



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

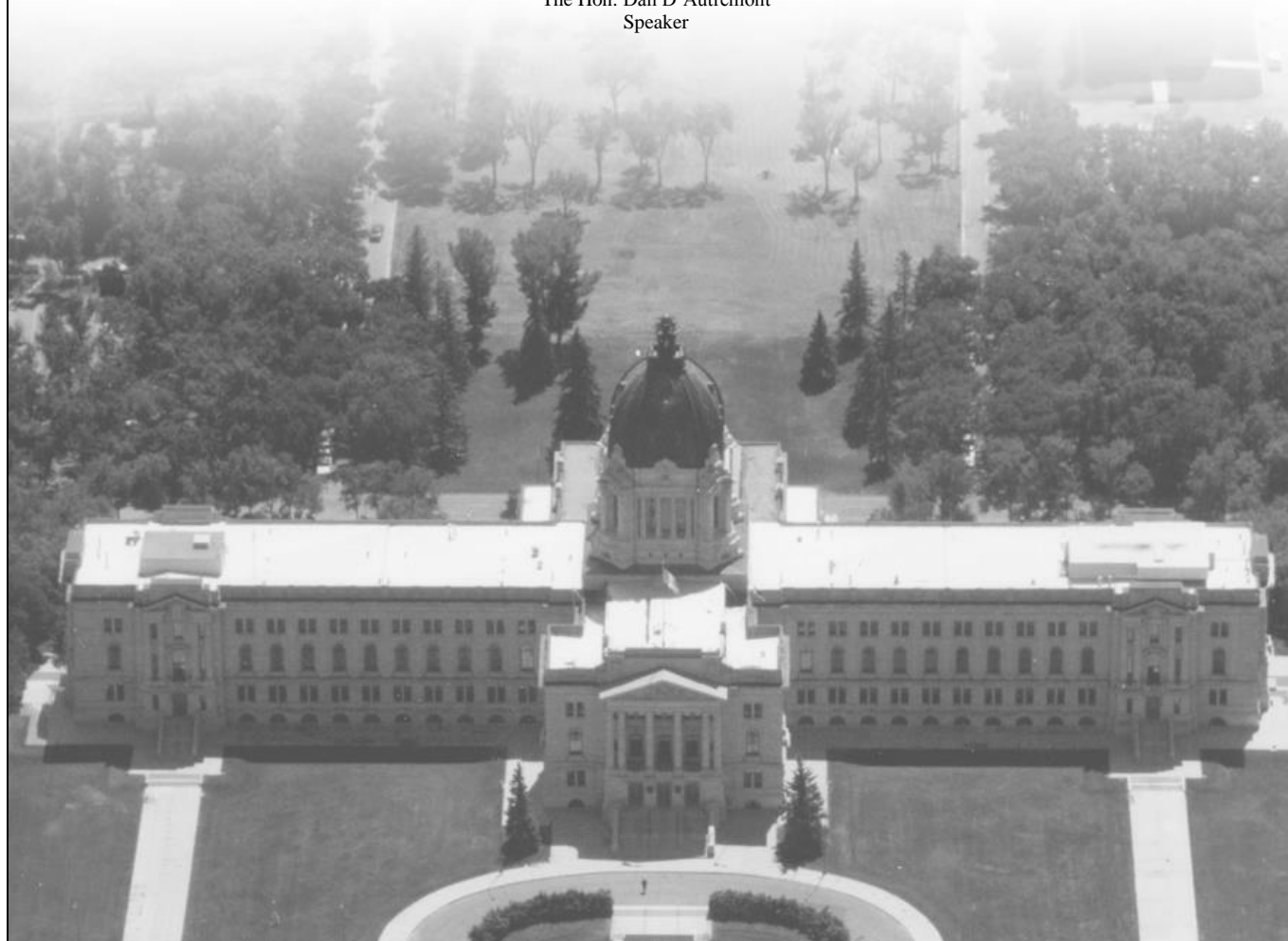
of the

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
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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
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Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
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Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
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Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
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Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave of the members of the House to give two extended introductions actually, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to do two extended introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a special day in the Legislative Assembly today. We have guests that certainly are deserving of a special introduction and an acknowledgment by members of the House. The first group has perhaps come from furthest away, although the High Commissioner we are about to introduce is obviously stationed here in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery is the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Canada, His Excellency Kamrul Ahsan. Joining His Excellency is Mr. Dewan Mahmud, first secretary (commercial) of the Bangladesh High Commission, Mr. Speaker. And they're accompanied by professionals from Protocol. Mr. Speaker, I want to note that this is the first visit of His Excellency to the Legislative Assembly, although he is not new to the province of Saskatchewan. He was a part of a private program here just last year, where I was also in attendance, meeting with Canpotex.

Mr. Speaker, the High Commissioner has a very busy program while he's here in the province. He's going to meet with a number of, and has already met with, representatives of the government. In fact I understand they were talking about coal generation earlier today, and the potentiality for more coal generation in Bangladesh, and an interest in carbon capture and sequestration we're developing here.

Saskatchewan has strong and growing ties with the people and the Republic of Bangladesh, ties for which we are very grateful. Mr. Speaker, our province exports to Bangladesh were more than \$410 million last year; that's a 26 per cent increase over 2013.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is Canada's leading exporter to Bangladesh. Our province alone accounts for 58 per cent of all of Canadian exports to that great country, primarily agricultural products, but now, Mr. Speaker, a return to trade in potash. Because at that meeting of Canpotex I referenced earlier, a new agreement has been signed, and a welcome one, where once again Saskatchewan potash will be moving into that very important market, Mr. Speaker. And that was actually an issue,

the potash export potential was an issue I had the chance to raise with Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina when I was there on a trade mission in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina have five agreements in place with their Bangladeshi counterparts covering a number of areas including student and academic exchanges but also research and collaboration. The U of S [University of Saskatchewan] is also working with Bangladesh institutions on a number of agricultural research projects. Since 2007 Saskatchewan has welcomed more than 1,400 citizens from Bangladesh as permanent residents to our province. And during the 2015 winter semester, more than 100 students from Bangladesh were enrolled in Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions.

This is a growing and vibrant relationship we have with Bangladesh, one that we value greatly, Mr. Speaker. It's important to say, on behalf of 18,000 pulse growers in the province who are able to supply about 90 per cent of the import needs of peas and lentils to that country, it's important to say on their behalf, but on behalf of the entire province to the people of Bangladesh through His Excellency today, thank you. Thank you very much for this relationship. We welcome you warmly here to the Legislative Assembly today, and we commend you to a good program here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, and while I'm on my feet, I would also ask members opposite for the indulgence to introduce a very, very important group who have joined us in the Assembly today. It's my great honour to introduce a remarkable group of women and men that are seated in your gallery. We welcome today 63 members of the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, better known as the Snowbirds, Mr. Speaker.

I think it would be formidable if we all asked them to just stand briefly so that we could acknowledge them. We can probably see you there, but if you wouldn't mind just standing. And I'll try to be brief, Mr. Speaker. Leading the group today is their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Brad Wintrup. And the commanding officer of 15 Wing Moose Jaw is also here, Colonel Alexander Day, and we welcome his wife, Sue, as well. She has joined us.

Mr. Speaker, our guests represent the following components of the Snowbirds: they work in command, air display flight, air maintenance flight, and logistical and administration flight.

Earlier today Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor hosted a special luncheon for the squadron who are recognizing, who are celebrating their 45th anniversary. This anniversary is an opportunity for all of us to recognize one of the best precision flying teams in the world, and a military unit that has served our country and served the Canadian Forces in an exemplary way as great ambassadors not only for Canada, obviously for the country, but very specifically for the province of Saskatchewan and the people of Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, it's an important anniversary for our colleague, the member for Wood River, who did two tours with the Snowbirds, including team leader I think in 1985 and 1986. Mr. Speaker, they are an enduring symbol of all that is good about

our country, our Canadian Forces in our province. 15 Wing Moose Jaw has been home to the Snowbirds since the very first day, since the team's inception.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we welcome them here to this Assembly today, and we thank them and their predecessors for their great service to our country and for their representation of the province and the people of Saskatchewan. I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming these very special guests to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to join with the Premier in welcoming the groups and individuals who have been identified, as well as one other introduction, Mr. Speaker.

But I would first like to start with the High Commissioner and first secretary and welcome them to Saskatchewan and to the Assembly and to wish them all the best, Mr. Speaker, as they are here to learn, to engage, and to exchange ideas and possibilities, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is accurate in pointing out the connections between Saskatchewan and Bangladesh in economic terms, in educational terms, and especially, Mr. Speaker, in terms of people.

I recall just a few weeks ago in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, going to a cultural evening with probably 3 to 400 members of the Bangladeshi community. And it was a great celebration of music, of dance, and recognizing the big contributions that are being made here to Saskatchewan and adding so much vibrancy to our province. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these two individuals again to the Assembly.

Thank you. And I too, Mr. Speaker, would like to welcome the Snowbirds. And it's a large delegation and group that we have with us today, and that's fitting, Mr. Speaker, because we know their significance and their attachment to Canada and the province is indeed large. And it's something that every child from a young age is exposed to, I think, from coast-to-coast-to-coast in our country, but it's a special attachment here in Saskatchewan, the 15 Wing here and the special place that the Snowbirds hold in the hearts of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

So I ask all members to once again thank these individuals for their service to the country and for making us all so proud as Canadians, Mr. Speaker.

And last, Mr. Speaker, in the east gallery, I'd like to introduce Carla Beck who is seated there. Carla Beck is the assistant executive director at the Regina Transition House where she manages the women's shelter. She's also, as members will know, a trustee with the Regina Public Schools, active volunteer and leader in a variety of groups in the community and throughout Saskatchewan. She and her partner, Guy, have three children. And on top of all that, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to say that she is the candidate for the New Democratic Party in the constituency of Lakeview and, I believe, Mr. Speaker, the next MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for the constituency as well. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Carla to the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask that members join me in welcoming some very important guests in our west gallery who have come all the way from the province of Guadalcanal, the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, most members pray know the site of a very important battle during the Second World War.

We have with us the Deputy Premier of Guadalcanal Province, the Hon. Rollen Seleso, who joins us as well, accompanied by the Hon. Anthony Veke, a senior member of the Legislative Assembly and a former premier of Guadalcanal as well. With them, Mr. Ashwant Dwivedi, the chief executive officer of the Canadian International Training & Education Corporation, also the honorary consul general for the Solomon Islands across Canada.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we signed a very important MOU [memorandum of understanding], an agreement with the Saskatchewan Hotel and Hospitality Association, the Government of the Solomon Islands, the Guadalcanal province particularly, with respect to labour mobility. And we're going to be having a member statement on that forthwith from the member from Saskatoon Greystone. But I would ask that all members join me in welcoming these gentlemen to Saskatchewan for their very first trip and that we hope to see them again. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite and welcome these leaders from the Solomon Islands and Guadalcanal to Saskatchewan to our Assembly. We wish them well with their meetings. And certainly we look forward to fully understanding the agreement, but we thank them for the partnership and hope that their exchange and time here is constructive and productive. We certainly provide a very warm welcome. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome the Regina Open Door Society to the legislature, seated in the west gallery. The guests are participants in the integrating newcomers with volunteer opportunities to add leadership value through education program, known as the INVOLVE program.

The Regina Open Door Society has collaborated with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and SaskCulture to offer

this program, which is a volunteer training program for newcomers. The participants are given the opportunity to network with a number of community-based organizations, then able to sign up to volunteer.

So seated there — if you could just give us a wave — Bonnie Soerensen is the program facilitator. Getachew Woldyesus is the manager of settlement, family and community services. The participants are Roberto Masterio, Hani Al Moulia, Manal Anwal, Deonilito De Guzman, David Rugabuka, Yagoob Bawazir, and Christina Masa. Excellent.

I have had the opportunity the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker, to not only hand out the certificates to the participants but to network and have great conversations. They're a great asset, not only to the city but to this province, so we welcome them. We thank them for choosing Saskatchewan. And we thank the Open Door Society and Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan again for contributing to the settlement of newcomers in this province. They do fantastic work. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to help me welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to quickly join, no need for leave for an extended introduction I hope, but I'd like to join with the minister for introducing the folks from the Open Door Society, and again sponsored by the Multicultural Council. Certainly Bonnie Soerensen — I'd also add to the record, Mr. Speaker, proud graduate of Thom Collegiate — and Getachew Woldyesus and all the folks that are here today from the Open Door Society. It's a great program, and certainly the great leadership that Bonnie and Getachew provide to that is well appreciated. So I'd just very briefly like to add my voice to that of the minister in asking that all members welcome these individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce some guests seated in the west gallery, and I'm pleased to introduce them here today. They are here today as part of the announcement about the multi-material recycling program that will be launched on January 1st, 2016.

From the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association we have President Deb Button, CEO [chief executive officer] Laurent Mougeot, policy and legal adviser Steven Dribnenki. From the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities we have President Ray Orb, senior policy analyst Ben Chursinoff, and policy analyst Libbey Morin. From Multi-Material Stewardship Western we have some guests coming later on today, Mr. Speaker, and I will introduce them later. I'll just ask all members to please join with me in welcoming them to their Assembly. Thank you.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'd

like to join with the Environment minister in welcoming these individuals to the Legislative Assembly today. We are certainly looking forward to the establishment finally of the multi-material recycling program and are pleased to see Ms. Button from SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and her officials, as well as Mr. Orb from SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities]. I don't see him, but I hear he's here.

Anyway, welcome to all these individuals for the hard work they're doing. We know how important recycling is to the environment here in Saskatchewan, and we applaud them for the work they do. So thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, my house leader. My wife Trish is in the west gallery. And along with being a great mom to Carter and Paige, she has her own business in Saskatchewan and is working with a very important organization, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan. She's conducting seminars in Weyburn and Moose Jaw and Regina. And I'd ask all members to help me welcome Trish to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a great pleasure for me to introduce some of my family today: my second-oldest son, Jody, from Calgary. He's a lawyer. He's the managing director of Marsh Calgary and is the leader of the Canadian Energy Practice. And for a passion, he is a marathoner. He's run the Chicago, New York, Boston, Berlin, and came in at two hours and 33 minutes. I have to admit that he didn't get that ability from either one of his parents. With him is his wife, Shashi Behl, who is an entrepreneur. Shashi has a lot of energy and a lot of class. She was the Canadian Retailer of the Year for 2014.

And with them is my grandson, Aden. Aden is in grade 6. He's at Lycée Louis Pasteur francophone school in Calgary. He was recently elected as the class representative, and he's a soccer goalie. And when I first spoke at his school a number of years ago, he introduced me as the prime minister of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, I should apologize to the House for not correcting him at that time, but it just sort of made me happy. So thank you very much. So I'd like to ask everyone to help me welcome them to the Saskatchewan legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater support for GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in our Saskatchewan schools. And we know that this province lags behind others in securing the rights of gender- and sexually diverse students, and that gender- and sexually diverse students are four times more likely than their heterosexual peers to attempt suicide.

And we know that GSAs, or gender and sexual alliances, offer opportunities to improve attendance and retention rates, generate meaningful relationships at school, and reduce homophobic and transphobic bullying; and that this government must act so that under no circumstance are gender- and sexually diverse students denied the right to form gender and sexual alliances within their schools.

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 the government to immediately take meaningful action to pass *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* and enshrine in legislation the right of Saskatchewan students to form GSAs within their schools in order to foster caring, accepting, inclusive environments and deliver equal opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition asking for this government to support a new long-term care facility for Creighton-Denare Beach. Mr. Speaker, seniors have done their part to build this province, and northern Saskatchewan is no exception. According to the 2009 Croft report, long-term care stats of our health region is at a code red level. Seniors from our northern communities need immediate attention from this government, and many residents cannot afford private care. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Saskatchewan government to treat northern Saskatchewan's senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in the Creighton-Denare Beach area.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of Creighton, Denare Beach, Sandy Bay. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out that this government needs to address the seniors' care crisis. They point out that families have spoken out about staff shortages resulting in the lack of staff to help their loved ones with basic needs while they're in their care facilities. They also point out that it was this government that has removed the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully

request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; restoring regulations that provide minimum standards of care; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from residents in the province of Saskatchewan here, concerned about the high cost of post-secondary education. Among the very cogent arguments they raise, Mr. Speaker, they point out that the average Canadian student in 2014 graduated with debt of over \$27,000, not including credit card and other private debt. In the prayer that reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately increase the funding for post-secondary education in this province, with a legislated provision that this increase in funding be used to lower tuition rates.

Mr. Speaker, this particular batch of petitions is signed by citizens from Langenburg, Spy Hill, Regina, Saskatoon, Balgonie, Pilot Butte, Tisdale, Edam, Battlefords, and Vawn. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

45th Anniversary of Canadian Forces Snowbirds

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 45th anniversary of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds, 431 Air Demonstration Squadron. I would also like to recognize Colonel Day, wing commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw; Lieutenant Colonel Wintrup, commanding officer for the Snowbirds; as well as the past and present team leads and the 80-plus members of the squadron.

Mr. Speaker, the Snowbirds are very well known in this province, as well as across the country. However their reach extends far beyond our borders here in Saskatchewan. Regarded as one the world's best precision flying teams, they bring great honour to our province and our nation.

Mr. Speaker, many people will have memories of the time they were able to look up at the prairie blue sky to see some of the best pilots in the world exhibit their skill. This year the squadron has put on displays all across North America. We are proud to be able to have these skilled individuals showcased in

cities from British Columbia to PEI [Prince Edward Island], South Carolina to California. Whether it's an aerobatic performance at an air show or a flypast over a public event, spectators are given a view of how extraordinary this squadron truly is.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank each squadron member, past and present, for the prestige they bring to our Canadian forces. I'd also like to commend them for their dedication to our country through military service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many Saskatchewan families are affected by breast cancer. I am sure that every member of this Assembly has a friend, family member, or a constituent who has been touched by this terrible disease.

One in nine women in Canada will develop breast cancer at some point. It is encouraging to see survival rates improving with new treatments and technologies, but far too many of our mothers, sisters, and friends have lost their lives.

There are many great initiatives all across our province that raise awareness about breast cancer and raise money to help fund research for a cure. From large events like CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce] Run for the Cure to smaller events like the Pink Sale at Bobbi-Joe's Cafe here in Regina, people from all over our province come together to make a difference and bring an end to breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, with important initiatives like Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I hope that we can continue to increase awareness, fund the critical research, support our loved ones when they need our help, and eventually create a future for all women and girls that is free from breast cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Greystone.

Educational Partnership with Solomon Islands

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, drawing on the minister's introduction, I'm honoured to rise in the Assembly today to highlight a new and important partnership between the Saskatchewan Hotel and Hospitality Association, the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council, and the Solomon Islands province of Guadalcanal.

This educational partnership will support the entry of recent tourism graduates from the Solomon Islands by allowing them to work and gain first-hand experience in our renowned hospitality sector right here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the graduates will begin arriving in the spring of 2016, and they'll begin their three-month work placements in hotels across the province, thereby helping to meet labour shortages our province is currently experiencing in this dynamic sector.

Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to mention the enduring heritage of the Solomon Islands. Consisting of a chain of several islands southeast of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands bore witness to some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific during the Second World War. That country and especially the province of Guadalcanal helped to serve and sacrifice for the high principle of our shared freedom. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, these islands were also home to the historic site of Lieutenant John F. Kennedy's PT-109 shipwreck.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me in recognizing this beneficial new partnership and most especially the enduring strength of the people of Guadalcanal province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

A Chance to Speak Documentary

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, on September 10th I attended the premiere of a documentary shot in Saskatoon's inner city called *A Chance to Speak*. This documentary, produced by Mr. Vern Boldick, examines homelessness, abuse, and the streets of Saskatoon as experienced by the city's poorest residents.

The documentary follows several individuals who open up about living on the street. One of the main characters is a young man by the name of Chris Moyah who is involved with Saskatoon's STR8 UP, a grassroots organization who supports its members in many ways, including leaving gangs; obtaining safe, affordable housing; getting proper personal identification; obtaining employment; accessing counselling; and much more. The screening was followed by a panel discussion that included some of the individuals in the documentary as well as some dedicated community members who are working to fight poverty.

Mr. Boldick hopes to bring the documentary to schools, churches, and reserves across Saskatchewan later this fall, and I encourage all members to take the time to see this important film. Films like this one remind us that inequality is a real problem here in Saskatchewan. And there's no reason why, in a rich province like ours, anyone should have to go without access to a safe place to sleep or a warm meal each night.

Mr. Speaker, we are all looking forward to seeing how this government will implement its anti-poverty strategy, because what those living on the margins need is action, not just more talk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Grand Opening of Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few short hours ago, I joined the Minister of Advanced Education and my colleagues from Melville-Saltcoats and Canora-Pelly as well as many regional dignitaries to celebrate the grand opening of the Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre in

Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, it was an overwhelming turnout, and the support the Yorkton area received for this innovation centre is amazing. Hundreds of people, in addition to many businesses and community leaders, attended the event. It was complete with a cake cutting and speeches from Mayor Bob Maloney and Parkland College president and CEO, Dwayne Reeve, among many others.

[14:00]

I am proud to say that our government contributed \$10 million for this project, yet we were not the only sponsors who made this day happen. The land for the centre was donated by the city of Yorkton, estimated value, \$3.48 million; Potash Corp and Mosaic, matching grants of \$1.23 million; Mr. Speaker, Western Economic Diversification fund, 950,000 for the power engineering lab. And the college had an additional support of 2.5 million in corporate and private citizen donations.

It is projects like this that show what government can really accomplish when we work together with community partners. The facility will have the capacity to train 360 new full-time graduates, in addition to upgrading over 2,000 individuals with the skills they need to become fully employable in their chosen fields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Parkland College and the Yorkton area on its new Trades and Technology Centre, as well as thanking the community for all their hard work and investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Joint-Use School Project

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently this government undertook the largest new schools construction project in Saskatchewan history. Mr. Speaker, we are building 18 new schools on 9 joint-use sites in the communities of Regina, Saskatoon, Martensville, and Warman.

Because of the success of these projects, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships is granting our program an award. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that our projects have been selected to receive the Silver Accolade in the innovative partnerships category from the 2015 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships.

These facilities will maximize opportunities for students, create efficiencies, and strengthen partnerships between school divisions, while creating about 2,300 new jobs in the process. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the SaskBuilds officials, school divisions, and everyone else who was part of this innovative project.

Building nine joint-use schools by the fall of 2017 is a major undertaking that could not have been achieved through a conventional approach. By using a public-private partnership, we will be able to provide new, innovative schools to over

11,000 students from kindergarten to grade 8. These new schools will also provide an additional 810 spaces of child care and community resource space.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan continues to grow. Our government is honoured to be recognized for this national award of innovative partnerships in our joint-use school project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Saskatoon's Growth Outlook

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This House hears a lot of doom and gloom and rhetoric coming from the members opposite, yet they seem to be oblivious to the reality of what is happening within our province.

Our population is growing. Our economy is expanding and our unemployment numbers are the lowest in the country, yet we don't hear from the Leader of the Opposition even acknowledging these facts. The numbers show the facts. The only challenge seems to be getting the members opposite that would take the time to read them.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that we live in an amazing province, yet I'd like to highlight an article in today's *StarPhoenix* that talks about Saskatoon's growth outlook. The article talks about statistician Doug Elliott's new paper that outlines the growth projection for Saskatchewan regional economies. And he has concluded that Saskatoon, specifically, "will prosper for years."

Now, Mr. Speaker, myself and all our members from Saskatoon are aware of how great our city is and this, once again, confirms it. Furthermore, this is just not good news for Saskatoon, but for Saskatchewan as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the real doom and gloom isn't that far away unfortunately. It's right across the other side of the House in the policies of an old and tired NDP [New Democratic Party] that have shown themselves time and time again to be stuck in the past with their failed ideologies.

Mr. Speaker, our government is moving Saskatchewan forward and once again the numbers show it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Mr. Broten: — On November 28th, 2012 the Premier received a briefing note from SaskPower. At the top it says, confidential for Premier's use only. It talks about how the relationship with Cenovus is, "very good." It says Cenovus didn't need our CO₂ until 2016, which is interesting given the contract this government entered into, which now has us paying penalties. And it says this: "The sale of CO₂ was critical to the business case for this project to proceed."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Premier receives a lot of

briefing material, so perhaps he doesn't remember this particular note that he received. But will the Premier at least admit that he has known for years that the sale of CO₂ is critical to the business case for the carbon capture experiment?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Of course, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that roughly a third of the world's successfully stored CO₂ on Earth is stored here in Saskatchewan. Credit a project that was undertaken early on by the previous government, the federal government of the day, oil companies that were involved, and the US [United States] Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, we built on that expertise with respect to that particular technology around storage to the point where the United Nations recognizes CCS [carbon capture and storage] as an efficacious way to help deal with the climate change issue around the world, Mr. Speaker. This particular plant, this carbon capture and sequestration plant, clean coal plant at Boundary dam 3, relies on and will continue to rely on the sale of CO₂, Mr. Speaker, to Cenovus or whoever the highest bidder is, remembering that Cenovus was chosen in a public process.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the largest research and development projects on Earth, frankly, in the last number of years. It's the only successful commercial application of carbon capture and sequestration. Mr. Speaker, even in the conventional build of a power plant, were it to be natural gas or the members' own Cory cogen plant that they constructed when they were in office, under SaskPower, there is in the first year some challenges, Mr. Speaker, where the project is brought up to full capacity and then drawn back to deal with technological challenges that exist. That's the case with conventional power plants, and that's the case with this very significant research and development project that has now been the subject of the visits of 260 people from around the world, with 30-plus countries — including Bangladesh that was here today — very interested in carbon capture and sequestration technology.

The scientific community around the world is heralding this as a project that's transformational in the industry, Mr. Speaker. We're going to get through all of the technological issues that currently present to get to that 80 to 100 per cent capacity very soon, Mr. Speaker, as it was when the plant originally opened about a year ago.

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

Mr. Broten: — Interesting response, Mr. Speaker, and we'll get into some examination, Mr. Speaker, about the reaction of this government if they recognize that the sale of carbon is indeed important. There's another briefing note from 2012 with the heading, CO₂ sales initiative, and it says this: "The economics for BD3 ICCS was developed around the 1 million tonnes being sold at a starting price of \$25 per tonne, escalating by 2 per cent per year." And it says that delays in completing a contract for CO₂ sales would seriously compromise the project.

So the Premier, Mr. Speaker, knew that the economics of this project were extremely shaky at best and that selling 1 million tonnes of CO₂ every year was critical, was critical to the government's argument to proceed.

So you'd think, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier heard that we are actually paying Cenovus money instead of earning money, you'd think, Mr. Speaker, that he would pay a lot of attention to that. When exactly did the Premier learn that his government is paying Cenovus instead of earning money?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the original model certainly and remains predicated on the sale of 1 million tonnes of CO₂, Mr. Speaker. That's the environmental advantage of the project.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to get into the price because that's very commercially sensitive, and I'd invite members to be circumspect about that. That's a confidential agreement between SaskPower and this company. We're going to want to continue to sell CO₂ maybe to other companies as they bid.

But I would just say this. A government will then also ask, okay, that's if the plant is running at 100 per cent efficiency capacity from day one, which is not likely, which is not likely. This would have been a conversation that happens. And so then the question comes from the minister and the government: what happens if it's not running at capacity, Mr. Speaker?

Well I can tell members what one of the scenarios would be if it wasn't running at peak efficiency. Mr. Speaker, at the current rate that we're seeing the plant operate at, we're talking about the capture of 400 000 tonnes of CO₂, and at the rate that we're on, at the pace that we're on right now, at the pace we're on right now, we're going to make money. SaskPower makes \$5 million even at the 400 000 tonne level that is existing today. And, Mr. Speaker, the good news is this. Here's . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I can wait if the members want to keep talking, but they asked the question, so listen to the response. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know that members opposite, I think they're cheering for this project to fail. They're the only ones, by the way. There are countries around the world that are still burning coal, that are building coal plants, and this presents real hope for the project.

So even with the challenges it's faced in year one, like any other conventional facility would face, we're going to end up in the year making money on the CO₂ sale at 400 000 tonnes. The other good news is that we're correcting those problems at SaskPower. The engineers are correcting them, and we'll be at 80 to 100 per cent efficiency, Mr. Speaker, as per the original plan.

Mr. Speaker, any project like this, especially when it's groundbreaking and is transformational, is going to meet technological challenges in year one. And we have, and those are being overcome. And even at that, Mr. Speaker, we're still making money on the sale of CO₂.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we are cheering for transparency

for Saskatchewan ratepayers. We are cheering, Mr. Speaker, for a project to work, and we are cheering, Mr. Speaker, for the facts so that Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, can exactly know what they are on the hook for.

You know, yesterday we saw from the minister as well, trying to tell this tale of making money, combining the sale of electricity, which the plant was always doing, Mr. Speaker, and ignoring the fact that we are on the hook for \$1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker, for this project. Completely overlooked by the Premier and the minister.

SaskPower only earned \$3 million on CO₂ sales last year, but this government paid Cenovus \$12 million in penalties. That means we were \$9 million in the hole, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to CO₂ sales last year. And we know from the many internal documents that we've obtained, as early as September the government knew it would have to fork over a massive cheque to Cenovus because it wasn't delivering CO₂.

So again, Mr. Speaker, back to my earlier question about what the Premier knew and when he knew it, Mr. Speaker. How long has he known that the government is paying Cenovus instead of earning money?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — My hon. friend says he's cheering transparency. Well, Mr. Speaker, all of this reported . . . The subject that has been breathlessly raised first by the member for Nutana, now by the Leader of the Opposition, was hidden away in the annual report, Mr. Speaker. And well, he kind of laughs that off and that's not good enough.

How about this? It was in a Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* story, January 12th, 2015. He should cheer that transparency. The *Leader-Post*, February 17th, 2015, there's transparency. *Estevan Mercury* story, February 17th, 2015; at a presentation to the Pacific northwest regional forum on July 13th, 2015; in a SaskPower press release from September 14th, 2015; a *Leader-Post* story from September 14th, 2015. The *Estevan Mercury* again had another story — we'll get him a subscription if he likes — September 16th, 2015. Oh and, Mr. Speaker, the *National Geographic* magazine reported it, October 2015. This has been reported by SaskPower. It will be . . . We've made sure, Mr. Speaker, that it will continue to be reported.

And let's remember, let's remind members of the House, this is a transformational project. It's world-leading technology. The world is stopping in Estevan to learn exactly what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, and we'll end the year making money on CO₂, Mr. Speaker. And when it's up to full capacity, we're talking about the full sale of a million tonnes and the sequestering of that CO₂, Mr. Speaker, so it doesn't hurt the environment.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear any answer as to when he knew that he'd be paying Cenovus instead of actually earning money on the CO₂. Asked twice, no response. Why did the Premier say the carbon capture project was fully operational?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because it was.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, even to this day, to this moment in the House, the Premier's ignoring the facts, Mr. Speaker, the facts that have been unearthed through internal documents and through the scattered information coming from SaskPower and from the minister.

The Premier said the project was fully operational last October. We learned this week that the project is still not working properly. After almost 13 months, the project is operating at just 40 per cent capacity, and there are serious design flaws that SaskPower is still scrambling to fix.

Here's a quote, Mr. Speaker, from the Canadian Press article just two months ago. It says this: "Wall says the Boundary project captures 90 per cent of the coal-fired electricity plant's carbon dioxide emissions." He didn't say it will hopefully capture. He didn't say it will maybe capture. He said it captures — present tense and very definitive — which is exactly, Mr. Speaker, what his government said in the news releases as well.

Why would the Premier repeatedly use present tense and very definitive language about this project, Mr. Speaker, when it wasn't even remotely accurate?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, because when the plant first became fully operational, Mr. Speaker, officials were reporting that the start-up was very successful, that it was meeting the objectives for the plant. The objectives for the plant were between 80 and 95 per cent capture of CO₂. That was happening early on.

What happened subsequently, Mr. Speaker, is that we saw the efficiency decline — as is the case, by the way, with even conventional plants, Mr. Speaker. Some of it was planned, where they have planned shutdowns as we're in right now, to retool to ensure the technology is working right. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that what has been offered to the world, what has been offered to the world in this technology was met very early on. It will be met, Mr. Speaker, as we meet the first-year challenges faced.

And I invite the hon. member to return to his position on this issue that he had when he was running for the leadership of the New Democratic Party, when he said this. This was in the Leader of the Opposition's leadership platform. He said:

This means legislating targets for emission reductions and a renewable power portfolio making our province a world leader in safe, environmentally friendly and economically viable carbon capture and sequestration by equipping our current power plants with mechanisms to safely capture and sequester CO₂ emissions and permitting SaskPower to profit from its knowledge and innovation by marketing

CCS innovation.

That is exactly what's happening today in the province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, economically viable, certainly not what we're seeing from this front bench in the deals that they've entered us into, Mr. Speaker. You know, that quote, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier said that it was fully operational and was capturing, Mr. Speaker, that wasn't at the beginning. That was just two months ago, Mr. Speaker, just two months ago, Mr. Speaker. And they can yell now but the reality of what was said two months ago when they had internal documents showing something very different, Mr. Speaker, is a circle that this Premier needs to square.

You know, it's very bizarre to have the Premier of the province saying that the project is fully operational and that it captures — present tense — captures 90 per cent of emissions, when that's not even close to accurate. Here's a news release, Mr. Speaker, a headline from earlier this year. It says, "CCS performance data exceeding expectations at world-first Boundary Dam Power Station Unit #3." Exceeding expectations, that's what the news release said. It goes on:

Unit #3 is now producing affordable coal power for more than 100,000 homes and businesses for at least the next three decades, and it's doing so 10 times more cleanly than other coal units and four times cleaner than a comparable natural gas unit.

Again all present tense, Mr. Speaker, and now we know, Mr. Speaker, entirely inaccurate, Mr. Speaker. When that information was sent out in that news release, did the Premier know that it was false?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the facility is up and running. It's operational, fully operational. They indeed have had some difficulties with the facility. That's been disclosed on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker: press release after press, interview after interview, article after article. They have said that they've had some difficulties with the facility, Mr. Speaker, but they have made money in 2015, about \$6 million that they will make, 5 to \$6 million in 2015, Mr. Speaker. I think that's important to note.

I think the larger question though that we should be asking, and I think that was answered by the University of Regina from Lisa Watson. And she said "of course people are going to be upset" when there's issues around Boundary dam. But the bigger question is, is whether there should be the plant built at all. And I think that's the question that we would ask the member opposite, the leader opposite. In his leadership he said it should be built, but does he understand the fact that what has happened with respect to it, that there is going to be operational issues? That's been disclosed on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, and clearly now we are seeing that SaskPower expects we will see fully operational . . .

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, first of all, a very strange definition of fully, when you look at what they claim they're fully operational. Also very telling, Mr. Speaker that the Premier will not say what he knew and when he knew it in terms of when they were paying Cenovus. Also interesting, Mr. Speaker, why they were pumping out news releases saying that they were exceeding expectations, when the reality was anything but that, Mr. Speaker. The same news release, the same news release from earlier this year said the plant is on target to meet the goal of capturing 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015. On target to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015, that's what the news release says. But we know, Mr. Speaker, now, that SaskPower has only captured 400 000 tonnes — not even close, not even close to 1 million tonnes, Mr. Speaker.

So again, when the news release went out earlier this year, saying the project was on target to capture 1 million tonnes in 2015, did the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan know that that was not accurate?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, all of the information — the what, the when, all of that kind of stuff that the Leader of the Opposition raises — has all been disclosed, hidden away in the annual report, hidden away on the Internet, Mr. Speaker, hidden away in the Moose Jaw *Times* story on January 12th, hidden away in the *Leader-Post* in February, hidden away in *The Estevan Mercury*. All of that information has been disclosed.

And even though the plant isn't operating at the efficiency that we would like to see, and that SaskPower would like to see, they still made 5 to \$6 million in 2015, Mr. Speaker, and I think that's important. So the choice would be, what would you do? Would you rather just shut it down? Would you rather have not started it in the first place, Mr. Speaker? Even . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Would the member for Saskatoon Centre please rise and apologize for those remarks and withdraw them. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I apologize and withdraw those remarks. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, all of the information has been disclosed to the people of Saskatchewan. We will be asking SaskPower to provide further updates with respect to the efficiency of the plant on an ongoing basis, Mr. Speaker. I think that's important. I think the important question is, we would like to know — and I think the people of Saskatchewan would like to know — when it comes to the NDP, are they prepared to shut that facility down, throw all those people out of work and . . .

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the transparency that we are seeing from this government is offensive. For them to pretend that they have been clear with Saskatchewan people and they

have been open about the shortcomings of this project, about the failures with the design, about the huge cheques that they have had to stroke, Mr. Speaker, because of their poor contracts that they're in, Mr. Speaker, and the failure to have this project be successful, Mr. Speaker.

For the minister, for the Premier to pretend that they have been transparent by slipping in one sentence in an annual report is offensive to every ratepayer and taxpayer in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Unbelievable. And it sounds like, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier knew exactly what the results were coming out of this plant, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time was allowing news releases to go out that told a very different story. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, welcoming Americans and telling a very different story.

Two months ago the Premier was at the Boundary dam with Senator Lindsey Graham and others and he said this:

We've cleaned it up. At this facility operating right now, we have energy being produced from coal three times cleaner than natural gas. We are capturing 90 per cent of the CO₂.

Mr. Speaker, he may have well been standing there with a mission accomplished sign behind him. But the facts, Mr. Speaker, tell a very different story, and he knows it very well.

My question, Mr. Speaker . . . And you know what he said can't be accurate. We know it can't be accurate because SaskPower admits — they admit, Mr. Speaker — that the plant only functions at 40 per cent capacity. When the Premier was boasting to Lindsey Graham that the facility was fully operational, capturing 90 per cent of CO₂, did he know that the facility had serious design flaws and was only operating at 40 per cent capacity?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, SaskPower has provided updates on a number of occasions. We've outlined, I think, eight or nine of them so far here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the efficiency. It's gone from very high and down to 40 per cent, and it's even gone to zero at times when they've been shut down. That has been disclosed on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker.

We would hope, and I would expect, that SaskPower people will be doing everything they possibly can to get the efficiency levels up. It's nothing new in terms of a plant of this type, Mr. Speaker, where you are ramping up the expected outcomes of it and you're also ramping them down in a scheduled way to do all of the testing and all of the experiments around it to make sure that it's operating at peak performance, Mr. Speaker.

They will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker. They will continue to provide updates to the people of Saskatchewan. And I believe that the people of Saskatchewan are most supportive of any time that the Government of Saskatchewan is taking environmental issues head-on such as we are doing with respect to this facility.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, in February this government said that this project was exceeding expectations and that it was on target to capture 1 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2015. By April the SaskPower president admitted in committee that lots of the equipment was being replaced and many components were being redesigned.

To the minister: what happened between February when it was supposedly exceeding expectations and April when the scramble to fix the project started?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I think the government has provided the answers with respect to that. I think SaskPower officials have as well. Any time that there is a new facility start-up of this type or any other generation facility of this type, there's a run-in period where they ramp up and they also ramp down in scheduled ways. They do additional maintenance. They do additional testing. They do everything they can to make sure that the plant is operating as efficiently as possible. All is in an effort to get the highest efficiency they possibly can.

Now admittedly, admittedly, Mr. Speaker, that it is clear there has been on a number of occasions, SaskPower has provided updates with respect to it, but even at 40 per cent efficiency, SaskPower made between 5 and \$6 million in 2015. It isn't where they would like it. It isn't where the Government of Saskatchewan would like it, but I think that they are working as hard as they possibly can to ensure that we will get to the targets that were always established, that were always part of the project, and apparently was supported by yourself at one point in time.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it seems like this overhaul of the project is a massive endeavour, because in April the SaskPower president said lots of the equipment was being replaced and many components were being redesigned. This week the SaskPower president said the facility is still being overhauled.

So to the minister: what on earth is going on with this project that the redesign, replacement, and overhaul has apparently been happening for months?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — The member is right. This is a massive project. There's no question about it. It's a massive project. We would invite the member to come down and have a look at it at some point in time and talk to the officials about the efficiency, talk to the people about the kinds of things that are happening with respect to the facility, talk to them about the changes that they are making to improve efficiencies, Mr. Speaker. But I think the important question is that we would like to know from the members opposite, do you want this facility shut down? Because around the world . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Do you want me to take more time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, if you look at what groups around the world are saying about the technology, it's pretty important I think. The Croatian ambassador to Canada called the CCS project, the Mount Everest of technology. Obviously a steep climb and, no question about it, a difficult project. If you look at what Green Alliance . . . Green Alliance highlights that CCS is the only technology available to decarbonize heavy industry to the extent that is needed to meet carbon targets.

The International Energy Agency has stated without CCS, overall costs to halve emissions by . . .

The Speaker: — Question period is over.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 183

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 183 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join in on Bill 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*, before I start out getting into some of the discussion, I just want to give credit to the labour movement of this province, the good men and women who do the great work of this province for many of us, whether it's government department agencies, whether it's the private sector, different industry. We see the trades, many good men and women in our province, young and old, work together to really, Mr. Speaker, provide a good income for their family. And they want to negotiate in good faith.

But unfortunately we have a government who over eight years did nothing but fight the labour movement, went against the labour movement, taking away their right to strike. And we see what happened at the end of the day. And I'll get into that, you know, some of the details about . . .

[14:30]

And I would remind this government and the minister, I wouldn't at this point be giving themselves a pat on the back for saying that they're now going to consult with the labour movement, the labour men and women of our province, those men and women who have done the work and have earned the respect that I think the Supreme Court gave them, that they have a right and it's instilled. And the Supreme Court has made its ruling that in Canada you have . . . But it's clear, that minister should not and the government should not give

themselves a pat on the back. It wasn't like they volunteered or they wanted to reach out. They were told and ordered by the Supreme Court to make it right. So let's be clear on that one.

Now having said that, we have a lot of individuals who have done a lot of good work. We had many people, whether they were, you know, their family, spouses, friends who organized and came together to send a message. So I give to the labour movement, the leaders and the unions and those individuals who came forward to take on this government, it's not an easy task to take on government because the government has so much resources. But here is the dollars, you know, hard-earned dollars of our, and again the working men and women of our province, this government had to use to take them to court, to take them on and to fight them time and time.

Why didn't we use those dollars for good things like seniors' care, like health care, like highways, wherever, housing? Those were areas where this government could have taken those dollars and done some good things. Unfortunately they've taken dollars that were earned by many people of this province and are very proud. Taxpayers are very proud. And when they turn around and give a government an opportunity they can sit here and say what they want, but at the end of the day again I'll go back to saying this: credit to the working men and women of this province, credit to the organizations that said no, we're not going to accept this. We're going to fight this; we're going to challenge this. And they did that. They challenged it right to the Supreme Court and going. Had to fight and in the end are coming up with an agreement and we see the legislation.

Why didn't they consult with the labour movement before it went to this? If they really cared, why did the Supreme Court have to tell them what they were going to do? That's pretty sad on that government's part. It doesn't show how we consult. Well we see the record they have consulting with First Nations, many other organizations — Métis, whoever — out in our province. Seniors. We see the way this government doesn't consult. Education, our teachers. We see the disrespect that this government has shown to many in this province.

You know you've been given an opportunity of a lifetime. You had record revenues for years. You could have done so many good things with the dollars that the people of our province have come together and laid at your disposal. They can yell all they want. It doesn't matter. The people of this province know, Mr. Speaker. They know that they did the good and hard work that they had to, to provide what this government has taken.

Now they can sit here and say what they want. The good people of our province are asking some tough questions, and they should. They should ask about that government, about that government's record when it comes to their finances with the revenue that the government's given. You've had an opportunity of a lifetime that no other government in Saskatchewan's history has had the opportunity. And under this government's management, it's terrible, the waste. And we see smart meters, we see so many areas where this government . . . consultants and everything else, the lean. The list goes on of where they've taken dollars. Taking the challenge to Supreme Court, taking our labour movement and making them spend hard-earned dollars and going at it the way they did instead of consulting.

Again I go back to that, Mr. Speaker. This could have been resolved if the government would have been open to sit down and work out what's best. But you know what? At least, and I thank the Supreme Court for making their decision to say yes, the men and women of this province have a right to strike. They have a right to fair bargaining. And that's good, and we needed to hear that. And they did the good work; for eight years they fought this government.

So when I say that about wasting the dollars, and it is. This government will argue its point and that's fine. Let them. But the Supreme Court made the ruling. And again to the labour movement, I say to the men and women — and many of them refer to themselves as brothers and sisters in the labour movement — I say, great job on you. To the leadership: great job. To the government: you should be ashamed of yourself, what you did. You could have consulted. You could have worked with those individuals. So again I want to say to the minister and the government, don't pat yourselves on the back to think you did such a great thing; go out there and oh, oh it's going to be a spin. The Supreme Court made it clear to the government.

So when we see what went on, and I talked a little bit about the cost, and we see areas where the labour movement, it talks about the privatization agenda this government says is not going on. We see many areas where the labour movement's been fighting this organization. Again it's the labour movement. We see Prince Albert, the laundry services. We see many areas that are being impacted by the government without consulting, talking to labour. They just go ahead and privatize agendas on their . . . for whatever reason, an area where they really want to focus. But they try to hide it but they don't.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, the frustration that we've seen and, I want to say, the good work coordinating by the labour movement in this province to take this government to task, I commend them. And I say that governments have to be willing to work and co-operate with our labour movement. And that's so important.

You know, all they want to do . . . I mean I've talked about the teachers. I talk about there's so many areas that this government could consult: Métis leaders, First Nations leaders. There are so many communities that could be consulted, but this government doesn't want to consult. It just wants to go down a road. It decides it's on an agenda, and it doesn't matter who's in their way. Get out of the way because they're going to push ahead.

But again the only reason this bill is here is because the Supreme Court made it clear: correct this. This isn't something where we're looking at this is because the government wanted to open arms to the labour movement, the hard . . . men and women of this good province that have done the good work, the hard work. The Supreme Court . . . Again I want to repeat that because I think it's so important to make sure people understand that.

And it's going to come on election day. And these men and women on the other side, the members, will be going door knocking, asking for support. And I hope, I hope, I hope at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, when they're on those doorsteps, they get told, they get told exactly what they did and how they

did it. You don't consult.

And they can sit there and, you know, say all they want and heckle all they want. It doesn't matter. I know what's going on in this province from the people that have shared their frustration with that government. The cost of living, there's so many challenges many people in Saskatchewan are facing under this government. They had a record revenue. Instead many, many dollars, they could have used those dollars to do such good things. And I talked about that, whether it's housing, affordability, utility rates.

Here's a government who took many dollars, taxpayers' dollars, to fight our men and women of this good province who've worked hard. We're not sure of the amount of money, but you know what? Any time, as far as I'm concerned, when you take dollars, revenue from the government coffers that could go into helping our seniors, our school, classrooms . . . And we see the cuts to the classrooms. We've seen the cuts to the school division. We've seen the help the school leaders have been asking for.

And everywhere, health, front-line workers, the great work they're doing, what do they get? No front-line support. They're doing the great work, and I want to thank all those individuals that are out there doing the great work. But unfortunately they have a government who's had a record revenue year after year, money coming in, into the government coffers, but chose to — whether it's consultants, lean; we've seen smart meters — we've seen time and time again where this government has taken our dollars and have not used them, has not used them wisely, has not consulted, and is not saying, what matters to Saskatchewan families? What matters to Saskatchewan people?

This government has wasted so much. Such an opportunity. Such an opportunity. And they can heckle all they want, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't matter, Mr. Speaker. At the end of the day, at the end of the day the people know. And they're talking. I've talked to many people that are saying, you know, times are changing. And we'll see what happens at the end of the day. They can heckle all they want and pat themselves . . . There's so many of the backbenchers on there. Be aware; people are not real happy.

And they can sit there and say all they want. Heckle all you want, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the people of this province will speak, will speak. And we'll see exactly what goes on by that government and where they cannot, cannot take care of what matters to Saskatchewan families. They will send them a message. So we'll see at the end of the day exactly what goes on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues have many things to say. And I know, you know, when you look at opposition, our critic, David Forbes for Labour, I know in committee he will have lots to say.

This is a bill again . . . And I'm going to say this one more time for those that maybe just tuned in to the channel, the legislature channel, I want to make it clear. This legislation is not because the government wanted to consult with the working men and women of this province who have fought the battles. It's because the Supreme Court of Canada made it very clear. They

made it very clear. So at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day it is clear. This government was forced. So don't pat yourselves on the back, don't the minister and government give yourselves a pat because you did something good. You fought the working men and women of this province for too long, and you're going to get a message.

But at that note, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill 183 at this time.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 184

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 184 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again, it's my honour to be able to rise in this Assembly to speak to the current slate of bills that this government has brought forward. Not a huge list, of course, Mr. Speaker. And normally this time of year, we would be debating a Throne Speech, but that seems to have vanished off the agenda for this government. So instead, we're dealing with some rather picayune changes to legislation and cleaning up, housecleaning it looks like, rather than having a legislative agenda on a go-forward basis.

So here I am speaking to a bill that was introduced — let me see what day we had this brought in — oh October 20th, so a mere nine days ago. Normally we would have a lot of time throughout the year to be able to consult with the people these bills affect. Unfortunately in this session, the government is ramming these bills through, and we'll be voting on them much sooner than we normally do.

Again, I suppose, because there isn't a Throne Speech, there isn't the debate to the Throne Speech, there's no vision being presented by this government, and there really isn't a lot of ideas and positive, proactive things coming forward. So here we are in adjourned debates at a point when we should be probably looking a little closer at this government's plans for the future, what the impact of the change in fortunes is on this government in terms of the province's finances. And instead, we are debating bills that really should be thrown out to the public for a few months and reviewed before we would be required to have a vote on them, Mr. Speaker.

At any rate, the minister did provide some comments on October 20th. And I think this is just in response to the motorcycle lobby which was quite concerned about the increase

in fees that was being presented to them as a result of the no-fault insurance coverage.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, insurance is a complicated business. Back in the day when I was in practice, we always said, you know, the best . . . the most argumentative type of lawyers often end up in insurance law because that's the type of law where one word can make a large difference in terms of payouts and coverage. So interpretation of insurance laws is a very particular art, and I don't think that *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act* is a simple piece of legislation by any way you look at it.

What the minister appears to be doing here is adding a third option or layering in another option for motorcycle riders who lobbied very hard. And certainly I was lobbied in my office by motorcycle riders who were very concerned about the high, steep price that was going to come their way in terms of insurance coverage based on the existing insurance scheme.

So I think what they did, Mr. Speaker, and, if I'm correct, I think back earlier this year the minister made the announcements that this kind of coverage would be forthcoming, and it was announced in May. And what the minister said then is that motorcycle owners are saying, look, we may not require all these benefits. We might be willing to accept a lower level of benefits in order to afford insurance for our motorcycles and to be able to drive them.

[14:45]

So it basically looks like we're setting up another tier of coverage. And the first is of course the full package, the complete smorgasbord of no-fault injury benefits. And then of course there's tort coverage, which is if you opt out of no-fault insurance, you can choose to go through tort coverage which would be more limited benefit levels but you can sue for additional losses from the people who caused the collision. So you can actually take them to court to make up for the additional benefits that you're claiming. And now this new third tier which would be a reduced package of no-fault injury benefits. So it would be kind of the same level of benefits under tort but without the ability to sue.

So I guess the whole idea is creating options for . . . It's kind of like, I guess, when you get a cellphone and you have all these different options and you can get this package or that package and this many minutes. So it looks like that's the way our insurance is going as well.

I guess one of the main questions that comes to me when I look at this bill, Mr. Speaker, is what if I want that third tier of coverage? I think right now it's only available to motorcycle drivers, and I'm just wondering why this wouldn't be available to all people who buy insurance in Saskatchewan. As you know, Sask Government Insurance is our Crown corporation that provides the insurance. If we're going to allow motorcycle drivers to have this coverage, why can't I get this coverage as a vehicle driver? And certainly I think that's something I'd like to ask the minister in committee, is why this third tier of coverage is being limited to motorcycle drivers.

I know the other side of this, Mr. Speaker, is that there's a huge risk you're taking. And I guess it's your choice as a consumer

what level of coverage you're going to provide. But even the minister himself is warning people to not take this lightly, that if you opt out of the lower level of benefits, particularly for motorcycle drivers or motorcyclists — because those vehicles are smaller and we know how quickly an accident on a motorcycle could cause very serious injuries; there's no airbags on a motorcycle, Mr. Speaker — and so that is a serious risk consideration for these individuals to take into account when they choose to license their motorcycle.

But I go back again to the question of why this third tier is only being limited to motorcycle drivers. Perhaps that has been revealed in the findings, although I think the review that was presented in January by SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], the motorcycle review committee, I don't know if they ever did make a recommendation to have this option available to all people who purchase automobile insurance through SGI.

So in terms of the bill itself, there's a couple of main features of the changes. The first few changes that are described in the bill are basically a few housekeeping items clearing up some old, minor typographical issues in the first few sections of the Act.

If you look at the explanatory notes the government's provided, it says that there's new definitions being created in terms of part II beneficiaries, part II.1 beneficiaries in particular, and those are the changes that are required as a result of the addition of the motorcycle insurance coverage.

So another thing they're doing there is they're removing a reference to the Rates Appeal Board because that board no longer exists. It's defunct. So there's a basic cleanup that's happening here in terms of the first few changes in this bill.

The real meat of the new provisions starts at section, I think, 9 of the bill, and that's where we have this new part II.1, which is called motorcycle bodily injury benefits.

And so there's . . . division 1 is the application of this part and the election of motorcycle drivers to choose those types of coverages. So that's the first few sections of the changes. Then it goes into division 2, general and rehabilitation benefits. So in this whole new section it describes the limited coverage that the motorcycle driver would be choosing if they elect this new form of coverage. A lot of details on general rehabilitation benefits. For example, the maximum amount payable under this section is \$25,000 for rehabilitation. I don't have in front of me the maximum amounts for the no-fault coverage level, but that's 25,000. If there's a catastrophic injury, the maximum benefit amount is \$193,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you think about a brain injury and how far \$193,000 would go for a catastrophic brain injury, I don't think it would go very far. So certainly the levels that are being provided here in this third tier of coverage are quite minimal, and I think the minister has made that very clear in his comments that this is a minimal benefits package. And if that's what motorcycle drivers choose, they need to be fully aware that it is not a large amount of money that would be covered.

Division 3 . . . or sorry, I'll go back to division 2. So division 2 of this section talks about general and rehabilitation. Division 3

talks about the weekly benefits that will be available under this lower level of coverage, up to 104 weeks. Division 4 talks about death and funeral benefits, which again are less than you would find if you were covered by no-fault. And I think, you know, part of the reasons it was going up so high for motorcycle drivers is the level of coverage at no-fault. It's quite high because the damages that they are receiving, especially to the injuries that they get in a motorcycle accident, are so much more severe.

Division 6 talks about claims. Division 7 talks about payment and benefits for these, general payments and benefits. So that's kind of the first part of this bill. It's quite extensive. Oh yes, and then division 8 talks about the indexation of benefits. Division 9, recovery of benefits. And division 10, compensation pursuant to other plans.

So that's the first changes, is this division 2.1. There's some other minor changes to other clauses to incorporate the fact that there is now this third level of insurance. And then there's a new section, division 3.1, tort actions available to Part II.1 beneficiaries. So this is the levels, where we set out the actual levels of insurance is in this new section, division 3.1 of the Act under, I guess it would be section 41.

So we see a few different subsections there: tort actions for economic loss, and then there's a tort action for non-economic loss. So they're setting those levels as well, and then subrogation for non-economic loss. A few other minor changes, Mr. Speaker, to this bill. And so I think this is something that we're going through very quickly here in the House. It's only nine days ago that this bill was introduced. Certainly I hope the public is paying attention and will take the time in the next week or so to provide commentary on this.

And it's concerning, I guess, in a number of levels. One is, why wouldn't this level third option be available to other drivers? Why is this limited to motorcycle drivers? Is this a wise move on the part of anyone to accept a lower level of insurance when we know how quickly costs can escalate when you have serious damage to your vehicle but also to your own personal being? And you know, motorcycle accidents can be very, very, very traumatic physically. Physical injuries can be quite catastrophic, so the choice that motorcycle drivers are going to have to make is a very serious one. And again the minister is cautioning them about taking less coverage. Motorcycles as we know are smaller and much more vulnerable than other vehicles.

But this is something that the stakeholders have requested, and this government in this case . . . They don't always take forward stakeholder requests, but for this particular instance they have decided to do so. And it came back from, I guess, a review that took place in 2013 and then the SGI's review of their own automobile injury program.

The press release, when this came out, indicated that other potential changes are still being considered. And they indicated that the legislation for additional motor injury option is anticipated to be introduced in fall 2015 and passed during the spring 2016 sitting of the legislature. So I'm not sure the government still has that view, if they're going to let this bill be passed in the spring sitting of the legislature. Of course we know there's an election coming, so it's very unclear as to

whether that would even happen. So I'm not sure why the communications back in May would have indicated that the idea is to introduce the bill this fall. I feel like the government's fully considering passing it this fall. So that's not what the press release said back in May, and I'm not sure what changed between now and then. So it would be interested in finding that out in committee as well, I guess.

So yes, we have some questions for the minister. I think we can see the sort of cautions that are built into this type of lower level of coverage that people are demanding, but I guess it's a buyer-beware kind of process where individuals are going to have to choose what risks they're comfortable with, and then they will live with the consequences.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I think other of my colleagues will want to speak to the bill as well, and that's the extent of my comments to this point. So I would like to move that we adjourn the debate on Bill No. 184, *An Act to amend the Automobile Accident Insurance Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 184, *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 185

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 185 — *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased as always to wade into the debate and discussion on Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*.

I think I have to start by noting, this bill first came before us . . . Actually the minister spoke to it just over a week ago, Mr. Speaker, and traditionally what happens is bills are introduced. I don't know if the government's plan is to pass this bill this sitting, otherwise it'll die on the order paper. But normally at this time, Mr. Speaker, we have a Throne Speech which lays out the government's agenda, and we have an opportunity to see where the government wants to take the people of this province. And instead of doing that, the government has introduced a few pieces of legislation which may never see the light of day unless the government is planning on passing them in the next four weeks. And I have to point out that would be rushing them.

Usually what happens is bills are introduced in the fall, Mr. Speaker — for anybody who might be listening and interested to have a little idea about the process — bills are usually introduced in the fall where opposition has an opportunity to take a look at them and make some preliminary comments. But

what happens between the fall and sitting session is we go out and we reach out to people who are impacted by that legislation to find out, is this good? Is this bad? What might be some unintended consequences? How could this bill look different? There is an opportunity for a thorough, much more thorough examination of bills, and we're not given that opportunity here, Mr. Speaker, unless of course the government has introduced them and plans to let them die on the order paper. But we shall see about that.

Bill No. 185, the traffic safety amendment Act, 2015, the minister in his comments on October 20th laid out . . . There is a few pieces to this bill that we have before us, and I have to point out that we've actually had *The Traffic Safety Act* before us a few times. Again I've been an MLA for six years and I think we've actually had this bill before us possibly three or four times in the time that I've been an MLA, which is highly unusual. You think when you're making changes to an Act that government will have thought long and hard about them and have done thorough consultations and make the necessary changes.

Of course occasionally it's understandable if something is missed, but this bill again has been before us, *The Traffic Safety Act* has been before us on several occasions. And I'll go on here in a moment to tell you one of the occasions that it was before us where I think the government dropped the ball. And I was actually hopeful that perhaps they were going to make a couple of more changes that would have actually reduced our impaired driving rates here in Saskatchewan and also saved lives, as we still have one of the most abysmal records when it comes to impaired driving deaths here in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

So looking at some of the provisions, or what the bill plans to do, one of the pieces that really required an opportunity for some serious examination is this government's proposal to gather information through facial recognition technology used with a driver's licence in Saskatchewan. So the minister points out that we're the only province not using this technology, and he argues that having it in place will bring our province in alignment with every other jurisdiction.

So what happens here is facial . . . The minister points out that facial recognition technology was part of the request for proposals last year in seeking a vendor for driver's licence production. And he goes on to say that facial recognition “. . . will prevent people from obtaining multiple driver's licences or identification . . . [and] improve road safety by preventing suspended drivers from using a false identity to get a licence.” He did point out that this was drafted in consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner. But I think this is something that should have allowed some, we should have some opportunity here, Mr. Speaker, to reach out to many people to talk about this.

[15:00]

Privacy is a very important and emerging . . . continues to emerge as a huge issue here with technology, with the Internet, with the speed at which information can be shared in this age of the Internet, Mr. Speaker. And facial recognition technology is something that the minister and the bill lays out that this information won't be shared with third parties or other

organizations. But I think this is one piece where it would have warranted some serious and thorough further consultations in connecting with others, not just in Saskatchewan but in other jurisdictions to see how it works. As the minister has pointed out, we're the only jurisdiction who doesn't use this.

Another thing that this bill proposes doing, Mr. Speaker, is for impaired drivers. There were some changes made to *The Traffic Safety Act* not too long ago where drivers need to take a course to be able to get their driver's licences back if they've been convicted of an offence or they've had their vehicle suspended. So this bill particularly proposes to increase the length of time to complete that course from 90 to 120 days. The minister in his remarks said 100 days, but the bill, I believe, says actually it's 120 days.

So in order to get your driver's licence after a drinking and driving offence, a driver must attend an addiction screening or drug or alcohol abuse course. And what the former bill said is that addictions counsellors need to be able to deem a driver to be of low risk of re-offending. But the minister points out that that needs to be removed from the bill because addictions counsellors, that's not something that they will, that . . . There's been industry changes and addictions counselling don't or no longer provide SGI with low offence risk rating. So that has to change, Mr. Speaker.

Another part of the legislation is allowing those who've had their vehicles impounded because of impaired driving have the opportunity to cancel their plates. Many of us, I'm sure here in this Assembly, are on monthly payments for our driver's licences, and to insure our car, Mr. Speaker. So this particular amendment will see those people who've had their vehicles impounded have the opportunity to cancel that insurance while their cars are parked, while they're impounded.

Another part of the bill, Mr. Speaker, is that out-of-province vehicle owners, this bill adds clarity for issuing of tickets to out-of-province vehicle owners for automatic enforcement of red light or speed offences, Mr. Speaker. So these are some of the things that this bill is proposing.

One of the things that I would have liked to have seen, Mr. Speaker, came out of the minority report that the member from Cumberland and I put forward a few years ago when we participated in the Traffic Safety Committee, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that two other jurisdictions have done, both Alberta and BC [British Columbia] have, for those offenders caught in the warning range — so in other provinces, it's .05 to .08 blood alcohol content — they, at a roadside test, can have their vehicles impounded for three days. And they have seen that those bills have passed the legal test. Actually recently, there was a Supreme . . . They had to make some changes in 2012. So in BC, they implemented these changes in 2010 and had to make some changes in 2012 which allowed for two Breathalyzers. If you failed the first one in the warning range, you needed the opportunity to have a second one. So they made those changes.

But these pieces of legislation in BC and Alberta have passed the court and have been deemed to be constitutional. And those particular changes, where those in the warning range lose their

vehicles for three days, have been shown to reduce death rates by 50 per cent in BC, Mr. Speaker. And they had similar results in Alberta, partly because those people, you don't just start drinking and driving and end up at .08. You become a very practised and seasoned impaired driver.

And in fact actually, that Traffic Safety Committee had heard some evidence that those who get caught with a lower blood alcohol content and issued a short-term suspension are almost eight times more likely than the average driver to be charged with a Criminal Code driving-while-impaired offence within two years. So this warning range of drivers, those who are in that .05 to .08 range, are risky drivers, Mr. Speaker.

And there was an opportunity, and BC and Alberta took that opportunity to change the culture around drinking and driving and ensure that people don't think that even a few drinks are a good idea. Because in that warning range you are impaired, Mr. Speaker, not criminally impaired, but the fact remains that you are impaired and there's reason why you shouldn't be on the road. And there's reason why here in this province we have passed other legislation that punishes people for doing that, but we could have gone one step farther in taking the three-day impoundment.

And that three-day impoundment, if you're in the warning range, why does it work? Well often what happens now, people lose their licence or have their licence suspended, just their licence suspended. So you have vehicle impoundment on one side and licence suspension on the other. And right now on the first offence, you will have a licence suspension. But the reality is there's evidence that shows as many of 70 per cent of impaired drivers violate their suspensions. So you might lose your licence on a Friday and still end up driving after that, Mr. Speaker.

But it's much harder to hide your vehicle impoundment, whether it's your partner, your husband or your wife or your parents, or you've got your mom and dad's vehicle on a Friday night, and you drive in the warning, you're caught in the warning range. And you're impaired and you lose the vehicle. It's pretty hard to explain that. So it really acts as a good deterrent for people not to drink and drive. And that is, like I said, what BC and Alberta have done to huge success, Mr. Speaker.

And I was really hoping that since we have this bill before us, *The Traffic Safety Act* before us again, that this is something this government would have seriously considered doing. The evidence that the Traffic Safety Committee . . . was clear. And my colleague from Cumberland and I did put forward a minority opinion and disagreed with the rest of the committee. We felt that they were ignoring evidence before them, Mr. Speaker. And I was hopeful that perhaps when this bill was first introduced and before we got a chance to see it, that this might have been something that they decided to do. So that's incredibly disappointing, Mr. Speaker.

But I do know that I will have colleagues who will continue to weigh in on this debate in discussion on Bill 185 here in the Chamber, but we'll also have an opportunity to ask some of these questions when we eventually move it into committee where there will be some questions, particularly on the facial

recognition software, around privacy and maybe digging a little bit deeper into what the Information and Privacy Commissioner had to say about it. And I know that my colleagues will ask many of those questions. We will have those questions in committee. So with that, I would like to move to adjourn Bill No. 185. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 185, *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 186

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 186** — *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Always good to be recognized in this Assembly, to take my place and to join debate, in this case of course on *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act*, Bill No. 186.

It's an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly arises from the latest in a series of incidents involving the question of conflict of interest and whether or not authority is being properly used in a given municipality, and certainly not unique to that individual municipality from which the Barclay report arose and which we see informing the legislation here today in very large part.

But it's I guess good to see particular legislation coming forward in response to what has been a significant problem that folks have been wrestling with throughout the province. Also good to see the partnership with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, and also with New North, Mr. Speaker, and the northern administrative district organizations in the work to bring forward this legislation.

Again with, I think we could all agree, that with great power comes great responsibility, and when you're making decisions that you have a direct, personal, financial, business — you know, pick your type of interest — when you've got a direct interest in decisions that you are very much involved in making, Mr. Speaker, I think that's certainly something as legislators we can all get our heads around. And in terms of bringing a more orderly approach, a more black and white approach to what the responsibilities are of legislators in the municipal sector, Mr. Speaker, as regards the way that the conflicts of interest should be guarded against is important and is good to see.

In terms of the legislation in front of us, as I've referenced, it arises from the final report of Justice Ron Barclay who, as it happens of course, serves as our Conflict of Interest

Commissioner, Mr. Speaker. And I had the opportunity to see Commissioner Barclay yesterday at the celebration of the appointment of our new Provincial Auditor, and certainly this would be a good time to say thank you to Commissioner Barclay, to Justice Barclay for the work that had been done on that file in terms of looking into what had gone on at the RM [rural municipality] of Sherwood and how that informed the report of Justice Barclay.

And I think the one thing that is notable for me in terms of Justice Barclay's final report is, and this is quoting from a *Leader-Post* story related to the whole matter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, filed by Austin Davis, *Leader-Post*, October 19th, 2015, where he references:

Barclay's final report found "horrendous" conflict of interest issues and led to the removal of reeve Kevin Eberle, who owns land on which the development was proposed and stood to make as much as \$57 million in the deal.

So again I'm sure we could all agree, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that Commissioner Barclay is not one given to overstatements, not one given to embellishment. And for him to have deemed to describe the whole matter as having the quality of horrendous, Mr. Speaker, I think speaks volumes to the incident that brought this, first the Barclay commission or the Barclay report and then the subsequent legislation forward. So again to get back on the record, stating our thanks to Justice Barclay for the work that has been done there.

In terms of the bill that we have in front of us, it will necessitate of course a number of other amendments, not just to *The Cities Act* for one, *The Municipalities Act*, *The Northern Municipalities Act*, and consequential amendments to be made to *The Planning and Development Act* and *The Ombudsman Act, 2012*. It's again a fairly far-reaching piece of legislation. And again, the different legislative changes necessitated by this bill, Mr. Speaker, remind us of the partnership that exists when we're working best in this province, between rural, urban, northern municipalities, and the province, and the fact that that is a partnership and that it's with a great deal of caution that you move beyond partnership to dictating or to ordering certain measures be taken by either level of the partnership.

[15:15]

So again I recognize that this is, in and of itself it represents that partnership and represents the balance that's to be struck between what each one of those constituent partners brings to the table, and at the same time the role that we have as the provincial Legislative Assembly and the role that the provincial government has in terms of legislating the terms of that very partnership, and the delicate balance to be struck there.

In terms of the balance to be struck between local municipal autonomy and the need to reassure the public that the government's being proactive and responsible and strengthening this whole conflict of interest legislation in a way that is effective and practical, again I think the balance has been described accurately. And the way that you've got to navigate that line, Mr. Speaker, is not something I think we would disagree with from the opposition benches. And in terms of the

way that all levels of municipality are affected by potential or real conflict of interest, it's very important to have the clarity there and the balance there in the legislation and in the oversight regime.

In his second reading speech, the minister described the three main purposes of the bill, and I'd just like to reference those to get them on the record and then reflect upon them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But in the minister's second reading speech of October 21st, a week ago, Mr. Speaker, the minister stated that:

The amendments in this bill achieve three main purposes. First, they implement specific recommendations and respond to observations in the Barclay report with legislative changes, in effect raising the bar for municipal officials. Second, they will improve the ability for government, through the minister and cabinet, to address situations of municipal conflict of interest that may arise in the future. And finally, they will expand the Provincial Ombudsman's mandate to review and investigate municipal matters, including conflict of interest and code of ethics matters.

So in the first case, Mr. Speaker, in terms of implementing the work of Barclay, again that seems to be a good approach. In terms of the second main purpose around improving the ability of government to enforce the different regimes that are out there, again when it's a partnership, you hate to put it in those terms, but the buck's got to stop somewhere, Mr. Speaker. And again the very fact that we're debating this legislation points out very clearly where that buck stops. So to have the different measures at a government's disposal when it does come time to appoint commissions of inquiry or to remove officials when the indication that something particularly egregious has gone on, that needs to be very clearly outlined for folks to understand. And again that it's being clarified in this legislation is as it should be.

And again with clarifying the role of the Provincial Ombudsman, it's interesting, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Provincial Ombudsman and the Ombudsman's office does a great deal of good work. And I certainly know that from the perspective of different interactions the Ombudsman's office has had with the constituents in Regina Elphinstone, trying to ensure that they get a fair shake from the government on different files, but also that the work that the Ombudsman does province-wide and as well, Mr. Speaker, the perspective that I've been privileged to have in terms of closer scrutiny of the role of the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman's office through the interaction with the House Services Committee and the Board of Internal Economy, and the way that that office interacts and reports out, there again demonstrating the oversight and where the buck stops.

And one thing I'd be very interested to see, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure that this was part of the deliberation, because usually when legislation comes forward there's some kind of estimate of the cost implications of the legislation. And I'd be interested, and perhaps we'll be able to find this out at the committee stage hearing of this bill, but what the estimated cost implications are for a stepped-up involvement on the part of the Government Relations ministry of government, but also what the anticipated cost impact is going to be for the Office of the Ombudsman. I'd

be very interested to see what the minister's answers are on that score.

And then certainly, Mr. Speaker, I know that bodies such as the Board of Internal Economy and House Services, as different and additional duties have been outlined and assigned to different of the independent officers of the Legislative Assembly, we know that there's a cost that attaches to those new assignments, and we'll be interested to see how that is borne out in the budget application of the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman in the days and weeks ahead.

Again returning to the second reading speech of the minister, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where the minister said:

... the Barclay report recommended specific legislative changes and identified other areas where procedures can be strengthened and provisions added to better address and prevent conflict of interest situations. These amendments include, first, requiring council members to give a more detailed declaration of the nature of his or her pecuniary interest when it's disclosed. This will move beyond the bare declaration currently provided for in legislation and require council members to disclose the general nature of a conflict of interest and any details that could reasonably be seen to materially affect that member's impartiality in the exercise of his or her office. [Clarifying] ... that a declaration must be made when any conflict of interest exists, which is defined to encompass a wider range of situations beyond financial interest.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that seems to make good sense. And in terms of how that plays out in the legislation, and then subsequent iterations through, or the way that it works its way through regulations. Again we'll be looking to see if the effect is equal to the intent, as described in the minister's second reading speech. But again on the face of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would seem to be a fair enough proposal.

Again related to Barclay, referenced in the minister's second reading speech:

Second, requiring the mandatory filing and regular updating of public disclosure statements by council members. The amendments propose to extend the mandatory public disclosure statement ... currently [required] in *The Cities Act* to the other two municipal Acts. The statements will continue to require updates annually and whenever there is a material change or declaration of a conflict of interest made.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that would seem to make good sense and a good step forward that was taken with *The Cities Act* now working its way through other related pieces of legislation so that it's made clear for each of the municipal sectors in the province.

Again returning to the minister's second reading speech:

Third, requiring municipalities to adopt a code of ethics that includes a model code and specific ethical standards of the municipality. The model code of ethics will be prescribed in regulations once it's developed in

collaboration with the municipal sector associations over the next few months. Once implemented they will be adopted by municipal councils as their minimum standard which they can enhance.

So again, Mr. Speaker, we'll be interested to see the kind of work that ensues to accomplish all of this and what sort of outlay of time and efforts on the part of the different partners that will be involved in this and, moreover, what that floor of ethical conduct looks like as we go forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And again it'll bear watching to see who builds upon that floor and how that standard currently evolves. But that you shore up that floor of what the ethical expectations are for conduct, for people that are making decisions about how the affairs of the community are conducted would seem to make good sense.

Returning to the minister's second reading speech, and he references further:

The Barclay report also identified that legislation should be more aligned with common law respecting conflict of interest and its expectation that elected officials act in the entire interest of their communities. Through consultation with the municipal sector, amendments are proposed to clarify what constitutes conflict of interest, private interest, and inappropriate use of office. These are modelled on similar provisions already in place for MLAs.

Again, Mr. Speaker, if it's sauce for the goose, it's generally sauce for the gander. So we'll be interested to see. And certainly it's an agreeable statement made there by Barclay that you should have that basic standard, but again, being very clear in the definition of things like what constitutes a conflict of interest, what constitutes a private interest, what constitutes inappropriate use of office, that all these things are made very clear.

And particularly in the way that, you know, the law is an evolutionary process, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and certainly as new and unanticipated circumstances arise, there's a need to address the legislation so as to respect the principle that Justice Barclay again references that as legislators or as decision makers, we're put there not to legislate. We're put there by the community to work on the community's behalf. There's a delegated authority. But it's not to line our own pockets as legislators, Mr. Speaker. That any sort of perception or reality that might involve conflict of interest needs to be addressed, and Barclay does well to raise that in his report. And again we're glad to see that being carried forward here in the legislation.

In terms of other amendments, again referencing the minister's second reading speech that:

... issues raised indirectly in the report and improve upon current practices regarding transparency, declaration, and disclosure of interests. These include requiring council procedure bylaws to have clear and transparent rules regarding matters such as delegations and submissions to council; clarifying a council member must withdraw from all meetings on which he or she serves as a councillor where a matter of interest may be discussed or decided;

committees of council, subcommittees, appeal boards, planning boards, and other municipal entities; ensuring rules regarding declaring and disclosing conflict of interest for municipal employees are in place.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, these things are all very important. There's already some flexibility around determining these rules from *The Planning and Development Act* of 2007, but it again is quite important that these things be made very clear. One of the things that is a real ally of transparency and accountability, Mr. Speaker, is certainly clarity and knowing what the expectations are of individuals that are making the decision and knowing what the interests are of individuals that are making the decision. And certainly if you can ally those features, you're going to be serving transparency and accountability much better than is currently the case. So good to see work towards aiding clarity and good work around identifying where interests are at work.

In terms of the second set of motivations for the legislation in and around clarifying the role that cabinet and the government can play in terms of policing, being the final sort of court or one of the, obviously, higher courts in terms of adjudicating and policing conflict of interest issues as they should arise, again it's very important that these things be clear, that they be well understood. So in terms of strengthening and improving the authorities in the Act related to inquiry, inspection, and disqualification, powers as they exist for the minister, for cabinet, for those conducting inquiries or inspections, it is certainly in order, Mr. Speaker, and we're glad to see that as part of this legislation.

[15:30]

Further in terms of broadening from rural municipalities, the power to remove council members from office, to all of the municipal sector, it's interesting. In the minister's second reading speech, he states, "Mr. Speaker, this is not a step that any government wants to ... [take], but ultimately the government must be in a position to deal with situations, such as the one which arose in the RM of Sherwood, no matter what municipalities such situations arise in." And that caution and that reluctance, Mr. Speaker, is I think well stated because again, as I'd said at the outset of my remarks, there's a partnership that exists between the municipal sector and the provincial sector, and it functions best when partnership is to the fore.

But again, the rights and responsibilities within the partnership being well understood, and the powers of each of the partners in the equation being well understood is critical to a high-functioning relationship that should be there with the provincial government and the municipal sector. So again, that that power be extended to the whole of the municipal sector in terms of removing individual councillors, if but reluctantly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm interested to see it there, and it would seem to be a fair measure, well put.

In terms of again flowing from that, there are proposed amendments that will standardize the disqualification periods in all three municipalities Acts. Quoting from the minister's second reading speech:

Any person disqualified as per the requirements under legislation, which will now include being removed from office by cabinet, will be disqualified from running in a local election for 12 years, equivalent to three general elections.

The minister again refers to these measures with some reluctance, and fair enough, but that it should be standardized and well understood throughout the municipal sector is again an important step.

Getting around to the impact of this legislation on the Provincial Ombudsman, Mr. Speaker, in terms of it being the third area of impetus to the government moving forward on this legislation, again I think the Ombudsman's a logical actor in this whole equation, that is having the mandate reinforced and the powers of the Ombudsman expanded upon.

But again, we'll be very interested to see what the anticipated cost impact of this measure is, Mr. Speaker, and how that will translate into the request ushering forth from the Provincial Ombudsman in terms of getting the resources in place to make sure that this, you know, that these new tasks that are being put before the Ombudsman by Bill No. 186, that the Ombudsman's able to do the job.

And again, you know, I think the Ombudsman is well regarded. The independence, the fairness, the thoroughness of the work that is conducted by the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman is well regarded. And certainly that that independent officer of the legislature is again employed in this legislation makes good sense.

I guess lastly, in terms of looking to the minister's second reading speech, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I've heard the minister interjecting that it was a good speech. And you know, these opportunities are so rare, I'd have to get on the record and agree with the minister. I think it was a good speech. I think it outlined very clearly what the intent of the legislation was, what the impact and force of the legislation is. And certainly that's what we look to and I think what the public looks to, second reading speeches from the minister in terms of identifying where a given piece of legislation is coming from, and what the impact of that legislation is. So it's always a happy day when you can agree between the sides that it was a good speech. And you know, so I'll certainly extend that agreement to the minister opposite.

But again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of referring to the remarks made by the minister, he rounds out his speech talking about the consultation that's gone on. Certainly the public comment that has followed with the introduction of the legislation, from the municipal sector, that would seem to bear out the assertions made by the minister in that second reading speech. And certainly the way that all this has been informed by the work of Justice Barclay into the incident of conflict of interest that arose in the RM of Sherwood, again it would seem to be a good piece of work.

And you know, it's not said enough, Mr. Speaker, but you know, citizens have different levels of government that they interact with. We just went through a federal election where we had that federal piece to the floor. We're here in the provincial

Legislative Assembly, and earlier today we had the head of SUMA, the head of SARM here today to again work in that spirit of partnership with the provincial government.

And you know, that may be a relatively straightforward proposition for us as legislators, Mr. Speaker, that have the opportunity to gain a greater understanding, a more complex understanding of the system and the different levels of government, and the different powers that accrue to each of those levels. But for many citizens, their basic expectation is that, you know, the different levels of government are there, should be able to work together, should be able to work in partnership, and that their actions should be fairly transparent and accountable in their placement, Mr. Speaker.

I think, you know, citizens have that expectation of all levels of government. So we'll be interested to see the impact that this piece of legislation has on the ethical conduct and the prevention, and then dealing with conflict of interests as they arise throughout the municipal sector, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again, we'll have some more technical, more precise questions for the minister as this particular piece of legislation comes to committee, but I know that other of my colleagues are interested in this legislation and I'm sure will have further remarks to put in this debate on Bill No. 186. But as for myself at this time, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 186, *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 186. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 187

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Stewart that **Bill No. 187 — *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to weigh into the debate on Bill No. 187, *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015*. As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this bill has two goals in mind. It clarifies who can own farm land in Saskatchewan, and will provide the Farm Land Security Board with the necessary authority in order to enforce the Act. This comes on the heels of regulations that were changed in the spring, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this just tightens up or enacts it in legislation rather than just in regulations.

And this is a particularly important bill, Bill No. 187, *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act*. Although it has a huge impact on our economy, Mr. Speaker, agriculture is still a big part of the Saskatchewan economy, but even more than that, I think it doesn't matter how far removed from the farm we are,

I think it's a huge part, agriculture and farming is a huge part of most of our identity here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That connection to the land is a very big part of our culture here.

I know even myself, as a city girl who lives two blocks from my childhood home and removed from the farm by about 60 years when my dad moved from the homestead near Rapid View to Saskatoon, my family has been in one community for those 60 years now. So I'm fairly far removed, but I know that even in my own family that connection to, and those roots to the earth and growing and producing food are very important.

I know my own dad, even though he hasn't been on the farm for a very long time, actually urban agriculture is a big part of his life. I grew up with my parents owning a greenhouse and producing food. And in recent years my dad's taken it to a whole new level where there are three lots. When my parents bought their home in Holiday Park, it was three lots that they were able to purchase many, many years ago, and the entire backyard and the entire boulevard is all taken over for food production. So even though many of us are far removed from the farm, I think it's still a huge part of our culture and this is why this bill is very important, the one that's before us.

So as I said, the two things it does, it clarifies who can own farm land here in this province, and it provides the Farm Land Security Board with the necessary authority to enforce the Act. So what are the specifics here?

And just turning to the minister's second reading speech, he points out that this bill will include:

... designating pension funds, administrators of pension fund assets and trusts as ineligible to purchase farm land; defining having an interest in farm land to include any type of interest or benefit, for example capital appreciation, either directly or indirectly that is normally associated with the ownership of the land; and when financing a purchase of farm land, all financing must be through a financial institution registered to do business in Canada or through a Canadian resident.

So it removes the ambiguity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, around who can own farm land in Saskatchewan, and it provides again the Farm Land Security Board with more tools to enforce the Act.

Those tools, Mr. Speaker, and the Farm Land Security Board's enhanced:

... authority to enforce the legislation including: at the discretion of the Farm Land Security Board, any person purchasing farm land must complete a statutory declaration; increasing fines for being in contravention of the legislation from 10,000 to \$50,000 for individuals and from 100,000 to \$500,000 for corporations; authorizing the Farm Land Security Board to impose administrative penalties to a maximum of \$10,000 ...

And the minister argues, "... most importantly, the purchaser of the land must prove to the satisfaction of the Farm Land Security Board that they are in compliance with the legislation."

This also grew out of some consultations this summer. Well this bill I understand came out of a loophole that the Canada Pension Plan and a corporation actually that was very closely connected to this government, Mr. Speaker, have been able to strike a deal seeing almost 100,000 acres of land sold to the Canada Pension Plan.

Many people have been arguing for several years and trying to raise this issue and bring it forward that we needed clarification on these rules. This wasn't something that just cropped up overnight. There have been many farmers and ranchers trying to get the attention of the government, saying that this loophole needed to be closed. So arguably this loophole is now closed, but with the regulations then will be tightened even further with this legislation. But this one particular deal that went through, that many people found quite concerning, still stands, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Again I think a concern that we have that this has taken a little too long ... It's been positive that this process is now moving in the right direction, partly because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the government finally engaged in a process to speak to Saskatchewan people to find out how they felt, how citizens felt about farm land ownership, and heard overwhelmingly that these rules needed to be tightened, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

But we would have liked to have seen this addressed sooner. I know that, talking to some of my colleagues who are more involved in agriculture than I am, they have ... [inaudible interjection] ... They're laughing on the other side, Mr. Speaker. I am proudly a city kid. I'm proudly a city kid, Mr. Speaker, but I think here in Saskatchewan we all have some connection, as I said, to the land. Just because I don't live on a farm doesn't mean I'm not entitled to have some thoughts, especially when I hear from people and citizens about their concerns.

And the Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have spoken up. And this government, this government has known for several years now that this has been an issue, and they have ignored it, which they tend to do on many occasions. This is a government that dismisses the concerns of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So although we're pleased that this is finally happening, it could have and should have happened a lot sooner, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And there is some concern that that loophole is closed, so those who got through the loophole beforehand don't get ... That particular land deal which people flagged as concerning still goes ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway this speaks to the dismissive nature of this government. This was flagged for this government quite some time ago, and they had to be dragged kicking and screaming to make these changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And because the decision was overwhelming, or the information provided by citizens of Saskatchewan that this was what people wanted to see — changes and tightening of farm land ownership — this is why this is before us right now, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway I do know that when this bill is moved to committee, I have colleagues like our opposition critic who has many questions from her many discussions with people, farmers and ranchers across the province. And she and possibly other colleagues will be asking some very important questions in committee. So with that I thank you and would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 187, *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 188

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 188 — *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much. Thank you very much. And it's great to get an opportunity to speak again today, and I'll be pretty pithy with my remarks on *An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Awarding of Contracts*. And it's called, the short title is *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*. And I don't know what it means when you have that, best. It's like an adjective. Does it mean it's the best Act ever? Or is it the best value? So here we have a bit of a dilemma. Because I really . . .

I am quite surprised. It's a very thin bill, very thin bill that really doesn't say an awful lot. It's kind of cold comfort, I know, to a lot of business people in this province who've been arguing that we should take a look at our procurement here in Saskatchewan and really think a little bit about how do we do business in Saskatchewan, make sure we have a sustainable, local business culture.

Because quite often . . . and we know that this government is one of the biggest contractors in the province, and rightfully so with the size of the civil service we have and the things that we do, and as well with the Crown corporations and we have for example SaskPower and the extent of their projects, and SaskEnergy and SaskTel. This is very important. This is very important.

So we were all a little surprised when we saw this bill. Now we know that the Minister of Justice, who is also the minister of the P3 [public-private partnership] projects, takes a lot of pride on doing things in a very economical way. And if he can do it on a shoestring, he's going to do it in the most economical or the cheapest way possible. And clearly today with this kind of legislation, we would have liked to have seen more work.

And I just have to say when I compare it to Bill No. 608, and this was done in our caucus by my colleague from Regina Rosemont, how much more thorough and thoughtful and practical, practical it is. It just makes common sense. And his

bill's four pages, but a lot more thorough in terms of how we do business here in Saskatchewan.

Of course, my colleague's bill is called *An Act respecting Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement* and he goes through a lot of the conditions of what we should be thinking about. And here we have a situation here where it's pretty thin gruel, and we have a lot of questions about it. And of course the minister right off the bat takes a lot of credit and says, you know, this really started with the Premier, and he's responsible. We know a year earlier from that there was quite an uproar in the Saskatchewan steel industry about what was happening here with too many contracts, where we saw people from outside the province coming in for major local contracts and they weren't getting a fair shake here. They weren't getting a fair shake here.

You know, we've often talked about a level playing field, and we know in Canada, we know what's happening in Ontario and Quebec when they have a local, a buy local or a point system in their contracts, that clearly Saskatchewan producers and business people were at a disadvantage. And so they were looking for their advantage at home. At least at home would they get some sort of advantage.

And so when we see here this bill, which really talks about . . . And the key words are here. It amends section 55 of *The Highways and Transportation Act, '97*, and puts in:

“Awarding of contracts

55(1) Subject to subsection (2), the minister shall:

(a) obtain competitive prices for the construction of all public improvements through the public tender process mentioned in section 53; and

(b) award the contract to the bidder whose bid, in the opinion of the minister, offers the best value taking into consideration all or any of the factors described in the tender documents.

(2) The minister is not required to accept any tender”.

And then it goes on in the second part. I mean, I'm probably going to read the whole Act here, Mr. Speaker. And when we talk about amending:

The Public Works and Services Act is repealed and the following substituted:

“(3) Subject to subsection (4), the minister shall:

(a) obtain competitive prices for the construction or alteration of all public works through the public tender process mentioned in subsection (1); and

(b) award the contract to the bidder whose bid, in the opinion of the minister, offers the best value taking into consideration all or any of the factors described in the tender documents.

The minister is not required to accept any tender.

So you know, this is a little too late, but we're glad to see that there's something here so that there can be some consideration of some other factors. Now unfortunately the legislation doesn't lay out the factors and doesn't lay out the process. And we are hopeful that the process then also includes that if a contract is not accepted that there is some record of that, that it's not just dismissed and then into some secretive file, and we don't hear why, but there is some record of why a contract may not be accepted.

And we know, Mr. Speaker, in recent news in fact and recent question periods, we've had questions about SaskPower and some of their tendering contracts and what's happening now. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, I read in the *Leader-Post* just yesterday and it talks about, "Carbon Capture: Will there be fallout?" in here and what this applies, and I'm wondering if this is going to apply to this legislation.

And I quote from page A2 of the *Leader-Post* from Wednesday, October 28th, and we were talking about, and I quote:

Nor did a September 2014 SaskPower carbon capture briefing note, obtained by the NDP, which says SNC "is more concerned about getting paid for the 6.5 million [dollars] than fixing the deficiencies of our plant." It goes on to note "very poor to no support from SNC Lavalin," and "serious design deficiencies" in the project.

But it goes on to say, "SaskPower CEO Mike Marsh says 'because there's a contract dispute (with SNC) on one job, doesn't mean we don't use them on another job.'"

So here you have kind of an odd situation, and I don't know what this means for this kind of bill here where we talk about best value and procurement Act, and yet you can have disputes with a company on a major, major project like the carbon-capture project and yet on another project they're still getting the contract, and that seems to be okay.

I think that we really need to take a look at this and say, hey, this doesn't make a lot of sense. This doesn't make a lot of sense. And this is what's so good about my colleague's bill when we talk about the different factors that you should be considering. And he talks about, the following factors should be taken into account for each procurement:

- (a) initial price;
- (b) quality of goods or service;
- (c) product history;
- (d) supplier experience;
- (e) warranty;
- (f) delivery service;
- (g) final total price;
- (h) local knowledge and/or local net benefit; and
- (i) previous performance on government contracts, as specified in any applicable performance review.

So here you have a situation with SNC not doing so well down at Boundary dam, and that's in . . . you know, they're doing their legal tussle over that, but yet they get another contract, another contract. How can this be with this government who prides themselves in management? But how do you do that? How do you do that? You're in a legal tussle with them already,

but yet you get it awarded, this other contract.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope they take a look at my colleague's bill. It's really worthwhile because it sets out the criteria that everybody knows. Here with this, it's really left up to the minister, and we really don't know what that means and we don't know under what considerations it will be taken. And that will be of interest to people, to see what kind of track record happens. Because we know, we know, and we've seen examples of out-of-province companies coming in, swooping up a major local industry. And here they are, you know, killing local jobs, and this government has done nothing, nothing to remedy that.

And I'm thinking particularly of the laundry services in Prince Albert, the K-Bro Linens, and they're in Edmonton. Now they have a plant here, I understand. And there were questions raised at the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour], question about the quality of work they do. But if you read the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, and I know the folks over there . . . about what the mayor said about April 4th, about April 4th. He's telling everyone to remember K-Bro laundry; remember that. And that's because it was a big hit.

Those were decent jobs for decent folk in the community. And I mean, we read the *Daily Herald* and we saw how people felt about that last day at work. And in fact the manager was so broken up he couldn't even come to the event, because he had given so much of his life and was so committed to the laundry facility he was broken-hearted. And you know, it was a sad, sad day.

And I think for the folks over there, if they think . . . And we know the former member from Prince Albert Northcote, who just sort of brushed it off and is no longer sitting in the House, in fact we have a vacancy in this House . . . This is an issue. This is a real issue for real people, and yet they brush it off.

And of course, we've been raising questions about the \$1.8 billion bypass to Paris-based Vinci. And I've raised the human rights questions there, this summer. This is the same company that's tied to some other building projects in other parts of the world where there have been allegations of human rights abuses and extremely poor working conditions where people are dying at a tragic rate — tragic rate — completing some major projects for this company.

We don't know what the outcome of that is, but we did raise the question for the government, again, what is their process when we're dealing with international companies like that where there have been charges laid against them in the public media? And we wait to see what happens with that. Of course the minister did come out and say they have some process but we don't know what that process is, said they were aware but still proceeded with using this company.

We also were very concerned about SaskPower and of course the whole issue about outsourcing the meter installations, the Grid One trucks. And many, many folks saw Texas plates in our communities when they were doing the smart meter installations, and that was really questionable. And of course then we raised the issue of the contracting out of food services to our prisons here in Saskatchewan, and we have real problems

with that.

[16:00]

Of course fishing and hunting licences, again, out to an American company, and the P3 school maintenance. And today I just had to say, I have to enjoy, it was like getting an award from your mom. “And the winner is.” When the members opposite stood up in the member statements and gave themselves a pat on the back about their P3 schools that have yet to be built, you know, Mr. Speaker, that was really grand. That was really grand. It was like getting an award from my mom. “And the winner is.” I mean, I’m going to see this, we’re going to see the whole wall plastered with these, you know, photocopied awards. “And the winner is.”

Yes, this is just a little bit much. We need to see those schools operating and seeing what the real result is. In 30 years, then we can start to see whether there’s any value to see these schools. This is a little rich though, Mr. Speaker, to be standing up and patting ourselves on the backs before any of them are built or operational.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we’ve been in eight years waiting for schools here in Saskatchewan. And all of a sudden there’s . . . just reach around their backs, patting themselves on the back for these schools. I cannot believe, this really took a lot of nerve today to stand up and give themselves an award or pat on the back for an award that they got from . . . I don’t know what the company was, you know?

When I was a teacher, it was American awards for classrooms that you could get them out of, and that’s what we often used for kids who had good attendance or had improved in math skills. That’s the book we got our awards out of. I don’t know where this award came from but, Mr. Speaker, I’ll take a look. But it was quite something and we were interestingly surprised. But I’ve got to tell you, to get an award before we actually see, before one kid crosses the threshold into a school, that’s something. Maybe we should just hold back on that.

And of course we see, you know, a P3 school maintenance handed out to a company from Milwaukee, and that’s going to be interesting to see. We’re going to see, you know, plates from the States around our schools and what they’re going to do there. And the North Battleford hospital, I mean, this has been outsourced to a UK [United Kingdom]-based company called Carillion.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that there’s lots of questions about this bill and what’s going to really happen. What’s going to be the real applications here in Saskatchewan? Are we going to see maybe one or two a year when the lobbying gets really intense? Or are we going to see a real framework where people can have a sense of what they can expect on some of our major projects, that in fact Saskatchewan companies will get half a chance, half a chance to participate?

And I’m thinking that, you know, if they want to borrow some of the things from my colleagues, Bill No. 608, *An Act respecting Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement*, I think they’d be very happy. We’d be very happy to do that, and that would be local procurement,

but I mean particularly, you know, determining factors.

And you know, it’s interesting because these aren’t things that we thought up by ourselves. It came from Manitoba, I believe, that the good work that my colleague from Regina Rosemont actually borrowed some of this work, because they’ve done work with P3s and thought, we’ve got to do something so we’re open and transparent.

So these folks should take lessons, and they often do. I can remember eight years ago, I can remember eight years ago when we were talking about the essential services Act, where did they get their ideas from? [Inaudible] . . . well you know, Manitoba. Manitoba did it, so we’re going to ram this bill through right away because Manitoba does it. Well take a look at what Manitoba does when it comes to local procurement. Take a look at that.

An. Hon. Member: — Take a look at what they do in NHL [National Hockey League] hockey.

Mr. Forbes: — Yes. Take a look, take a look. They have some good things happening in Manitoba. We’re all behind some of the things in Manitoba like the Jets. We like the Jets. Unfortunately Montreal didn’t do so well last night, but I digress, Mr. Speaker. That was a tough break. That was a tough break.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me get back to Bill 188 and how I think I recommend to this government, take a look at the good work that’s been done before. It’s there. And I know the Minister of Justice prides himself on running a shop on a shoestring. He has often told me that it will hardly cost anything to do anything in his office. In fact, you know, I know that makes the Minister of Finance really happy when he hears that his budget’s hardly anything. You know, they can do anything on a shoestring.

And so, Mr. Speaker, here is the opportunity. Here is the opportunity for the Minister of Justice who is responsible for this to borrow. We would be very happy to lend him and let him keep it, the determining factors for making sure you have fair and open transparency when it comes to local procurement.

Everybody wants a level playing field, but everybody wants and needs to know what are the factors at play here, not a government that can, at its whim, decide to favour this company or favour that company or if you’re out of the bad books. And it must take an awful lot to get out of the bad books with this company. SNC is not in the bad books of this company, even though apparently they should be because they seem to be in trouble with them on some of their projects. I would think, I would think that they should take a look. They should take a look, and especially in terms of their legislation they have now that if there’s a poor performance, then maybe the company, that’s a factor in awarding them a new contract.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I mean this is a tough bill to . . . I mean I’ve read it all into the record, and I don’t know whether they want me to read it again into the record, you know. And so we feel, we feel that this is something that the intent has been called for a long time. What the question will be in committee, what are the unintended consequences especially because the depth isn’t there? And what are they going to do to make sure

there's no unintended consequences but really gets to a level playing field, and especially that local companies can thrive because we've had, we've had in this economy some very good times over the last eight to ten years. We want to make sure that something is sustainable going in the years going ahead, forward.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move adjournment of Bill No. 188, *An Act to amend certain Acts respecting Awarding of Contracts*. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:09.]

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