and they had to sideline their plans to undertake meaningful work that actually fits with their mandate, like surveying patients in senior care facilities. We've been told that HQC is still not doing any long-term care surveying, which is no surprise because they are consumed with promoting lean. To the minister: how is that acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well certainly, Mr. Speaker, the Health Quality Council is engaged on significant work that is outside of the work that they're doing as our provincial kaizen promotion office.

Mr. Speaker, they are doing work as it relates to the emergency department initiative. They've also been tasked to do data collection as it relates to our Connecting to Care, or our hot-spotting program, so they've helped to identify, looking at the data, looking at the tracking of which patients were high-use users of the emergency department. Mr. Speaker, they've also been engaged in helping health regions on a number of other projects. There was research that was done as it relates to

dementia and Alzheimer's. That was research that was done by the Health Quality Council.

As I've indicated in committee, Mr. Speaker, the work of lean in the Health Quality Council is a part of the work that they're doing, but certainly they are engaging with significant work that is a part of their original mandate, and that work continues. More than half of their staff are engaged in that work. They're not engaged in lean activity. But, Mr. Speaker, this is work that not only the board members that we appointed but board members appointed under the NDP actually embraced this work and they wanted this work and they voted as a board to accept this work. We'll let them do their work.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's astonishing that this minister doesn't have an answer. He's had a week to find the answer about what has happened with long-term care surveying.

There is a crisis in seniors' care. We've heard major concerns from seniors and their families and care aids. The government's own CEO tour report identified major problems. The Ombudsman has been inundated with serious concerns about seniors' care since the start of our investigation.

You'd think this government would take this seriously and have the Health Quality Council looking into seniors' care and recommending improvements. That's what the Health Quality Council wanted to do, according to internal documents, but now the HQC is consumed with promoting lean. How can the Health minister keep justifying such messed-up priorities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder how the members opposite can justify, when they were in government, 19 long-term care facilities in this province closed. Twelve hundred long-term care beds in this province were closed at a time when our population was aging and at a time when the young people of this province and their families were being driven out to other provinces to look for work, Mr. Speaker. That's the record of the NDP.

It's also the record of the NDP, the ability for the Ministry of Health to actually inspect long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, what they won't tell you is they actually stopped doing that. They didn't have the money to do it. Then they took it out of the legislation about six years after they actually stopped doing their work, so they weren't even following their own legislation, Mr. Speaker.

We have invested in long-term care. We have invested in seniors' care and, Mr. Speaker, the long-term surveys will be beginning this fall by the Health Quality Council.

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. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its eighth report. I move:

That the eighth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice:

That the eighth report of the standing committee be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 934 through 938.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 934 through 938. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 939.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered responses to question 939. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers 940 to 943.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 940 through 943. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 944.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered a response to question 944. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 945.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to question 945.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 179

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 179 — *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand in my place today to give my initial comments on Bill 179. Mr. Speaker, the process behind Bill 179 is obviously the Saskatchewan Party government's efforts to try and bring in private MRI services to the people of Saskatchewan.

And what I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that in this 11th hour, as mentioned by my colleague from Saskatoon Centre, the Saskatchewan Party government is bringing this bill forward in the dying days of the Assembly sitting for this year. And, Mr. Speaker, that's consistent with the trend of the Saskatchewan Party government to try and put a lot of the legislation and their philosophical ideals before the interests of the people of Saskatchewan. And one of the biggest philosophical ideals that I see evidenced on a continual daily basis, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatchewan Party being ideologically attached to things like private health care, to making sure that the Crowns are sold, and to making sure that they get their way when it comes to the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a few moments if I can to talk a bit about what Bill 179 would do. Basically what the title of Bill 179 is is *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*. And what the facilities licensing Act does, Mr. Speaker, very basic and very straight and very straightforward, is it allows private companies to come into Saskatchewan to provide MRI services to the people of Saskatchewan that could afford it. And the government contends, the government contends that this is the way of reducing the backlog of people looking for MRI services, Mr. Speaker.

And we on the opposition side, we want to explain to the people of Saskatchewan what our perspective is. So as you're sitting at home listening to this, you're going to basically assume that the government is pushing this agenda forward to try and get people that need MRI services to be provided those services at a quicker pace.

What's happening with this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset of my comments, that Bill 179 is allowing for private MRI services. And by that we mean that people that are able to go and get their MRI done at their own cost now have the option of doing that. That's what the bill is intended to do.

So right at the outset people would say, well if people are willing to pay for their MRI, shouldn't they have that opportunity or choice? That's the question people are asking out in Saskatchewanland. Well, Mr. Speaker, what we contend in

the opposition is, you got to be very, very careful when you introduce bills of this sort because what happens is the whole debate and the whole notion and the whole argument and the whole fight around private health care versus public health care begins, Mr. Speaker.

And as we said at the outset, it's strange that the Saskatchewan Party government is introducing this bill in the dying days of the session, where we've got two or three days left in this session and all of a sudden this bill comes forward. And, Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has indicated, and I certainly concur, that this debate between public health care and private health care is a debate that the NDP would love to have over a number of weeks, not just two or three days.

So what's happening here, Mr. Speaker, is that Saskatchewan Party are afraid to have the public debate in the Assembly, in the eyes of . . . in front of the Saskatchewan people to be able to prove to the Saskatchewan people that what the Saskatchewan Party is going to try and do is begin the process of providing private health care service where people with the money are able to afford to do a lot more, or provide and have access to a lot more health services than those that do not have the resources, Mr. Speaker.

What Bill 179 does, it begins the process. Now I'm going to try and do my very best to explain how we see this Bill 179, that allows private MRIs to come to Saskatchewan, is beginning to spell a troubling trend for the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to go back a bit just to give some reference to the point that I've raised and will continue to raise during this debate: that is, we look at the Saskatchewan Party government; we know that they love to sell our Crowns. And the people of Saskatchewan are watching very, very closely.

That is an ideological position that they have taken, that the Crowns need to be sold, and all of sudden with great fanfare, they said, oh no, we're not going to sell our Crowns. But now as you fast-forward to 2015, Mr. Speaker, what is gone so far? Information Services Corporation has now been sold. The publicly owned liquor stores are now in the process of being devalued, and of course, Mr. Speaker, they're allowing the private sector to also compete with the publicly owned liquor stores. And the reason why we talk about the publicly owned liquor stores, Mr. Speaker, is these liquor stores generate a huge amount of profit for the people of Saskatchewan. So they're starting that process, Mr. Speaker, as well.

[14:45]

So you see some of the other things that are occurring with our Crown corporations, you're slowly but surely seeing a trend, that the Saskatchewan Party always goes back to the philosophical beliefs that we need to sell the Crowns. We're seeing evidence of how they're doing that, and it really refers to our issue around Bill 179, that we also believe that the Saskatchewan Party government is also going to be advocating and supporting and building a private health care system where people are allowed to jump the waiting line if they have the cash, Mr. Speaker. We see evidence of that on a continual, continual basis.

And this is one of the debates that we wanted to have a huge

argument on, Mr. Speaker. The fight was on over Bill 179, Mr. Speaker, and that's why the Saskatchewan Party government only introduced this bill in the dying days of the session. Because, Mr. Speaker, they knew that the NDP would stand up for Saskatchewan families by making sure that there was an equal opportunity for all people in Saskatchewan to access health services, to access health services regardless of their income. And once again, Mr. Speaker, based on their philosophical beliefs, you've seen them do it with the Crowns, and now they're starting their process with the health care system, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to point out that one of the challenges that I see with many of the older people that are accessing some of these services — I'm not necessarily saying it's only the older people, but a lot of the older people that we know are going to do the MRIs or doing the knee surgery — that they have a most difficult time in their latter years in terms of trying to find the quality of life, a day that doesn't have pain. These are some of the things that many of the elders look forward to and that they're always constantly worrying about health care, Mr. Speaker. And we want to point out that we understand where their argument is coming from. And what I would say to many of the elders that are listening to this particular program as it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this government, the Saskatchewan Party government is making it more and more difficult on many of our elders that are accessing health care services on a number of fronts.

The first front that I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that they have taken 6,000 senior citizens off the drug plan. And at the outset people would say, well if they have the income — then the argument would be from many of those people's perspectives — they could afford their own medicine. But, Mr. Speaker, that's not the only cost that's also been heaped on some of the seniors that have been taken off the drug plan program. They also have to pay increased cost of food. They have to pay the increased costs of heating their homes. They have to pay a lot of increased costs with everything from bigger power bills or larger power bills, and the list goes on.

So bit by bit by bit, Mr. Speaker, you're seeing many senior citizens, regardless of some of their incomes, they're having a more and more difficult time in making ends meet because the Saskatchewan Party government is not only taking away some of their benefits when it comes to health care. They're also increasing costs for their power bills, for their food costs, the gas costs, and the list goes on.

So we know that while some would argue that some of these seniors do have the resources to meet their own medical or their own drug costs, what we would say on that front is that many of the seniors that are being taken off the drug plan are finding many more challenges to their budget because of the increased costs that the Saskatchewan Party has provided and will continue giving them as time goes on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the reason why . . . You look at the MRI licensing Act, Bill 179. Are we seeing a trend here where it's going to be a system where the Saskatchewan Party has put in place only the people that have the financial resources are now able to access services? We are very concerned about that, and this is the reason why we wanted to have a thorough debate,

the longer time in the Assembly to argue these points, that once again we're seeing that the Saskatchewan Party, like a little mole sticking out their head to do some trial balloons on the whole notion of the privately funded MRI service, Mr. Speaker. It's a trial balloon. And now what's going to happen with this trial balloon, Mr. Speaker, is that they didn't give the opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to debate this, Mr. Speaker. They also didn't give the opportunity to the NDP to come along and to argue against this particular bill and the actions that this bill will cause later on.

Now what happens, Mr. Speaker, as you look at some of their campaign pamphlets of the past, and guess what, Mr. Speaker? There was no private MRIs as part as their platform, and now they're providing that opportunity today, Mr. Speaker. And that's exactly why, on this side of the Assembly, we'll never ever trust the conservatives because they're tied to their ideology. They will never, ever get away from that.

And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that they're closely tied to the Conservatives, and that is their federal cousins. And, Mr. Speaker, many of the provincial Sask Party MLAs hold Conservative memberships, so we know that they get great advice from the Conservative government on many fronts. And, Mr. Speaker, we're finding more and more and more they've got to go further and further and further to get some of that advice because there's less and less Conservatives, even in the West, Mr. Speaker. And this is one of the reasons why I think people in Saskatchewan are starting to wake up to the fact that they want to bring in private health care, that they want to sell the Crowns, and they want to put the people of Saskatchewan in debt for years and years and years.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is another prime example, another prime example of why these bills, Bill 179, an Act that'll provide, *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act* which will allow private firms to set up MRI services here in Saskatchewan.

Now I want to shift gears again, Mr. Speaker, a bit towards the argument that we have made, where we had pointed out that there are opportunities. I'll give you an example. Alberta now allows, allows the private MRI service there. So people that do have the money, instead of waiting for a public MRI service, they could actually go to a private one and pay money out of their own pocket to get that particular service.

Now some people would argue, and we hear that argument from the government now and then, that that service, if they're willing to pay for it, they should have the opportunity and option of doing that. Now, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing happening in Alberta is that as you introduce the user-pay MRI services and clinics, what happens is it creates longer wait times for everyone else. Now how does that work? The average person would say, well how does that work? If you were to, if you have two MRI services, wouldn't you deal with twice as many people? Now what happens, Mr. Speaker, is that, as you set up this private MRI service and you've got this publicly funded MRI service, Mr. Speaker, as the richer go to the private MRI services, Mr. Speaker, what they do is they get their service. They pay their money upfront, and the costs are pretty expensive, Mr. Speaker. They pay for that service upfront.

But what happens is that, as a result of the private service being

in place, what happens is many of those that work in the publicly funded MRI service sector, Mr. Speaker, they tend to go to the private sector because obviously the private sector may provide better benefits. They may provide lesser hours. They may provide a number of other incentives. And, Mr. Speaker, what happens is, as you move the resources from the publicly funded MRI service and a lot of the staff and the resources begin shifting to the private MRI service, that creates an even longer wait at the publicly funded MRI clinics because they don't have the necessary staffing and resources. And thus, Mr. Speaker, those that cannot afford to pay, that cannot afford to pay are subjected to longer wait lists through the publicly owned MRI service.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is really . . . As I pointed out at the outset, is you look at the habits of the right wing governments throughout the history of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. They always continually do two or three things. Number one is anything that's publicly owned like our Crowns, they want to sell them right away. We know that, that it's in part of the Saskatchewan Party plan. Somewhere along the line they want to get rid of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. We know that the people of Saskatchewan want to keep the Crowns.

But eventually they'll stick their head out of that little hole there and say, well does anybody want to sell the Crowns as part of their mandate? They'll try those trial balloons, and we see evidence of that already. And, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the people of Saskatchewan are ready to whack that mole back into that hole there, Mr. Speaker, they retreat right away. But rest assured that they will come back again and do a few more trial balloons because their ideology is such that they want to get rid of the Crowns. They want to sell these Crowns. It's burning in their stomachs. It's their desire to sell them, Mr. Speaker.

So they cannot hide who they are. And what they think about the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, will eventually become words because what they think, certainly in my opinion, will eventually surface, and then they will be certainly viewed by the Saskatchewan people as a right wing government that wants to sell the Crowns.

And the other thing that the conservatives love to do, Mr. Speaker, they love talking about private health care system, basically saying, bring more private services to our region because that's the answer. That's the solution to all the health care challenges that our people face. Well, Mr. Speaker, that creates more trouble. That creates more challenges for the publicly funded health care system, as now you're competing for staff and resources between two systems, a publicly funded system and a private system, Mr. Speaker. And as the private system gets more work and more recognition from the government, it'll begin to suck our resources and staff from the public system and thus the public system in health care delivery will begin to suffer, Mr. Speaker.

So this is what Bill 179, *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*, it is the start of a long process that the Saskatchewan Party government are going to try and implement for Saskatchewan people. So I think it's really, really important that we pay very close attention to how this bill is going to proceed through the Assembly and how the people of Saskatchewan react.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the people that may be listening to this particular program, some of the elders and some of the people in some of the rural parts of the province as well as northern Saskatchewan, that I'm originally from northern Saskatchewan, as I've indicated time and time again. And what I see, Mr. Speaker, is that a lot of our people in northern Saskatchewan have a most difficult time in accessing services. They have an incredible challenge of coming out of northern Saskatchewan, as other parts of the province as well will have. There's many parts of rural Saskatchewan that do have difficulty in accessing services. I understand that, that there are many small villages and towns that also have this difficulty where they have to go to the city. So many parts of the province, whether it's northern Saskatchewan or the remote parts of rural Saskatchewan, there are challenges enough to try and access services from where they live to some of the services that may be located in our larger centres.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's a fact that we chose where we want to live but the premise of the health Canada Act, and I think it's something that's really important, is there's three or four principles that's really, really important. One of them is affordability, that people should not have to pay to get proper health care. The other one of course is the transferability of services where you're able to get a variety of services in a variety of locations, Mr. Speaker, and that it be universal, that this health care system be open to everyone. That's what we fought for, Mr. Speaker, over the years, and we'll continue fighting for that.

There's a number of key principles behind the *Canada Health Act* in which we want to ensure that many people from many areas have affordable, equal access to health care. And this is one of the challenges that I see from the area that I live, is that often you will find senior citizens travelling south, travelling south for many medical appointments, and the cost to many of these trips are borne by many of these senior citizens, Mr. Speaker. Many occasions there are family members that help the elders get to their appointments. But, Mr. Speaker, the least, the very least the elders know that this is a challenge but they have to go.

And many times, and many times when they travel to southern Saskatchewan for medical appointments, you've often got to spend a night. You've often got to go with a companion. You've got to pay for the gas. You've got to buy a room. And the list goes on as to the incredible cost that many seniors, not only from northern Saskatchewan but many parts of the province where it's far away, it's a long ways from the major centres, many of our senior citizens have to travel to these larger centres for these services.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that cost is borne, that cost is borne by senior citizens living on a fixed income. Now my argument that if there is money available through the health care system, something should be addressed, something should be provided to address this challenge that many of these people are facing not only in rural Saskatchewan but northern Saskatchewan as well. And instead of putting a lot of money and time on providing or improving the venue for the private sector to come in and provide health care services, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the government should use some of their resources and time to figure out a good system of support for senior citizens

throughout this province, Mr. Speaker, because they definitely, most assuredly need that kind of support.

[15:00]

Now I bump into taxicabs a lot when I'm travelling, Mr. Speaker. I bump into families that are transporting their loved ones or the seniors from some of the northern communities that I represent, Mr. Speaker. And some of them express the frustration of (a) we don't have very much help. Nobody seems to be helping us out for these trips. It's a lot of money coming out of our pockets, and it's getting less and less affordable to do so. And (b), the second point they make is sometimes they'll go south for a series of appointments, and they may only see the doctor for 20 minutes or 25 minutes and then they're done. And all the cost to go and see the doctor, Mr. Speaker, is borne by many of these seniors living on fixed income.

So you see the incredible challenge, the incredible challenge of affordability by some of these seniors. And that's exactly my point around the affordability aspect when it comes to the *Canada Health Act*, Mr. Speaker, that there are many costs not covered to ensure the affordability of the health care system for the people of Saskatchewan. And some of these costs add tremendous strain.

So whether it's 6,000 or 60,000 seniors off the drug plan that the Saskatchewan Party recently implemented, Mr. Speaker, and then you increase the cost of them going to their medical appointments, you look at their increased costs. You look at their increased cost for their power bills, food, the list goes on as to how many of these seniors are really struggling to make ends meet, Mr. Speaker, and then we have the Saskatchewan Party government coming along and introducing more health care bills that are going to cost them more money if they want access to good health care services. And this is where it gets awfully frustrating, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective as an opposition, when we see our seniors struggling, and many northern people and families struggling because they have to pay a lot of extra money to travel to the major centres for services.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the seniors that are struggling. There are, as I mentioned, families as well. I know there are a number of people that have travelled from northern Saskatchewan for services, Mr. Speaker, whether it's cancer treatment or whether it's surgery or whether it's a sudden emergency. You often see these families in these hospitals in the larger centres and, Mr. Speaker, they get very, very little support. And it gets awfully tiring to hear some of the lack of responses that this government has used as excuses when many northern leaders, mayors and chiefs and councillors and some of the health support staff, when they ask is there any help for these type of families in these type of emergencies, Mr. Speaker. And all you hear is a mute response from the Saskatchewan Party representatives.

Except when it comes to providing private health care, Mr. Speaker, all of a sudden they're willing to put forward this Bill No. 179 which allows private companies to provide MRI services to those people that can afford it. And, Mr. Speaker, that is patently unfair because the people of Saskatchewan need support from the health care system in other areas, in other

regions, in other challenges that they have when it comes to their own health care. So we really have to begin to pay attention to some of these issues.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the NDP believe in a properly funded public health care system. We've always maintained that. We'll continue defending that. Now what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is that when people ask about our position as the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker, as a government-in-waiting, Mr. Speaker, what I want to tell the people of Saskatchewan is this, is that the Saskatchewan Party has had almost double, they've had almost double the amount of revenues than the last NDP government that served in '07, Mr. Speaker.

In 2007 when the NDP were in government, they had an \$8 billion budget. That was their budget, Mr. Speaker. Now you fast forward to 2014-2015, Mr. Speaker. Their budget now is \$14.2 billion. So it's almost twice the amount of money that they have at their use, Mr. Speaker, almost twice as much money that they have at their disposal than the last NDP government had. So on this side of the House we say, you've had record revenue and you can't even build an adequate health care system. This is where you're going to go off and ask your private buddies to come on in, set up a bunch of clinics that only the rich can access, Mr. Speaker. And that's a crying shame, given the fact that you have all this money available, almost twice the money that the NDP had when they last formed government in 2007.

And yet every second answer coming out of that government's mouth, Mr. Speaker, is they tend to blame the NDP. On this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we tell them, you've got twice the revenue. You should have twice the good service in health care, Mr. Speaker. And wherever we see, Mr. Speaker, wherever we see, wherever we see problems, all you hear is a big quiet, a big silence, no response from the government, Mr. Speaker. All you hear is silence.

Now I want to give you another good example, the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker. When the people of Moose Jaw were fighting for the hyperbaric chamber, which we have heard tons of stories of the people that have been saved by that particular service, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Moose Jaw, including the firefighters, were all getting up and they're advocating the fact that the new hospital in Moose Jaw should have the hyperbaric chamber included, and it should stay, Mr. Speaker.

And what happened when they come to Regina here, the Moose Jaw MLAs that were in Regina, now we call them the Regina, basically the Regina MLAs. They wouldn't stand up for Moose Jaw. Both members from Moose Jaw, they were absolutely crying, and guess what, Mr. Speaker? That hyperbaric chamber will not be in the new Moose Jaw Hospital. It will not be in the Moose Jaw Hospital, Mr. Speaker. Why? Because the Moose Jaw MLAs, they sat on their hands and didn't say a peep. They didn't say a word, Mr. Speaker. And the people of Moose Jaw have been fighting on their own. They've been speaking up for themselves, Mr. Speaker, and they've been telling people that we want to keep the hyperbaric chamber in Moose Jaw, the Moose Jaw Hospital, because it provided an essential service and it saved so many people's lives.

But what did the Moose Jaw MLAs say, Mr. Speaker? Exactly.

They didn't say a word. They sat on their hands and they just simply applauded the plan by the minister to either move that service right out of the city of Moose Jaw and not have it at all, Mr. Speaker. So we're sitting there thinking, okay, well if they're not going to put the hyperbaric chamber back into the Moose Jaw Hospital, then they must be providing a service somewhere. Well, Mr. Speaker, again, the Minister of Health's response was, well we'll fly them to Edmonton. So a lot of these people that are fighting for this hyperbaric chamber, they're saying, well wouldn't that cost more money? And they're absolutely right, Mr. Speaker. It's going to cost a lot more money by having to fly people a long distance, a long distance to get a service that they could easily have gotten in Moose Jaw.

And that's why their plan for the hyperbaric chamber, their lack of support for seniors, their plan around getting 6,000 less seniors on the drug plan, their lack of action on the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker, everywhere you look, the Sask Party is making a big mess of our health care system, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that they've had record revenues.

And that's my point today. They've had record revenues, Mr. Speaker. They blew all that money, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing there to help Moose Jaw accommodate the continued service of a hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker. And that's why the NDP are asking, where has all the money gone? Where has all the money gone when you depleted the rainy day fund that was set aside, Mr. Speaker, when you've had twice the revenues, twice the revenues?

The last eight years they've been in government, Mr. Speaker, I can almost guarantee they would have over \$100 billion at their disposal, \$100 billion in their last number of budgets, Mr. Speaker, since they're government, 100 billion. And you'd think out of the \$100 billion that they can at least get the most functional, the most responsive, the most respectful health care system in the whole country, Mr. Speaker. The answer is they failed miserably at that. They have failed miserably, Mr. Speaker, and we're seeing evidence of that on a daily basis, whether it's seniors' care, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's the ambulance fees that are going through the roof for many people that are using ambulances. The list goes on and on and on as to how the Saskatchewan Party has underperformed. They have underperformed despite having record revenue, Mr. Speaker.

And this is where, from the NDP perspective, Mr. Speaker, we've got a fresh theme. We've got some new leaders, Mr. Speaker, and they're going to have a great vision for the future of the people of Saskatchewan. And the one thing that they're going to continue building on, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure people out there know that they're going to continue protecting the Crowns. The NDP will protect the Crowns from sale to the private sector by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue building a solid health care, Mr. Speaker, so that the people of Saskatchewan can get service when they want service without having to fork over thousands of dollars, Mr. Speaker. We're going to put a system in place that responds to the needs for basic sanitation, basic water and sewer, and decent housing for many families that are struggling with homes that are not properly insulated. These are some of the health challenges and must be incorporated in our overall health thinking, Mr. Speaker. It's very basic and it's very straightforward, but the

Saskatchewan Party can't figure it out.

And for one particular project . . . I go back to the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker. For one particular project, there's two MLAs in Moose Jaw sitting over there, sitting over there, sitting on their hands, Mr. Speaker, when they should be getting up and they should be fighting for Moose Jaw and telling this minister and that Premier, put the hyperbaric chamber back in Moose Jaw where it always was and should stay, Mr. Speaker. And what we're seeing is that those backbenchers over there, the Moose Jaw, they sit on their hands and they don't say a word. And I say, shame on them, Mr. Speaker. I say, shame on them.

We need a backbench with a backbone, and perhaps the Moose Jaw MLAs should stand up in their place and start defending Moose Jaw's interests instead of making excuses for the Sask Party government, and this despite . . . [inaudible] . . . don't ever forget, in all our arguments, this despite the fact that they've had record revenue. Over \$100 billion in the last eight years and they can't even get the hyperbaric chamber to stay in Moose Jaw at that new facility. How impossible is that task, Mr. Speaker? It's pretty easy, Mr. Speaker.

Now you look at some of the other arguments that they've raised. And this is where, from our perspective, we also talk about the third component of what the conservative movement is all about, Mr. Speaker, and that is tying the future of our province. And I look at the debt issue. I spoke about this earlier, Mr. Speaker. I spoke about the incredible debt that's being absorbed by our cities and by our towns and villages, Mr. Speaker, debt that people of Saskatchewan have to pay.

And now we see this year's budget. They borrowed \$700 million to balance this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. It's a well-known fact. The Minister of Finance has said, we're borrowing 700 million, but it's still a balanced budget. Well how in the heck could you borrow \$700 million and call it a balanced budget? It's totally beyond us on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

But that being said, that being said, Mr. Speaker, what challenge that we see as well, that it relates to health care, Mr. Speaker, is that as you burden the future generations and the future of the people of Saskatchewan with this debt . . . And there is debt, Mr. Speaker. I make no bones about it. They are piling up debt faster than we know, Mr. Speaker, and what's going to happen is that's going to tie the future of people of Saskatchewan to this ongoing debt.

Now I look from my vantage point where the Premier and where most of the cabinet ministers will be in three or four years, Mr. Speaker. They'll be gone. They'll be off to greener pastures, but what they will leave behind is a legacy of debt. And we've seen this act before, Mr. Speaker, and that act is called the 1980s. And we're going to continue seeing this debt piled up on us. The people of Saskatchewan begin to pay very close attention to what the Sask Party is doing.

Now where is the debt going, Mr. Speaker? This is our argument. It's not going to the health care system because obviously Bill 179 here, they're bringing private people in to do this kind of service. So it's not costing them any money. The

private people are coming in and they're giving other people that have the cash, they're giving them the opportunity to come use their service. It's not costing the government any money.

But what the government is doing, Mr. Speaker, is they're ratcheting up that debt at incredible levels. And I'll go back to my earlier point. \$700 million, \$700 million to balance this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. That's debt, Mr. Speaker. And then you look at the whole notion of, as we've pointed out, is the forgone revenues from some of the Crown corporations that the Sask Party recently sold. And a good example of that is the Information Services Corporation. It was generating \$14 million there per year, Mr. Speaker, and that has been sold. That asset is now gone. And guess what? The \$14 million that it generated for us, well guess what? It's not going to be there in future years.

The other part I think is really important on the affordability of health care in the province, Mr. Speaker, is the whole notion around the government-owned liquor stores, Mr. Speaker. We owned those liquor outlets. They generate a profit, Mr. Speaker. Every liquor store in the province generates a profit and that profit is used for health care, for highways, Mr. Speaker. It's used for a variety of services that the people of Saskatchewan, that the people of Saskatchewan enjoy, Mr. Speaker. So that revenues to SLGA, the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, I think the revenue's around half a billion dollars per year.

[15:15]

Now that revenue, at the rate that they're really debasing the liquor stores, the publicly owned liquor stores, Mr. Speaker, it's going to cost us a lot of money in the future. Because what happens is the liquor stores are making less profit, and the bottom line affects how governments operate from the services perspective, Mr. Speaker.

So you look at some of the revenues that are being forgone. Information Services Corporation sold off. No more revenues from that particular entity. The Saskatchewan liquor stores, Mr. Speaker, at the rate they're going, they're going to let the private companies set that up. They're going to let some of the grocery chains and stores set that up. And guess what, Mr. Speaker? When some of these private stores sell the liquor in their stores, well the money's not coming back to the people of Saskatchewan. The money's going to their American bases or Eastern Canadian bases. It's not staying here in Saskatchewan. So this is what the liquor store, the publicly owned liquor store advocates are saying: keep the liquor stores public in the province of Saskatchewan because they generate revenues for the people of Saskatchewan, thereby not needing to do any tax increases. You're actually generating revenues through the publicly owned liquor stores, Mr. Speaker. So all these arguments that people are making, the Saskatchewan Party is simply not paying any attention, so you lose revenues. You lose revenues, Mr. Speaker.

And I often talk about my background as a hockey player. I don't have any background in accounting, Mr. Speaker. I'm not any manager by any stretch of the imagination. But there's one thing I know: when you sell an asset, when you sell an asset, when you sell an asset, you get revenues as a result of the sale.

You can't go back a year later and say, well can I get some of that profit from that asset? You sold it. That I understand, Mr. Speaker, and a lot of people in Saskatchewan understand that as well.

So while they have forgone revenues in not only Information Services Corporation, Mr. Speaker, but now the liquor stores, you can see a trend that the conservatives cannot help themselves. They're tied to their ideology. What they're going to do at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, is you're going to have a two-tiered health care system, Mr. Speaker. There's going to be an effort to sell the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, and as a result of that, we're all going to see an increased debt, an increased debt as a result of the Saskatchewan Party government, for all of us to share for the next 20, 30, 40 years, Mr. Speaker. And that's the legacy that that front bench and that Premier is going to leave the people of Saskatchewan for years and years to come.

And that's why, Mr. Speaker, that's why we in the opposition will continue fighting them and will continue standing up because we know what they're doing is wrong. What they're doing is absolutely wrong. And this bill, Bill No. 179, begins the process of promoting a two-tiered health care system where people with money can afford health care services faster and better than those with no money. And, Mr. Speaker, that's a crying shame in this year, and the Saskatchewan Party government, they are the ones responsible for this, Mr. Speaker. They are the ones responsible for this, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to go around a few other of the examples of what the Saskatchewan Party has done. And you look at the notion of all these projects, and I look at the North Battleford hospital, Mr. Speaker, as an example. Now that's going to be built through a P3 [public-private partnership] process, Mr. Speaker. And we applaud the fact that North Battleford is getting a new hospital, Mr. Speaker. We applaud that. But, Mr. Speaker, it's being done through a P3 process, and this is what our argument is. Despite the record revenue, Mr. Speaker, the record revenue, the government could have afforded to build it on their own, Mr. Speaker, because they've got twice the revenues. They have twice the revenues than the last NDP government eight years ago. They have over \$14.2 billion, and what did they do, instead of managing the money well, Mr. Speaker, to build their own Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford? They're going through a P3 process, and I'll tell you what . . . or to a P3 partner.

And I'll tell you why that's wrong, Mr. Speaker. It's wrong because (a) you're going to have to pay to have that thing built. We understand that. Because companies are going to come here, they're going to build it, Mr. Speaker, but they're going to also use the option of charging interest, charging interest on the money they put forward. So we're paying that interest. The taxpayer, the people of Saskatchewan are paying that interest on that project, Mr. Speaker. You're also paying the maintenance contract on that project. So you're paying three ways, Mr. Speaker. You're paying to have it built, you're paying interest on that project, and you're paying maintenance on that project, Mr. Speaker.

It's much the same way, it's much the same way as the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker. The Regina bypass is another example of how this government has wasted money. They've wasted

money foolishly, Mr. Speaker. The Regina bypass could have easily gone around Regina but instead no, they come back into the city, Mr. Speaker. Why Tower Road? That's what people are arguing about. You can save 2 or \$300 million on the Regina bypass if you would bypass the city, Mr. Speaker. Another example of how this government has messed up the finances of the province of Saskatchewan horribly, Mr. Speaker. They have messed it up horribly.

So through expensive P3s to some of the wasted money that they're going to have on a bypass that doesn't bypass the city, Mr. Speaker, this is some of the issues that we raise in the NDP opposition, that despite their record revenue . . . I'll go back to my earlier point. The last NDP government had \$8 billion as their budget. These guys have over 14 billion, almost twice the revenues. Yet they have underperformed, and yet you see the incredible debt that people are, we are putting ourselves under. Our cities are in debt. The municipalities are in debt, universities are in debt, Mr. Speaker. All this debt, all this debt, we turn around and we ask the question: where's all the money gone? Where has it all gone, Mr. Speaker? That's the thing. This is exactly the point.

And I go back to the MRI facilities, Mr. Speaker. We should have the top-notch health care system in the province because the province of Saskatchewan enjoyed record revenue the last eight years. And yet, Mr. Speaker, we see more debt and we see in the health care system that needs a lot of work, Mr. Speaker.

Now this is where I go back to my earlier point. The Saskatchewan Party can't figure it out, Mr. Speaker. They're tied to their ideology of three principles. Number one is, let's sell the Crowns. That's what they want to do. Sask Party wants to sell the Crowns, make no bones about that. Number two is they want private health care, Mr. Speaker. We see evidence of that through this bill, Bill 179. They're starting that process of private health care, Mr. Speaker. And then when they're all done governing, which I hope ends very soon, all we'll be left with, Mr. Speaker, is another whack of debt, another whack of debt. And there's another 10, 15 years where some government's got to come along and clean up their mess, Mr. Speaker.

And that's where I go back to my earlier point, Mr. Speaker, where I go back to my earlier point, Mr. Speaker, is that despite the record revenue, they have underperformed on every front, Mr. Speaker, on absolutely every front. Now health care's another good example. Now that the money's gone out we ask, on the opposition side, where's the money gone? It hasn't gone to help northern Saskatchewan with their highways. It hasn't gone with helping seniors cover some of their drug plan challenges, Mr. Speaker. It hasn't gone to reduce debt. It hasn't gone towards helping people meet their everyday costs of high food costs, of paying more on their power bills. Like some of the people in Saskatchewan it's becoming an affordability issue. They're having a tough time making rent, Mr. Speaker. They're having a tough time making rent. They're having a tough time paying their power bill and yet this government keeps racking up the debt. They keep racking up the debt.

And this is the amazing part, Mr. Speaker. Despite the incredible debt that they have, Mr. Speaker, that they put us under, they've had record revenue. So how does it work? How

does it work, Mr. Speaker, where you've had record revenue? You've had record revenue. It's all in the books. You can see the books. They've had close to \$100 billion in their last eight years they've been in government — \$100 billion, Mr. Speaker. And yet today we're seeing the debt increase on a phenomenal rate, on a phenomenal basis.

And yet you look at some of the whole notions around the health care stuff, Mr. Speaker. I go back to my earlier point on this particular bill. They're getting the private companies to come in and provide these services, Bill 179. So how is it you have record revenue, yet you have record debt, and yet you're getting private companies to provide health care? And the reason why, Mr. Speaker, is because they have not managed the economy well. They have not managed our finances well. And their philosophical beliefs keep coming back. They keep creeping back into their psyche, Mr. Speaker. And what happens is exactly what you see happening from our side, Mr. Speaker, is we see when there's a big issue that comes forward, a good example is the hyperbaric chamber issue, Mr. Speaker, the Moose Jaw MLAs sit on their hands. They don't say a word. They don't say a word, Mr. Speaker. And yet the people of Moose Jaw are left to fight for themselves. The people of Moose Jaw are left to make their argument.

And when you have firemen from Moose Jaw come here to fight for the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker, it shows us, it shows and it proves to us as an opposition that the Saskatchewan Party government really want to bring in private health care. And some of the services that are required in these new facilities, including the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker, it's not important to the two Moose Jaw MLAs that they continue sitting on their hands while Moose Jaw suffers from their lack of leadership, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to the people of Moose Jaw, enough of that. It's time to send people here that are going to make a difference in your community, going to make the best health system, going to build the best health care system possible right across the country, Mr. Speaker, that is respectful of seniors and respectful of the fact that everyone should have access to health care services, not just the ones that have the money to do so. So Bill 179, Mr. Speaker, it is a start. It is a start towards a slippery slope of private health care system that the provincial Sask Party government wants to implement.

Now I go back to my earlier points, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to why this bill needs to be fought, why the NDP are going to stand up and fight against this particular bill. First of all, the Saskatchewan Party brought the bill in on the dying days of the Assembly, as my associate from Saskatoon Centre has pointed out. Why would they bring it in in the last two or three days of a legislative sitting, Mr. Speaker? Why didn't they have the nerve, the nerve and the fight in them to bring it in at the start of the session, Mr. Speaker, not at the end of the session?

And I'll tell you why, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you why. I'll tell you why they didn't want to have this debate at the start of the session. Because the people of Saskatchewan would have scolded them. The people of Saskatchewan would have got up and they would have started telling these guys, we don't want your private health care system. We want a publicly funded health care system that serves everyone regardless of their

income, Mr. Speaker. That is a basic fundamental principle here in Saskatchewan that has been fought for over the years, Mr. Speaker, and the only ones that don't seem to get that message is the Saskatchewan Party government.

Well once again the manipulation, once again the manipulation of the Saskatchewan Party government, they're bringing, they're bringing this bill forward three days before the session ends because they don't have the courage to debate this thing over a number of weeks in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. They'd rather try and sneak it in at the end of the session, and that certainly displays to me the lack of courage that the Saskatchewan Party has as it relates to the debate around a publicly funded health care system versus their model of private health care, Mr. Speaker. They do not have the courage to have that debate over the number of weeks here in the Assembly, and that's why they introduced it with three days left in the sitting, Mr. Speaker. They just don't have the courage to have that debate, because they know that they are wrong on that side.

And the people of Saskatchewan are going to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and they're going to send these guys a message. Not only the Moose Jaw MLAs, but they're going to send the entire Sask Party a message that we don't want a two-tiered health care system where the rich get served first and the rest of us, it's either farewell, be well . . . it's either be well or farewell. That was one of the phrases that was used, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the arguments that was made. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, is that under a publicly funded health care system, they could have developed the best system in the country, given the resources that they had. And, Mr. Speaker, they underperformed miserably. They have underperformed on every front. We see that time and time and day after day in this Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the people of Saskatchewan one particular thing. I think the people of Saskatchewan, they want to have a pragmatic government. They want to have a government that manages their resources well. They want to have a government that keeps their costs low, Mr. Speaker. They want to have a government that really protects their Crown corporations. And they want the health care system, especially those that are senior to us, they want the health care system to be a responsive system and to be there for their family, their children, the parents or the young adults or the seniors. They want a health care system that'll be there for them, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very basic. It's very basic in terms of what the people of Saskatchewan want their government to be. They want it to be a hard-working government that's pragmatic, common sense, manages the money well, and develops a top-notch education and health care system for the people of Saskatchewan. That's what the people of Saskatchewan want, Mr. Speaker. I really, truly believe that.

[15:30]

Now I look at that and I tell the people in Saskatchewan, if you look at what the Saskatchewan Party has done, whether it's through their P3s or their wild spending ways, Saskatchewan now, they have gone through \$100 billion the last eight years they were government. It's \$100 billion the last eight years they've been government, Mr. Speaker, and yet today we see the Minister of Finance saying, well we need another \$700 million to balance this year's budget. So they borrowed \$700

million and every single one of the Sask Party MLAs chirped up and said, yes we're so proud we have a balanced budget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you borrow 700 million to balance your budget, guess what? It's not balanced. And that's my fundamental argument today is the people of Saskatchewan don't want anyone monkeying around with the whole notion of having a balanced budget. If you want to have a balanced budget, it's got to be a true balanced budget. They want to know where the money went, Mr. Speaker. They want to know if you've got twice the amount of revenues and then you sit here and you can't perform on any front, especially on the front of health care, Mr. Speaker. You underperformed steady and that you have failed miserably on that front, well then the people of Saskatchewan are going to take notice. They're going to pay attention to that stuff. They're going to make sure that people out there are going to be made aware, through our process here in the Assembly, that this is what the Saskatchewan Party's doing.

Now you look at this argument we're having today, and I tell the people of northern Saskatchewan this as well, that as we go from our communities, as we travel into the cities for health services, and I see tons of people and, Mr. Speaker, they pay a lot of money out of their own pockets, especially the seniors. They pay a lot of money. And they have to go to these appointments, and sometimes, as I indicated, when they go to their appointments, Mr. Speaker, they often see the doctor, 20 minutes, and then the doctor says, okay, it's fine; I'm glad you came in. And that's it. So they have to then travel all the way home, and that costs money for gas, for hotel room, for food, and so on and so forth. And many of these senior citizens live on fixed incomes, Mr. Speaker. It's a very, very low level income that they have.

Now why couldn't the government do something for them, Mr. Speaker? They've had \$100 billion. They had \$100 billion. Why couldn't they use some of that money, some of that money to help seniors in northern Saskatchewan to come here, to travel to some of the urban centres for their medical appointments, Mr. Speaker? Why couldn't they help the seniors, say maybe once every few years like they do in the territories or like they do in Nunavut, I believe, where they provide a set of glasses for senior citizens once every two years or they help them with dentures or they help them with drug costs, Mr. Speaker? They couldn't do any of that for the seniors of northern Saskatchewan, much less the seniors of all of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And that's what the NDP always contends, Mr. Speaker. With the amount of revenues that the Sask Party has enjoyed for the last eight years — and I say, \$100 billion — they couldn't get some of the basic things done, the basic things done, providing decent services for our senior citizens. And I look at the example in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, where they could've easily afforded buying dentures or buying a pair of eyeglasses for the seniors, as long as they're a certain age and they had this threshold of income. You want to income test it? That's fine. But, Mr. Speaker, they couldn't even do that. They couldn't even do that with their record revenue.

And that's why whenever they get up and brag about some of their stats, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we say,

you've had twice the amount of money and you've underperformed miserably. And I can tell you, if the NDP had \$100 billion at their disposal over a period of eight years, Mr. Speaker, we would have the best health care system. We would have the best education system in the country, Mr. Speaker.

And what we're finding with the Saskatchewan Party is they can't get this thing figured out. They simply cannot figure it out, Mr. Speaker, and that's why you have all these issues. We have all these people coming to the Assembly. They're angry. They're upset. They want to see a decent health care system, Mr. Speaker, a decent, respectful, responsive health care system. The health care system's got to be there for them, Mr. Speaker, because that's their form of stability. And yet the Sask Party government has failed to deliver, full stop, period, Mr. Speaker.

Now what the Saskatchewan Party is doing now is they've failed to deliver on the publicly funded health care system, so now they're going to the private sector. Because the Saskatchewan Party can't figure out how to run a public health care system, they run back to their philosophical belief, saying, can the private health care system deliver what we aren't able to do? And of course the private health care system is going to say, well we'll come to Saskatchewan but we're only going to deal with those that can afford our services. And what did the Saskatchewan Party do? They clapped. They applaud that.

Only the ones that can afford the private MRI service, that's the target audience of some of these private firms coming in to provide MRI service. Now I go back to my argument earlier, Mr. Speaker. If the average layperson would sit here and they'd say, well if we have a publicly funded MRI system and we have a privately funded MRI system, well could both these systems handle people and make the MRI service wait a lot lesser? That's what they would think, Mr. Speaker.

But the problem here is that those that have the money get to jump in front of the line. So if you don't have the money, guess what? The line gets longer on the publicly offered MRI services. But if you have cash, you can get an MRI service right now, Mr. Speaker. If you've got the money, you can get it ahead of everyone else. But what happens because you have two MRI lines, a private one and a public one, there's still only one publicly funded health care system that you have to go to. So what happens is, that's where the logjam happens. That's where the logjam happens.

And, Mr. Speaker, as you look at the other effect that occurs when you have this private health care system delivery agent and you have a publicly funded delivery agent, Mr. Speaker, is that a lot of times the private sector will try and woo a lot of the medical, professional people to their system. So as they give them better benefits, or they give them longer holidays, or they give them less hours of work, Mr. Speaker, Then they get to move from the publicly funded health care system to the private system, thus making the publicly funded system under strain. They have less staff and they have less time. They have less benefits, Mr. Speaker.

Now what happens is you have these two systems competing with each other, where you have the rich system and then you have the publicly funded system — you see that in the States,

Mr. Speaker — what happens is the publicly funded health care system begins to deteriorate and begins to have challenges.

And this is where, Mr. Speaker, the argument that we make within the NDP, that's why you should never begin the process of private health care because what's going to happen is only those that could afford health care are the ones that are going to be at the head of the line. Mr. Speaker, they're going to get better care because they have the money. And the rest of you, the whole argument that, the old argument that was made one day is stay well, be well, or farewell. That's kind of their argument around health care, Mr. Speaker.

And you would wonder, I go back to my point again, you would wonder how could they, how could they go through all that money, go through all that money in their last eight years and they can't figure out health care, Mr. Speaker? How could they go through all that money in eight years and still have all this debt? And how could you go through all that money in the last eight years and still want to have private MRI service? And the solution and the answer in front of all of us Saskatchewan people is that they have underperformed. They have not delivered at all.

And that's what I tell the people of Saskatchewan, that you watch very carefully on this particular debate, Mr. Speaker. We've got three days to debate this bill, and we will debate this bill. But I tell the people of Saskatchewan that the Saskatchewan Party themselves, they are tied to their ideology around private health care. They are tied to their ideology of selling off our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. They are tied to their ideology of using debt, going to the debt as opposed to what they would blame the NDP for, of increasing taxes.

Mr. Speaker, they're giving away our future and they're putting us into debt. Each and every single day that I sat in this Assembly, I see debt being ratcheted up, Mr. Speaker. And that's why when we had the debate around the budget, Mr. Speaker, when the Finance minister indicated very publicly, when he indicated very publicly that this was his last budget, I said thank goodness it's your last budget because we can't afford any more of those particular budgets for the future of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That was what I argued, Mr. Speaker, and I'll continue arguing.

Now the member from Estevan is chirping from her chair, Mr. Speaker. She is chirping from her chair, and I really wouldn't mind asking that member some specific questions of what happened in 1980. She would know, Mr. Speaker. She would know. She was working in Grant Devine's office at the time, and she would have a rich history, rich history of how this province was put on the brink of bankruptcy, Mr. Speaker, when the New Democrats took over in the early 1990s. She would have an idea of how that future was squandered under that premier, Mr. Speaker — the same fashion, the same fashion which the Saskatchewan Party is squandering our future through expensive P3s.

We're asking for advice. We're asking for information. We're asking for accountability and transparency saying, how much are those P3s costing us? Can you tell us what interest rate you're paying? Can you tell us how much profit you're giving these companies? Can you tell us how much maintenance

contracts you're giving these companies? The people of Saskatchewan have a right to know. The people of Saskatchewan have a right to know what the P3s are costing us.

But, Mr. Speaker, the same fashion in which the member from Estevan's quiet about the 1980s, they're not quiet about the 2015s and beyond, Mr. Speaker, because, Mr. Speaker, that is a history of the Saskatchewan Party conservative government. They have never, ever delivered for the people of Saskatchewan. And that's why on this side of the House we will continue challenging them because they have failed us miserably in managing our finances. They have failed us miserably in managing the publicly health care funded because they only want the rich to have access, Mr. Speaker, and for the rest of us — stay well, be well, or farewell. That's their attitude to those that cannot afford the proper medical attention, Mr. Speaker, and you see evidence of that galore.

And this Bill 179 that we're debating today, Bill 179 that we are debating today, we only got three days to debate it. Why, Mr. Speaker? I go back to my earlier point: because they didn't have the courage to bring this bill at the start of the session to give the people of Saskatchewan the opportunity to view this bill and the opposition the opportunity to debate them on this bill because we want to have a fight on this bill, Mr. Speaker. We want to have a fight on Bill 179 because it represents to us the first step in the Sask Party's grand plan, grand plan to bring in two-tiered health care system: one for the rich that can afford to get services and, for the rest of us, Mr. Speaker, we're going to have a long lineup, Mr. Speaker.

And once again the member from Moose Jaw is chirping up. Why didn't the member from Moose Jaw chirp up when they pulled the hyperbaric chamber? Why didn't he stand up? Why didn't he speak up when they pulled the hyperbaric chamber, Mr. Speaker? He sat on his hands. And I wish, Mr. Speaker, he should have spoke up then. He should have been really loud like he's loud now, defending Moose Jaw's interest in the hyperbaric chamber. But, Mr. Speaker, he was quiet as his colleague from Moose Jaw was quiet too. They were both quiet. They were both quiet. And you know why we know they were quiet, Mr. Speaker? The reason why we know they were quiet because the hyperbaric chamber is not in the new Moose Jaw Hospital. Had they spoken up, Mr. Speaker, it would be there today.

So to the people of Moose Jaw, your two MLAs failed you miserably on the hyperbaric chamber. Your firemen come here to advocate for that. A retired nurse came here. A couple from North Battleford came here to fight for the hyperbaric chamber. And I commend that couple from North Battleford because they travelled here on their own dime to fight for the hyperbaric chamber for Moose Jaw. Why? Because it helped them heal. It helped them in the health care perspective.

Of all the people that rallied around the hyperbaric chamber, there's only two people absent from that whole process: the two members from Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. The two members from Moose Jaw who are busy sitting in here advocating and supporting the private health care bill that we're speaking about today, Bill 179. That's where they were. They were here defending the privatization of our health care, Mr. Speaker. They weren't fighting for the hyperbaric chamber. They were

fighting for their desire as conservatives to have a publicly funded health care system. And I say to them, shame on them. Shame on them for not standing up for the people that they should be representing and should be fighting for them. They should be advocating for them, Mr. Speaker.

And what you've seen from my perspective, I'll say it again. From my perspective, Mr. Speaker, what I've seen, as a result of the two members from Moose Jaw's performance to try and defend Moose Jaw's interest as it relates to the hyperbaric chamber, we gave them a big fat F, Mr. Speaker. That's how we graded them on standing up, on standing up for Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. They couldn't get it figured out. And now today, you sit there. You sit there, Mr. Speaker. I tell the people of Moose Jaw, had they had the courage to stand up, had they had the courage to stand up, Mr. Speaker, and speak on behalf of Moose Jaw, Moose Jaw would have the hyperbaric chamber in the new hospital right now. But they don't have it, Mr. Speaker, because those two members did not stand up. And I say shame on them. I say shame on them, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

And the people of Moose Jaw are going to send them a message next time because we want people there that are going to come here with courage and conviction to make sure that our health care system is kept public and that any effort to try and bring the private sector in, where the rich get services before and above anyone else, Mr. Speaker, they should stand up again. This is their opportunity. Stand up and vote against Bill 179, because if they're going to sit on their hands, if they're going to sit on their hands and not do anything, then, Mr. Speaker, that's why on this side of the Assembly, we argue it's time to change the government.

They've had record revenue. They're leaving us with a record debt, and they're also trying to sell the Crowns. Worst of all, Mr. Speaker, they are now promoting and advocating a two-tiered health care system, which we know eventually they will show, they will show, Mr. Speaker, their true colours. Their true colours are . . . There are no liberals over there, Mr. Speaker. They're all conservatives, Mr. Speaker.

And how do we know they're conservatives? Well because of the amount of debt they're putting us under. How do we know they're conservatives? Because they're selling our assets, Mr. Speaker. How do we know they're conservatives? Because they're racking up the province with debt. We've seen this act before, Mr. Speaker. We've seen this act before and once again they're back. Here's act two, Mr. Speaker. And I'd tell the people of Saskatchewan we cannot afford four more years of Sask Party rule, Mr. Speaker. We cannot afford four more years of Sask Party rule. That's why we're going to continue working and building and arguing on behalf of the Saskatchewan people that are saying no to two-tiered health care, Mr. Speaker. We're saying no to Bill 179.

And what's really frustrating, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, is they introduced this bill at the end of the session. We've got three days left here. And, Mr. Speaker, to introduce the bill at the end of the session, to me that says one thing. That says one thing — that they never had the courage to debate this bill. They never had the courage to defend their ideology

around this bill. They never had the courage, Mr. Speaker, to stand up to fight for what they believe because they know the Saskatchewan people don't want this two-tiered health care system. They don't want a system that treats the rich different from the poor, Mr. Speaker, or they don't want a system that treats the rich as opposed to the middle class. We're in this all together. No special deals for anyone, Mr. Speaker. That was their language. That was their language, Mr. Speaker.

So I say today, from my perspective, that Bill 179 is harkening an era under the Sask Party watch, Mr. Speaker, to advocate and support and direct Saskatchewan towards a two-tiered health care system. This is evidence right here, Mr. Speaker. It is their first step. It is their trial balloon. And like I said at the outset, their trial balloon was floated out with three days left in the Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, if there's any indication of how much, of how much that the Saskatchewan Party backbench is going to fight against the publicly . . . fight to defend the publicly funded health care system, Mr. Speaker, that's the reason why I'm using the two Moose Jaw MLAs as examples. Because when it comes to something as dear as the hyperbaric chamber is, as dear and as important as that service is to Moose Jaw and area and the province overall, Mr. Speaker, those two MLAs sat in the back in their chairs, sat on their hands. And the only time they lifted their hands, the only time they lifted their hands to support anything is when they're instructed to do so, Mr. Speaker.

We need, we need a backbench with a backbone to say no, we're not going to support a privately funded health care system where the rich get preferential treatment. Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. That'll put many regions — rural Saskatchewan, the remote parts of Saskatchewan, rural Saskatchewan, northern Saskatchewan — a lot of people would be at a disadvantage then.

And we can't figure out, we can't figure out why would they want to go to this route when they've had record revenue. I always go back to that point. They've had record revenue. The last NDP government had \$8 billion for their budget, Mr. Speaker. These guys have almost half of that — \$14.4 billion — and they still can't, and they still can't figure it out, Mr. Speaker. And that's why, that's why, Mr. Speaker, that is why, Mr. Speaker, half of them are quitting. Half of them are heading out of Dodge, Mr. Speaker. Half of them are heading out of Dodge.

And I'll tell the people of Saskatchewan this. If the NDP had the opportunity to have \$100 billion, \$100 billion over eight years, Mr. Speaker, we would have the best health care system in the country. We would not have . . . We would have had the best education system in the country, Mr. Speaker. We would not have our kids going to school wearing parkas because the air quality was so poor in the one school that they had to open the windows in the middle of winter. That's the Sask Party record, Mr. Speaker. That's the Sask Party record, Mr. Speaker. They've had record revenue, and yet they've failed miserably on many fronts.

And Bill 179 is one bill that I say to the people of Saskatchewan, they're back. They're back. The conservatives

are back. They want their private health care system for those that can afford to pay for it. They want to sell off the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. They want to leave a whole whack of debt, a whole whack of debt for the future generations that'll have to pay that debt down. We've seen this act before, and that's why the member from Estevan is pretty quiet now, Mr. Speaker, pretty quiet because we've seen that show before. We've seen that problem before, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly go on on the history. If people want to go back to the history, I'll certainly go back to the history.

And that's why, that's why, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the Assembly, the New Democrats will be standing up to the Saskatchewan Party. And as an opposition we're going to tell the people of Saskatchewan, that's what these guys are doing to your future. That's what these guys are doing to our finances. That's what these guys are doing to our health care system. Because, Mr. Speaker, I say, shame on them. I say, shame on them because the people of Saskatchewan expected better. The people of Saskatchewan expected better, especially because the economy was going so good.

We had record revenue, and what we're seeing now, Mr. Speaker, is the wheels are coming off the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. People are starting to pay attention to the amount of debt that we see in not only our provincial government, Mr. Speaker, but the amount of debt the universities have today, the amount of debt the municipalities have today, Mr. Speaker. The list goes on until all these different organizations are assuming greater debt because the Saskatchewan Party is opening up the opportunity for them to get into debt. And, Mr. Speaker, eventually, eventually if you look at it, that debt has to be paid.

And I say to the taxpayers out there in Saskatchewanland, to the taxpayers out there, either way you're going to have to look at the whole challenge of those future costs. It's going to be the debt left behind that's going to cost all of us, including the taxpayers. All the taxpayers, that debt, we have to pay. We have to pay, Mr. Speaker. I pay a lot of taxes each year and I enjoy the health care system that we have the opportunity to access in a publicly funded way, Mr. Speaker. So I look at the education opportunity my grandchildren and my children have, Mr. Speaker, so some of those taxes I pay. I understand that.

But, Mr. Speaker, as a taxpayer, I also know that in the future I'm going to have to pay more taxes. My children are going to have to pay those taxes, and my grandchildren are going to have to pay those taxes. So no matter what you are in terms of your background or your history or what region you're from, those taxes, those taxes you're going to have to pay for years and years. Because while the Saskatchewan Party doesn't call them taxes, Mr. Speaker, what they have given us is debt for years and years to come. And to me that's a new phrase right over there for the Saskatchewan Party. You may not want to call them taxes. We call it debt, and eventually who's paying that debt? The taxpayers are paying that, Mr. Speaker.

The taxpayers are paying the debt that's being ratcheted up by the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, and this despite the fact that they've had record revenue in the last eight years. That's what's the most phenomenally insane thing that I've seen in my years in politics here. How could a party, how could a party inherit a booming economy? How can a party inherit

billions in the bank? How can a party inherit a growing population? Then eight years later, they're broke, and then eight years later, they're asking for a private health care system, Mr. Speaker. Eight years later, despite selling Crowns, they still have a lot of trouble making ends meet.

We just can't figure it out from this side of the House. And that's why we say, where has the money gone? Where has the money gone, Mr. Speaker? That's one of the arguments that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh half of the schools they're talking about is being built under P3s. These are rent-a-schools. You're getting a private company . . . I want to explain the P3 argument, Mr. Speaker. You're getting a private company to build you a school.

This private company will build a school. Okay? And they'll make a profit from building that school, which is fair enough. That's what you're in business for, is to make a profit. We're not arguing about that. But, Mr. Speaker, they're also going to charge us interest, interest on the money they use to build that private school. So we're paying interest, the taxpayers are paying interest, and not only are we paying the interest, Mr. Speaker, we're also paying the maintenance costs of that particular school. So we're paying three ways. We're paying to construct it, we're paying the interest on their contribution as P3 partners, and we're paying on the maintenance.

So we ask the question, what is the cost to our P3 accountability and transparency bill that we introduced? We said, what is the cost of these projects? Can you tell us? The people of Saskatchewan have a right to know. And all we hear from the Saskatchewan Party government is silence. They wouldn't give us that information, Mr. Speaker, and that will catch up to them, Mr. Speaker. That will catch up to them in a sense of the people of Saskatchewan will demand to know how much are we paying for some of these P3 projects.

And I want to go to the, you know, to the bypass project. The Regina bypass project is another example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as it relates to affordability and to health care. My whole argument around Bill 179 is that the Regina bypass project, Mr. Speaker, is going to be \$1.2 billion. It's the biggest infrastructure project in the history of Highways. Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of groups and organizations in the province that are saying, well we need a bypass in Regina. We agree. The NDP agree. The bypass has to happen. We certainly agree with that.

Number two is that we need interchanges in Balgonie and White City. We agree with that as well, Mr. Speaker. But why Tower Road? Why Tower Road, Mr. Speaker? Why Tower Road? That's the biggest argument that many people are arguing about. And then why don't you go to highway, I believe it's 46, which will save a lot of money? And there are people out there arguing about that, Mr. Speaker. They suspect that you could save 2 or \$300 million on doing the actual route that would bypass the city as opposed to coming into the city.

And, Mr. Speaker, again the Saskatchewan Party government is simply not going to change their mind, they're saying. Well these people have put forward a very credible argument, and that's our argument within the NDP benches is these guys have become so out of touch that they're spending money at a fast,

fast rate, Mr. Speaker, and they're not getting it right. Health care is a good example, Mr. Speaker. The bypass is a good example. Their rent-a-school projects are good examples. This is the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker, and I think the people of Saskatchewan are going to wake up to the fact that in the future we're going to be faced with a lot of debt and we cannot afford any more time with the Saskatchewan Party government.

So I tell the people of Saskatchewan one simple point, Mr. Speaker — that if we had \$100 billion in eight years, I'll tell you today that Saskatchewan would be much better off than what we are under the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. We know historically that every bit of good news that they have, they inherited from the previous administration and the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And now we're seeing their true colours. We're seeing their true colours, Mr. Speaker, and not only do they want to sell the Crowns, not only wanting to sell the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, but to also bring in private health care, a two-tiered health care system, and to saddle future generations with debt. What kind of government is that, Mr. Speaker? That is a sad government, and the people of Saskatchewan need to get rid of them now, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we'll continue fighting and advocating on this side of the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, the most important point I would raise is that any time in history, any time in the history of Saskatchewan where the economy was going so well — people were working; things were going so well — the NDP were the government of the time, Mr. Speaker. History will show that on a continual basis when things were going well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP were in charge. Now what happened, Mr. Speaker? What happens is now in the Sask Party, they inherited all that great news and now they're claiming they built the economy when they had absolutely nothing to do with it.

Now I look at the Alberta example, Mr. Speaker, and the new premier, Premier Notley. She is going to prove to the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada that it's not the conservatives that know how to build a solid future, Mr. Speaker, that New Democrats can do that just even better, Mr. Speaker, than the conservatives. I think that she will prove, she will prove, Mr. Speaker, that at the end of the day that the conservatives really don't know how to run the economy. They really don't. They really do not, Mr. Speaker. And they mock, but the bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, is that she will prove to them once and for all that they don't have a clue when it comes to the economy. It's all a big pretend game, Mr. Speaker, and this is another example of how the pretend game is further aggravated, aggravated by the fact that they're bringing their ideology in such as a two-tiered health care system as evidenced by Bill 179.

So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the Assembly, we don't for one minute buy any of the Sask Party logic. \$100 billion over eight years equals record revenue, and yet you put this province in record debt and yet you sold some Crowns and now you're bringing in two-tiered health care system. What kind of government is that, Mr. Speaker? It's a failing government, and I tell the people of Saskatchewan that we can't afford four more years of these guys. We simply cannot afford four more years.

[16:00]

And that's why, Mr. Speaker, as I look at their benches, half of them are quitting. They're heading out of Dodge, and we all see that from our vantage point, Mr. Speaker. Half of them are heading out of Dodge. Time to pull the pin because it's going to get a little tougher around here. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day when the people of Saskatchewan begin to see, begin to see their true colours and when the people of Saskatchewan begin to see some of our Crowns up for sale and when the people of Saskatchewan begin seeing the debt being racked up and when the people of Saskatchewan start seeing evidence of the two-tiered health care, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell them that it may be too late because the Saskatchewan Party will have done their job well by privatizing everything, including our health care system.

But we can stop them, Mr. Speaker. We can develop a prosperous future for everyone, Mr. Speaker. And I often steal this line, which I think it's a great line — but I heard it once and I'll use it time and time again, Mr. Speaker — that this whole notion of this province isn't a good province for any of us unless it's a good province for all of us, Mr. Speaker. That includes people in rural Saskatchewan. That includes people from northern Saskatchewan. That includes people from all throughout Saskatchewanland. And that's the important thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we've got to make sure that people know out there the dangers, the dangers that the Sask Party is putting us in. And Bill No. 179, I don't know whose silly idea it is to bring in private health care. I don't know who's pulling the strings over there. We know it's not the backbenchers because they don't have a backbone, because if they had a backbone they'd stand up and they'd say no; the people of Saskatchewan don't want that. But we've seen evidence that they're not standing up and speaking for their constituents.

So who is pulling, who is pulling the strings for the Sask Party? Who is the puppet master over there, Mr. Speaker? We know that half of them are quitting, but there still must be two or three puppet masters over there that are pushing the agenda for the conservative movement which includes a lot of debt, private health care and, Mr. Speaker, and worst of all is the effort to sell our Crowns, which generate great profit.

So I tell the people quite frankly that if you look at this bill. . . I'll close on this point, Mr. Speaker. If you look at this bill, the Saskatchewan Party didn't have the courage to debate this all session. They brought it, they brought it the last three days of the session, and to me that shows the character of the Saskatchewan Party government, the Premier and his cabinet and the backbench. They didn't have the courage to debate this all session long.

And the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan don't want a two-tiered health care system. As I said at the outset, they want a pragmatic government that is going to move Saskatchewan forward in the most ambitious yet compassionate way. And part of the compassion that's necessary to build a future includes taking care of our seniors, our children, and the adults of our province through a good health care system and a functioning educational system. And every corner of our province should be treated fairly and with

respect, Mr. Speaker. We don't see no evidence of that whatsoever from the Sask Party government.

So despite record revenue, we're now heading towards record debt. We're now heading towards selling our Crowns, and we're now looking at a two-tiered health care system. That's how bad the Saskatchewan Party has managed our province the late years. I say it's time to get rid of them once and for all. On that notion, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 179.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 179, *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In light of the work that has to be done in committees and other work that has to take place today, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:04.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Krawetz.....	7197
Reiter	7197
Wotherspoon	7198
Boyd	7198
Bjornerud	7198
Toth	7198
Hart	7199
Ross	7199
Docherty	7199
Nilson	7199
Moe.....	7199

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes	7200
Vermette	7200
Belanger	7200
Chartier	7200
McCall	7200
Sproule.....	7201

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Ile-a-la-Crosse Nurse Honoured

Belanger	7201
----------------	------

Holodomor Statue Dedication

Krawetz.....	7201
--------------	------

Upcoming Pride Events

Forbes	7201
--------------	------

Civil Service Response Team

Cox	7202
-----------	------

National Nursing Week

Young.....	7202
------------	------

Supporting Women in Leadership Roles

Ross	7202
------------	------

Taxation in Saskatchewan

Bjornerud	7203
-----------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Buy Local Day Legislation

Brotten	7203
---------------	------

Boyd	7203
------------	------

Provision of Hyperbaric Treatments

Brotten	7204
---------------	------

Duncan.....	7204
-------------	------

Gay-Straight Alliances

Forbes	7206
--------------	------

Morgan	7206
--------------	------

Health Quality Council and Long-Term Care Surveying

Chartier	7207
----------------	------

Duncan.....	7207
-------------	------

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Ross	7208
------------	------

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Cox	7208
-----------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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

Belanger.....	7209
---------------	------

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