



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

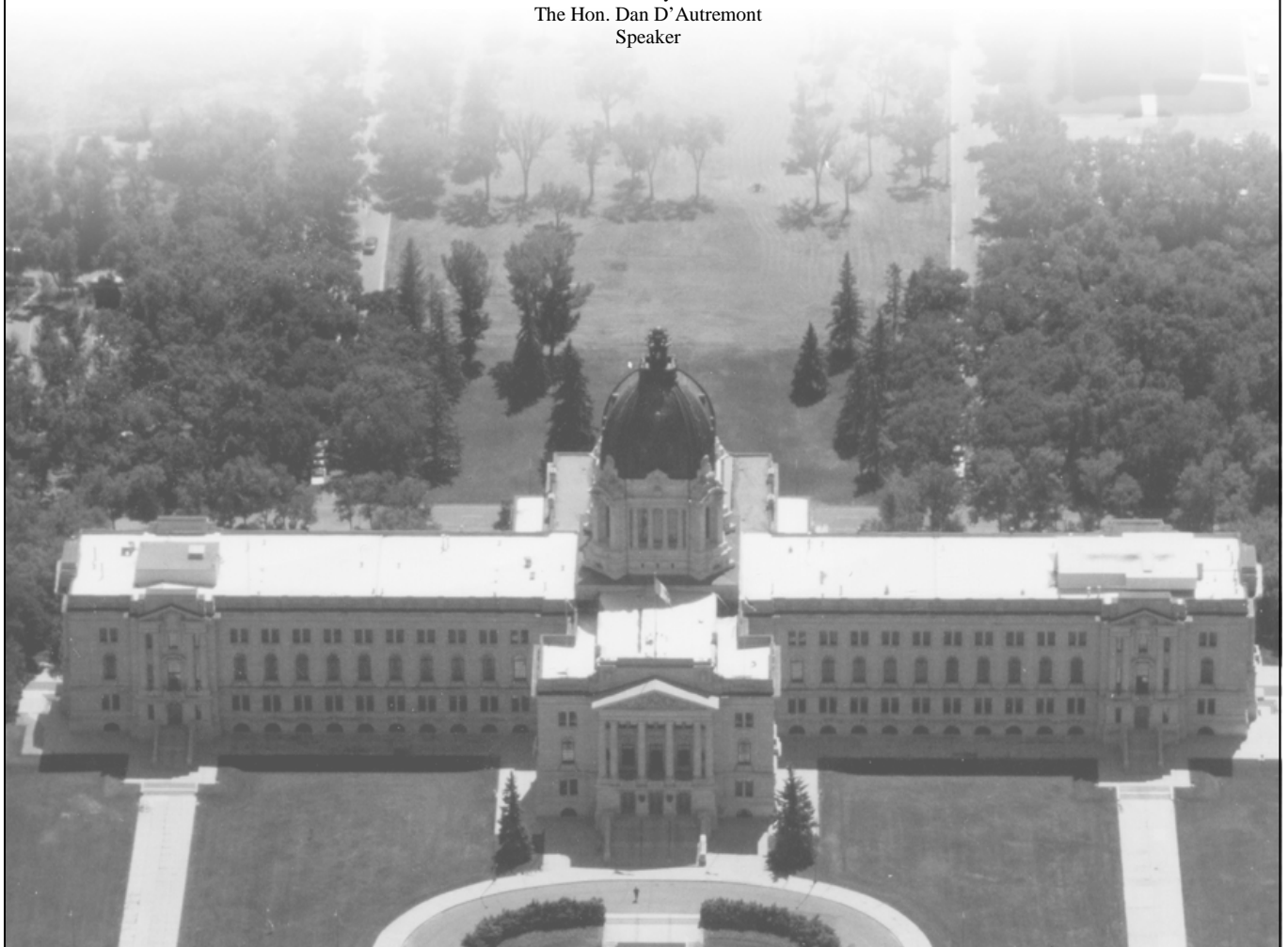
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, to request 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. Mr. Speaker, this past summer from July 25th to August 2nd, Saskatchewan was represented at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, California. Our two Saskatchewan athletes had six podium finishes between them.

Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce the Saskatchewan athletes and coaches who represented our province and our country at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games along with representatives from Special Olympics Saskatchewan. Joining us today: Lindsay Kinnear, athlete, track and field medallist, and her family. Lindsay is from Lumsden. She works as an early childhood educator at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic daycare.

Michael Qing, athlete, swimming medallist, and his family. Also joining Michael are Abderrahmane Tissira, who is the Regina Optimist Dolphins head coach; Marj Walton from Swim Saskatchewan. From Regina, Michael is a third-year student at the University of Regina.

Jackie Powell from Swift Current. She was a Special Olympics coach for the past 20 years; 2015 marked her third Special Olympics World Games. She also attended the 2007 and 2011 games. Darlene MacQuarrie, director of programs, Special Olympics Saskatchewan. Chelsea Fidler, Special Olympics Saskatchewan director of marketing and development. Lindsey, Michael and Jackie have made and continue to make Saskatchewan proud.

I'd like to extend thanks, not only to the athletes and coaches who have dedicated the time and effort ensuring that Saskatchewan is among the best in the sporting world, but also to the volunteers, families and friends of these individuals that contribute to the success. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in congratulating and welcoming these guests to their legislature. We're very proud, and there'll be a member's statement coming up. But thank you, sir.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise with the minister to welcome these special guests to their Legislative Assembly, and indeed particularly Lindsay and Michael. Congratulations to you for your strong showing at the Special Olympics. We're very, very proud of you and very thankful for all the hard work that you put in to put Saskatchewan on the map. Also to the families and of course the volunteers and organizers of Special Olympics and the coaches, obviously this is a team effort and we can't thank you enough for your commitment to this program and for putting Saskatchewan on the map and on the podium. So that's very exciting.

So on behalf of the official opposition, we too would like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly and congratulate you on the great showing.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I have two guests in the west gallery that I'd like to introduce — two really good friends of mine; one potential colleague.

First off I'd like to introduce Dave Marit. He's our candidate for Wood River, and he's a large producer out in the Lafleche area. And I got to know him well in the last couple of years. And obviously he's been an integral part of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] for the last decade or so as well. So I'd like to introduce him.

And with him is Sean Wilson, a past chairman for the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association. He operates the family operation, G.W. Construction, out of Buchanan. It's a long-serving business in Saskatchewan. His grandfather operated it, and he's taken the reins a bit. I think grandpa still has a fair bit to say, but I think George is still in charge.

Over the last few years Sean and I have become very good friends. And I take his counsel very highly, and he's given us lots of advice on procurement and how to make things better for businesses throughout Saskatchewan.

I just really want to say thank you for your involvement and thank you both for helping grow a better Saskatchewan and making Saskatchewan stronger. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure of mine to rise in this Assembly to welcome some guests seated in the east gallery. I'm speaking of a group of 14 English as an additional language students from the Regina Open Door Society. They're accompanied by their trusty teacher Deana Pageot, who's a very faithful attendant to bringing people to the legislature to connect them with their Legislative Assembly. So it's really great to see Deana yet again.

And I was reminded, Mr. Speaker, that the students are learning . . . They've just learned the word courageous, but of course these are people that know the spirit of courage very well.

They've come from Somalia, Vietnam, Iraq, China, Burma, Nepal, Afghanistan, and India to be here in Saskatchewan to make a home and to make a better life for themselves and their family and to show that courage.

So it's a great deal of pleasure to welcome these individuals to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, where of course our motto is "from many peoples, strength." And this is the strength that we see in these individuals here. So I'd like to wish them:

[The hon. member extended salutations in other languages.]

Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join my colleague in welcoming a friend, a constituent, and the next member — I'm positive will be the next member — from Wood River, Mr. Dave Marit. Dave's extremely well known in the constituency, as he is around the province from his past position as president of SARM. So I'd ask all members to please join me again in welcoming Dave to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with my friend opposite, the Opposition House Leader, in welcoming these new Canadians here to our Assembly today, folks from a number of different countries who are taking the English as an additional language course at the Regina Open Door Society. Welcome Deana as well.

These are great folks. We very much welcome them to our country, and we're looking forward to welcoming many more, I hear, to Saskatchewan from right around the world. And we'll probably have a bit more to say about that later today. So I want to welcome them to their Assembly here today.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to welcome both Richard and Joanne Lepp to the Assembly. Richard and Joanne come here day in and day out. They are with the Saskatchewan House of Prayer, and they pray for us to ensure that we have good guidance and counsel in our deliberations as we prepare to serve the people of Saskatchewan. So thank you very much. I'm so proud of them as part of my constituency but also as people who have made a commitment to this province in serving the public. So thank you very much to the two of you for coming here again day after day.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition calling for greater support for GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. And we know that this government is not doing enough to create safe spaces in our schools for sexually diverse students or

students who are being bullied because of their sexual identity or orientation. We know that GSAs, or gender and sexuality alliances, play a pivotal role in providing inclusive, anti-oppressive learning environments and offer a reprieve from bullying and assault. So we ask this government: it must act so that students have simple, easy-to-understand information about GSAs in their schools, how to form GSAs, and who they should talk to in order to form a GSA. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to take immediate and meaningful action to pass *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* and enshrine in legislation the right for 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, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Wynyard, Saskatoon, and Regina. I do so present. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm again pleased to stand in my place today to present a petition as it relates to cellphone coverage in the northwest part of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To cause the provincial government to improve cell coverage for northern communities like St. George's Hill, Dillon, Michel Village, Dore Lake, Michel Point, and Sled Lake to provide similar quality of cell service that southern communities currently enjoy. This would provide support for our northern industries as well as mitigate safety concerns for those living in the remote North.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I've said time and time again, we have had this petition signed from people from all throughout the great province of Saskatchewan, and on this particular page, Mr. Speaker, it is signed from Dalmeny, North Battleford, and Big River. And I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again, once again, to present a petition in support of better seniors' care here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this petition is about the reality that we have a seniors' care crisis in this province and this government has failed to recognize it and failed to address it. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and for home care; ensuring appropriate

staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; 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 citizens from Regina. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from citizens in the province of Saskatchewan concerned about the high cost of post-secondary education. They, in the prayer that reads as follows 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 petition is signed by citizens from here in Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition in support of better schools. And the prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing support for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

These petitions are signed by residents of Saskatoon. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Treaty Edcamp Held at University of Regina

Mr. Wotherspoon: — On November 4th, the U of R [University of Regina] hosted a progressive and impressive learning opportunity for teachers here in Saskatchewan. The Treaty Edcamp was a professional development event organized by the U of R chapter of the Student Teachers Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppressive Society with the support of the Faculty of Education and Dean, Dr. Jennifer Tupper. We know how important treaty education is for our province. Every acre is covered by treaty and every resident is party to the treaty.

There were more than 30 presenters leading the discussions about how to incorporate treaty education into classrooms, creating a rich learning opportunity. Also impressive were the 250 teachers and students from across Saskatchewan that came to Regina to attend the camp on their own time on a Saturday. Some sessions focused on how to incorporate the treaties into math and science; others focused on strategies for talking about dark parts of our history with young students — all important

topics for reconciliation in our province.

And so I ask all members to join me in thanking Meagan Dobson, Katia Hildebrandt, Raquel Bellefleur for their work in organizing this conference and in recognizing the important work being done by students, teachers, elders, professors, educators, and administrators across our province to ensure that every student in Saskatchewan learns how important treaties have been in shaping Saskatchewan's past and the fundamental role they must play in our province's future if Saskatchewan is going to reach its full potential. We are, after all, all treaty people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

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

Saskatchewan Theatre and Film

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently on behalf of the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and myself, I had the pleasure of attending TheatreOne's production of *Theatre Never Sleeps*, along with a number of other productions, with my wife, Leone. TheatreOne is Theatre Saskatchewan's annual three-day festival this year held in Yorkton. Each year the festival brings together actors, actresses, and others from all over Saskatchewan.

This year featured community theatre groups from Kerrobert, Regina, Melfort, Indian Head, and Yorkton. Mr. Speaker, the festival showcases two nights of short plays performed by Theatre Saskatchewan and Paper Bag Players as well as workshops and adjudications. Mr. Speaker, I can honestly say I was blown away by the talent and professionalism of all the actors involved in TheatreOne.

When offering comments on Saskatchewan theatre, SaskCulture President Pat Grayston said, "Saskatchewan theatre is the envy of its colleagues across Canada due to the support of this Saskatchewan government." Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that our government supports Theatre Saskatchewan and community theatre through partnerships with the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, and through funding provided by these organizations and others by the Saskatchewan Lotteries fund.

On another note, I was honoured to attend the SMPIA [Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association] Celebrate Sask Film Week reception last evening. A lot of positive comments in regard to the direction of the film industry from industry stakeholders, and great respect for their minister.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members in the House to join me in congratulating the actors, crew, volunteers, and local community theatre groups on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Youthful Constituent Shows Determination, Commitment, and Spirit

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, Karis Oscienny is a girl from

my constituency who has a rare form of eye cancer. Since 2005 she has made over 100 trips to Toronto for treatment with her biggest supporter, her mom, Lisa Oscienny. Karis lost her left eye in 2009. The treatment for her tumour has caused the retina to detach in her right eye, and she has lost what little vision she had left.

But none of this is holding Karis back at all. She's doing well in school, reads Braille, loves to write, and uses a cane to get from place to place. She's very musical, imaginative, bright, funny, and as her mother would say, full of . . . vinegar.

Friends and family and community members have come to help her many times. Telemiracle came to her aid in 2005 with tens of thousands of dollars to help pay for medical trips and accommodations. Karis auditioned to be a part of Telemiracle 39 last year and was thrilled when she found out she made it. She worked hard for fundraising with a raffle, movie nights, concerts in the North, and she was very proud to present over \$7,400 when she performed at Telemiracle 39 earlier this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me and recognize Karis Oscienny, her determination, commitment, and spirit. Thank you.

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

Group Homes Help to Make an Inclusive Community

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in this Assembly and share some great news with my colleagues. Today in my constituency of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, I will be attending a grand opening of Chip and Dale Homes newest group home.

Inclusion is a powerful thing. Community-based organizations such as Chip and Dale Homes help provide opportunities for individuals who have an intellectual disability to connect and successfully live integrated within our community. This benefits not just the people who will call this new group home their home, but also their families, their neighbours, and our city as a whole. That's why the Government of Saskatchewan is proud to partner with Chip and Dale Homes by providing almost \$475,000 in annual funding towards this home. This is in addition to the 4.9 million in funding this year to support Chip and Dale Homes with their 12 other residential projects. Since 2007 our government has spent nearly 2.7 billion to make sure Saskatchewan is a great place for people with intellectual disabilities to call home.

I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good work that Chip and Dale Homes do in their efforts to make Regina an inclusive community and to congratulate them for all they do to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual disability. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Achievements of Special Olympics Athletes

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to

rise today to acknowledge the great achievements of the Special Olympics athletes present here in our Chamber.

Lindsay Kinnear won a bronze long jump and a gold medal in both the 200 run and the 4 x 400 relay during the 2015 Special Olympics World Games. This was her first competition at the world level, and she did remarkably well.

Michael Qing participated in four events at the 2015 games, winning a fifth place ribbon and a medal in every colour: bronze in the 400-m freestyles, silver in the 200-m individual medley, and gold in the 4 x 100 medley. He also competed and won medals in the 2007 and 2011 Special Olympic World Games in China and Greece. Only in his mid-20s, Michael has broken many swimming records, has mentored fellow athletes, and has been named in the Special Olympics Male Athlete of the Year Award and the Sask Sport Male Athlete of the Year Award.

These achievements are amazing and would not be possible without the hard work and dedication required from not only the athletes competing but the entire sporting network. Mr. Speaker, Special Olympics has an extremely strong volunteer network. There are currently 1,200 volunteers with Special Olympics Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, these accomplishments and these athletes have made absolutely remarkable accomplishments, and they should know the entire province is proud of their performance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Global Entrepreneurship Week

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to rise in this Assembly to recognize that November 16th to 22nd is Global Entrepreneurship Week. Around the world, this week is set aside as a time to celebrate the contributions of all who are at some point in their entrepreneurial journey. Mr. Speaker, through innovation and sheer courage, they have moved from having an idea that would enhance life and living in some measure to actually seeing that idea come to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has some of the finest examples of entrepreneurs in the world and, not surprisingly, there are lots of them stretching to all four corners of the province. They are our community leaders, risk takers, role models, and major contributors to our economic growth.

Whether the community is large or small, we see and feel the effects of entrepreneurial spirit. In various fields — agriculture, science, technology, and more — these men and women have and continue to make a positive impact in our province, improving lives and advancing our economy. I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in recognizing entrepreneurs for their vital role in building strong communities and creating great jobs in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Election Issues

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Nutana just can't get it right. She couldn't accurately speak to SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] finances. She claimed SLGA would lose hundreds of millions in revenue. Not true. It's the wholesaling that generates most of the revenue. She talked out both sides of her mouth and said that these stores shouldn't be converted when the NDP [New Democratic Party] did the same thing. She tried fearmongering that Alberta businesses are going to suck up all the liquor revenue in the province. That's probably news to Co-op in Saskatoon.

But the member from Nutana said this won't be a real issue come election time. They want to talk about health care. Great. They don't want private surgical clinics delivering more surgeries. So what is their plan? Emergency wait times? These members closed 52 hospitals and had the worst doctor retention rate in Canada. So what is their plan? Schools and classroom size: they closed 176 schools; we're building 40 new ones. What is their plan?

It's just ideology and rhetoric on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker. At least Saskatchewan people only need to listen to five more days of platitudes before they get to choose who has a plan for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Mr. Broten: — The United States Senate has voted to overturn the environmental protection authority's rule for coal-fired power plants. And you know what one of the main reasons for that is? Because the EPA's [Environmental Protection Agency] rule was based on the Sask Party's misinformation. Senator Joe Manchin III, the senior senator from West Virginia, railed against that misinformation. This is what he said on the Senate floor:

The EPA asserted in the final rule that the Boundary dam facility has been operating full carbon capture sequestration successfully at a commercial scale since October 2014. Mr. President, that is found to be totally untrue.

So the Senate, they voted 52 to 46 to overturn the EPA rule. Is the Premier at all embarrassed that the false information spread by him and his government has led to this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, talk about jumping the shark, Mr. Speaker. This is incredible. Now the Leader of the Opposition is accusing the Saskatchewan Party, the government in the province of Saskatchewan, of controlling the GOP [Grand Old Party]-controlled Senate in the United States, that we have actually . . . It was the Saskatchewan Party that is the reason for a vote going a certain way in the Senate, Mr. Speaker.

The Senate, of course, is in a majority position for the Republican Party. The Republican Party has not liked the EPA rulings on coal long before they ever heard about carbon capture and sequestration in the province of Saskatchewan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, every time we go down to Washington or when we're engaged through the agency that we use, it's pretty clear that Republicans and a few what they call blue dog Democrats, don't support the EPA regulations with respect to coal, Mr. Speaker. It has nothing to do with the Saskatchewan Party government here or the carbon capture and sequestration project in Estevan, Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier should read the transcripts. He should watch the video, Mr. Speaker, and he would see that one of the reasons that was given by the senators, Mr. Speaker, was the misinformation provided by this Sask Party government. You know, 52, 52 US [United States] senators voted to overturn the EPA rule, and one of their arguments is that the EPA rule relies on misinformation spread by the Sask Party government, information that the senior senator from West Virginia says is "totally untrue."

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's \$4 million US lobbyist arranged many meetings with at least 10 of those senators: senators Capito, Donnelly, Heitkamp, Gardner, Hoeven, Inhofe, Manchin, McConnell, Sessions, and even Senator John McCain. And those senators, Mr. Speaker, this week were told that the information given by the Sask Party government was nothing but spin and hyperbole. So they and 42 of their colleagues voted to overturn the EPA rule.

Again to the Premier, instead of laughing about it, he should be embarrassed, Mr. Speaker. Is he not embarrassed at all that the spreading of misinformation has led to this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I am very hopeful because if the Leader of the Opposition's right and Washington's taking their cue from the Saskatchewan Party government, soon we'll see an end to country of origin labelling in the United States. Soon we'll see the approval of the Keystone pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party in both the House and the Senate have long opposed and railed against the EPA changes by the administration, not just with respect to coal, but on the issue of climate change, Mr. Speaker. And frankly the EPA changes, we know, will actually, Mr. Speaker, actually assist jurisdictions like Saskatchewan that are pioneering in technology around carbon capture and sequestration.

Mr. Speaker, we know the plant's been restarted, adjustments have been made, and while 400 000 tonnes were captured in the first year, in the commissioning year, engineers are working hard to ensure that the full objective is met. We've communicated that to the senator. We've communicated that to the EPA. The International Energy Agency is still with the project. They're still supportive of it, Mr. Speaker. They understand that it's groundbreaking. We have experts that have come forward, actually in the sector, say this is something we've got to go forward with.

Mr. Speaker, to say that one speech on the floor of the Senate, notwithstanding that it referenced Saskatchewan, controlled that particular vote, but it's the longstanding reality that the Republicans have opposed these EPA regulations. Mr. Speaker, that is really jumping the shark. The Leader of the Opposition lacks credibility in the argument.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, he can listen to what his friend Senator Machin said, the senior senator from West Virginia. This is what he said, Mr. Speaker:

The EPA asserted in the final rule that the Boundary dam facility has been operating full carbon capture sequestration successfully at a commercial scale since October 2014. Mr. President, that is found to be totally untrue.

Mr. Speaker, that's a senator on the floor clearly stating that. There are actually two resolutions that were brought forward to the Senate Tuesday evening. One was brought by Senator Shelley Capito of West Virginia and Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. The Premier has met with both of them, and Senator Heitkamp has even toured Boundary dam. And the other resolution was brought by Senator Joe Manchin and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Now the Premier has met with both of these senators too. In fact he proudly tweeted, he proudly tweeted that he told the Senate Majority Leader all about Boundary dam.

[10:30]

Mr. Speaker, this entire mess speaks volumes about this Premier's credibility. And, Mr. Speaker, frankly this is embarrassing to Saskatchewan on the international stage. Will the Premier, will he write to all of those senators, will he write to the EPA to apologize for the misinformation that they were given?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we're coordinating communications with all those folks that have come to the carbon capture and sequestration project in Boundary dam. We're going to give them a full update, including the challenges that have been faced at the plant that are being met, Mr. Speaker. We're also going to communicate to them our confidence that SaskPower engineers are meeting those challenges.

And, Mr. Speaker, I do think that in the months ahead the future version of the Leader of the Opposition will want to have counselled the current version of the Leader of the Opposition to maybe be a bit circumspect before he characterizes the project as a disaster. That's what he did yesterday. I know that officials — IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers] members who worked on the project, engineers who worked on the project — pretty disappointed, pretty disappointed in that assumption and that proclamation by the member.

Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, in the meantime we see experts

coming forward, as was covered in the Regina *Leader-Post*. Ms. Preston, for example, who said:

I'm wholly supportive of the project, and I believe that SaskPower made the right decision for Saskatchewan when it undertook the planning, design, and construction of the power plant retrofit to incorporate carbon capture and storage to ensure environmental sustainability . . .

We'll provide that information and all of the updates to anyone who has come to tour the project. Mr. Speaker, we'll also provide that same update to the Leader of the Opposition should he ever, should he ever actually come down and have a look at the project at Boundary dam.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the problem is as the Premier has travelled, as the head of carbon capture has travelled around the world hyping this project, Mr. Speaker, they've been telling a story that actually isn't true. They've been telling a story that isn't rooted in the facts. The leaked documents, Mr. Speaker, have clearly seen that, and now we have US senators, Mr. Speaker, seeing that what they were told by this government can't be trusted. And that calls into question the decisions that they have made.

The Boundary dam project, Mr. Speaker, is mentioned 40 times in the EPA rule for coal-powered plants — 40 times. The EPA references this government's news release about how the project was exceeding expectations. Everyone remembers that news release. It references the correspondence with this government's head of carbon capture, and it speaks of presentations the government made in Washington, DC [District of Columbia]. Now based on what it was told, it says the project is "currently working very well. In fact, better than expected." And the Premier's maintaining that it's working better than expected. What world has he been living in, Mr. Speaker? It's unbelievable that they would maintain that assertion even today.

You can't blame the US government for any of this because they simply trusted what the Sask Party government was telling them. So 52 senators have now voted against this rule in part because of the misinformation that they were provided by this government. How can anyone possibly trust what the Premier is saying now when we have had over a year of misinformation from this Premier?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I think Washington, DC will survive this particular vote in the Senate. And again I want to point out, remember the premise of the member's question — and he's ran away from it now because I think he even realizes how ridiculous it is — the premise of this line of questioning, the premise of this line of questioning is that notwithstanding the fact that the Grand Old Party, the Republican party, has long opposed the EPA regulations on coal in the House and in the Senate, the fact that there was a vote expressing that opposition is owing to the Boundary dam 3 project in Estevan.

They're kind of nodding their head. They still believe that. Mr.

Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that is beyond the absurd. And moreover, moreover, Mr. Speaker, we will be reaching out to senators on both sides of the aisle. We'll be reaching out to the 260 folks that have toured the plant with the good news, Mr. Speaker, that challenges in the commissioning year are being met, adjustments are being made by SaskPower engineers.

That's why the International Energy Agency is still on board. That's why experts — maybe not, maybe not all the politicians — but experts are on board that this project must go forward. Mr. Speaker, we understand on this side of the House that coal needs to be a part of the mix, but we've got to clean it up. We want the coal mining jobs. We want the jobs at Boundary dam 3, and we want to benefit from a tech transfer that will happen as a result of this innovation, Mr. Speaker.

That's our plan. We're prepared to go forward with it. Mr. Speaker, in the election campaign, we'll campaign on it. What will he campaign on with respect to the coal industry? Will he shut it down, or will he support cleaning it up?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier should be embarrassed, embarrassed that senators in the United States, Mr. Speaker, are speaking out, saying the information they were provided by this Premier, by the minister, by SaskPower, Mr. Speaker, can't be trusted, that it's not true. Those are the words of the senator, and the Premier should be embarrassed that Saskatchewan's brought into this discussion in this way.

When the EPA references the information that's been given about Boundary dam projects 40 times in its rule, Mr. Speaker, and then says they can't trust it, that's a problem. That's a problem because we have been paying incredible amounts of money for the Premier, US lobbyists travelling around the world to hype this project, but the story that they've been telling hasn't been true, Mr. Speaker. And that is a serious problem and it affects the credibility of this Premier and this government.

The senator should have been able to trust what they were being told, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people, though, absolutely should have been able to trust what they were being told about this project because Saskatchewan people and ratepayers are the ones footing the bill for it, Mr. Speaker. This affects the Premier's credibility, but he can take a step, he can take a step in the right direction now.

We've been calling for the Crown and Central Agencies Committee to be convened in order to get to the bottom of this mess, not for the meetings that are scheduled in 2016 for another topic, Mr. Speaker, but meetings now to dig into this mess. And I see now the House Leader is saying the minister is going to handle this because the Premier doesn't want to answer this question. But Saskatchewan people deserve, Saskatchewan people deserve to know the truth. Why won't the Premier call the Crown and Central Agencies Committee, allow it to be convened so we can get to the bottom of this mess?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, now the Leader of the

Opposition knows what the House Leader said to me in private conversation here. Actually what he said was yes, we will meet. Yes, the committee will meet. Yes, you'll have the opportunity to ask any question you like about Boundary dam 3, and we'll be fully prepared to answer all the questions, Mr. Speaker. We'll be happy to answer any of the questions that the Leader of the Opposition or anybody else out there might have, Mr. Speaker.

That committee will meet. We'll be meeting, but we'll be meeting just prior to the election. And I think that's going to . . . We'll be meeting before, we'll be meeting before the election, Mr. Speaker, some time in the next few months, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important because the people of Saskatchewan will be very, very interested . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca seems to have a lot to say today. Perhaps he'd like to put some of it on the record. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, we'll be happy to have those meetings in the next few weeks leading up to the election campaign. It'll be interesting because we want to get these people on the other side on the record as to whether they support the facility or don't support the facility. And I would just add, Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could have those committee meetings down in Estevan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Statement on Sixties Scoop

Mr. Vermette: — On June 24th the Premier promised that the government would formally apologize for the Sixties Scoop. He said that would happen in late summer or the fall, but it's now winter. What happened to the Premier's promise?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be meetings set up with the leader of the First Nations, FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations]. There was a bit of a delay because of their election. So that meeting has been scheduled as well as a meeting with the Métis Nation leader in order to have that conversation of what they would like to see happen.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — It's been almost five months since the Premier promised an apology for the Sixties Scoop, but he hasn't followed through. We've heard from many people affected by the Sixties Scoop, including First Nation, Métis leaders who haven't heard a thing from this government. To the Premier: why not?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'll have to repeat the answer because perhaps the member didn't hear it. But out of respect for the elections of FSIN, we were asked to wait until

that election took place.

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

Reports on Seniors' Care

Ms. Chartier: — Thirty-eight days ago, the Minister of Health said the government's internal reports on the state of seniors' care would be released "shortly," but the Sask Party is still sitting on those reports. Why is the Health minister still keeping those reports secret?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note that over the last number of years that we have made a commitment to increase the transparency and accountability in long-term care.

As a part of that, that is done through CEO [chief executive officer] tours and the reports that are made public, which is unlike the members opposite where that information was not made public because in fact they never actually had the senior management tour long-term care facilities. And in fact under the regulations, it provided for the Ministry of Health to inspect long-term care facilities, but they stopped that practice and in fact took that out of the legislation. Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the reports will be released next week.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, if the reports are ready now, they need to be tabled now. I'm asking the minister, table those reports today.

The question the Health minister needs to answer is whether the government has changed those reports in any way. If not, there's no reason those reports can't be released right now. But if the Sask Party is sanitizing those reports, that is unacceptable, and they need to release those originals today — now, Mr. Speaker. So to the minister: what's the answer? Has he changed those reports in any way?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we will look at the reports and have looked at the reports. We ensure that those reports do not have personal information identified in them, so we de-identify any personal information.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite will know in the last round of reports that had been released, obviously there were positive things that had been in those reports and there were things that pointed out some concerns and challenges, and we did not take those out of those reports. Mr. Speaker, frankly I'm a little insulted that the member opposite would think that we would be changing the reports that the CEOs [chief executive officer] are going to be provided, Mr. Speaker. We haven't in the past and we won't in the future.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Riversdale.

Health Care Expenditures

Ms. Chartier: — What I do know, Mr. Speaker, is that the minister cut and pasted in the second round of those CEO tour reports, Mr. Speaker.

Pay for senior health executives is up 20 per cent across the board since 2012, and in some health regions pay for senior executives has jumped as much as 37 per cent and even 46 per cent. Meanwhile patients are dealing with cuts, including a huge cut to the number of surgeries this year. How can the Health minister justify this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to correct the member opposite, which I have to do on a regular basis on the days that I actually get up in question period, which has been a little bit few and far between lately. But, Mr. Speaker, the minister did not cut and paste the reports. The CEO and the health region indicated that they did and they apologized . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the health system in this province, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite will know that spending on health care services are up this year as opposed to last year. They're up from the last seven years under this government. They will know that staffing is up in all categories, Mr. Speaker. And in fact I can inform the House that Health Sciences Association issued a report and that report indicated, Mr. Speaker, that 90 per cent of people rate the system as good to excellent, Mr. Speaker, which is in fact up 2 per cent from last year.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's becoming increasingly clear that patients just aren't this government's priority anymore. The things we should be able to count on are being cut or stretched thin, but the Sask Party always seems to have more money for senior health executives or for consultants. Does the Health minister really think it's acceptable to increase pay for senior health executives by 46 per cent while making cuts to the services patients should be able to count on?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, actually this year in light of the challenges that we have, Mr. Speaker, we have suspended the pay for performance for our CEOs. In fact we have frozen their pay in this year, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard coming from the members opposite who provided over a system that saw over 100 physicians lost in this province, that closed 1,200 long-term care beds, that closed over a dozen long-term care facilities, that closed 52 rural

hospitals in this province, that closed the Plains Health Centre that served not only Regina, but all of southern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that on this side of the House we're seeing record investments.

We're seeing record numbers of health providers in this province — over 500 additional physicians practising in Saskatchewan, over 3,000 designations of all designations of nurses practising in this province, nearly 800 full-time equivalents in long-term care and integrated facilities — a far cry from the members opposite and the mess that they left in health care in this province.

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana . . . excuse me, Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region had the largest increase in executive pay. That's the same health region that doesn't fund cardiac rehab like other health regions do. It's the same health region that has seen a 50 per cent increase in surgical wait times since March, and it's the same health region that has dismal physician and employee engagement — both of those measures are at 35 per cent.

So in the areas that really matter to patients and their families, things are not going well at all, but this government has jacked up executive pay anyway. To the minister: how can he possibly justify these huge salary increases for senior health executives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well in fact as I've said before, we had frozen the pay of CEOs in our health regions across the province. We have suspended the pay for performance in this year, Mr. Speaker.

But what we do see on this side of the House is increased support to our health regions. The budget of Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region is up this year compared to last, as it is in every single health region, Mr. Speaker. We are seeing certainly a higher number of supports that are provided in terms of the funding that's provided in our budget for health regions, and especially, Mr. Speaker, in those important services as compared to the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing continued support in areas like CT [computerized tomography] and MRI [magnetic resonance imaging], Mr. Speaker. In fact we're looking at other ways to provide that services in the community through contracted work, Mr. Speaker, which it would be interesting to know where the members stand on that because, in so many different areas, it's so hard to tell what the plan is of the NDP.

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

Ms. Chartier: — This government has made no progress on the Premier's ER [emergency room] wait time promise. Waits for specialists have gotten much worse. The average wait is about 11 months now, in spite of the Premier's promise of one-week waits for everyone. And even surgical wait times are getting

worse again because the government cut funding for surgeries. But despite all of that, the Sask Party has increased salaries for senior health executives. Talk about misplaced priorities.

So to the Health minister: when ER waits are horrible, specialist waits are getting worse, and surgical waits are growing again, why are health executives getting massive wage increases?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, just look at the record of this government compared to the former government. Mr. Speaker, in the last year, Mr. Speaker, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, last year Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region targeted to do 25,950 surgeries. What did they actually accomplish? 26,596 surgeries, an increase from what they actually targeted. Saskatoon was targeting just over 37,000 surgeries. What did they achieve? 39,000 surgeries. In fact there was 1,000 more surgeries that were done last year in this province than we actually projected at the beginning of the year.

Here's the NDP record. RQHR [Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region] under the NDP in 2006-2007 targeted 21,500 surgeries. How many did they actually perform? Just 20,000. Saskatoon targeted 33,900. What did they achieve? Just over 33,000. Mr. Speaker, they couldn't even hit the targets that they actually set when they were the government.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Senior health executives in Five Hills Health Region have had their pay increased by 37 per cent. This government has no money to properly utilize the Craik health centre. They couldn't even get air conditioning into seniors' care homes in Moose Jaw, and they closed the dementia ward in Assiniboia. But it had more than enough money to increase pay for senior health executives in that region. Again talk about misplaced priorities. To the minister: how does that make any sense?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I know the member mentions Assiniboia, and I know at least one family member that's waiting for an apology for the fact that their loved ones ended up on the supertime news without their consent. And so I hope they address that.

But, Mr. Speaker, about three or four weeks ago the Leader of the Opposition was out in the rotunda and he was asked what he would do. And at that time he said, well I don't have a platform. Mr. Speaker, actually I think he was wrong. He does have a platform. It's called being the Leader of the Opposition. It's called the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And I think in Saskatchewan politics, there ain't no bigger platform than right here on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

So he needs to tell the people of the province, would he cut 11,000 publicly funded surgeries that are performed in private centres? Would he cut 15,000 private CT scans that are done under the public system? Would he cut 3,000 MRI scans that are done in the public system in a private setting? Would he cut

1,000 jobs in Estevan, Mr. Speaker? The Leader of the Opposition needs to tell us what his plan is.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Saskatchewan Refugee Intake Initiative

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement about a new initiative of the government to establish a refugee settlement centre and a coordinated plan with respect to the refugee intake that we expect here in the province of Saskatchewan. I'll get into the very specifics of the announcement in a moment.

I don't have a text, otherwise I would have shared it with the Leader of the Opposition, but I do have the press release which I think we delivered to the Leader of the Opposition prior to the proceedings this morning.

Mr. Speaker, just before I get into the very specifics of the announcement today, I wouldn't mind setting the context. I want to confirm the establishment of this centre and our coordinated approach to the issue. I do also want to share with the House, the position of the Government of Saskatchewan remains that the federal government should remove the deadline attached to the quota with respect to its plan for refugees, the 25,000 by December 31st, Mr. Speaker. We offered that counsel to the Prime Minister and to various ministers and at the official level in a considered way, Mr. Speaker. We offered it because we understand how important it is that this settlement happen effectively and safely for the refugees, for the settlement groups, and for the people of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

We have a proud history in this country and in this province of welcoming refugees. That's a heritage that we're all proud of in this House and all members are proud of it, on both sides of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we've all experienced, at different stages in our life, different refugee initiatives, and some of them come in in smaller numbers. There was the large one that I remember, growing up in the 1970s in Swift Current, the refugees that came from Vietnam, Mr. Speaker. And that particular settlement happened very effectively. I think everyone would agree with that, including those who were refugees or the family members now of those refugees. But there was no deadline associated with it, Mr. Speaker. There was not a quota and a deadline attached to it, Mr. Speaker. The process quite rightly was driven by results.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we continue to make that case to the federal government, that the deadline ought not to . . . That needs to be waived so that we can focus on a results-based refugee initiative from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when those who advocate for that prudence, when they do that, I hope that they will not be accused by those who disagree of somehow trying to stir division or somehow trying to foment fear. I hope that those values are not ascribed to their position with respect to advocating prudence and caution and the removal of the deadline, just as I would hope that those who do advocate that position would not ascribe to those who oppose it that they don't care, that that side doesn't care about

security, Mr. Speaker, because neither of those, both of those arguments are disingenuous. Both of those arguments represent the straw man argument, the last refuge of those who don't have necessarily the facts to back up their view and so they create a false argument, and they knock that down. That will not help us, Mr. Speaker, going forward to ensure that this process is what we want it to be — safe and effective and a harbour for those refugees who need Canada at this particular moment.

Mr. Speaker, we know the facts of the attacks in Paris. They've been presented well in the news, confirmed unfortunately that a terrorist used the refugee stream in Greece and eventually ended up in that concert hall in Paris, murdering innocent people. That's a fact. We know there is a fact, Mr. Speaker, in Germany, where the national police chief has said they are concerned about the number of terrorists that might be hiding amongst refugees. We know that there is an additional fact in the United States where President Obama is saying quite clearly that their screening system needs to be 18 months to 24 months, Mr. Speaker, and not that we're advocating that period of time, but these are all facts entered into the debate and we should have the discussion freely.

Mr. Speaker, it's why we've been led to the announcement today, which is to say this. Notwithstanding our disagreement with the federal government, we want to be there for refugees. We want to move ahead in an effective way. And so I'm announcing today the creation of the refugee settlement centre, an interagency, multidisciplinary, coordinative approach to this issue so that we can welcome approximately 800 refugees. We think that's the number. We don't know for sure from the feds. That would be our proportionate share.

I'm also announcing that we are striking a ministerial committee to make sure we're coordinating this effort with the settlement groups, with school districts, with every CBO [community-based organization], and with every ministry so that we will get this right, so that Saskatchewan will continue to welcome refugees, and we'll do so in a way that is both safe, Mr. Speaker, and gives the best possible chance for successful settlement for the newcomers.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Premier for the remarks that he provided. This is indeed a very important discussion. It's important and it's timely because we see world events. We see world history unfolding before our eyes, and there is indeed great cause for concern. There is tragedy. There is heartbreak. There is violence. There is outrage. There is regret for how this could happen, among many. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that this is a serious issue for all people in the world and especially for countries that are Western democracies.

Mr. Speaker, this notion or concept of a refugee settlement centre, that's good news. That is a good step, certainly, and something that we support.

Of course we in the opposition, as government members and people throughout the province and the country, we have been angered and saddened to see the recent acts of violence, whether it was in Beirut, whether it was in Paris. We know, Mr.

Speaker, that while we have these two most recent incidents, we know this is violence that has been carried out in places like Iraq, in places like Syria, in places like Afghanistan for some time. And these, tragically, are not unfamiliar stories to so many people. Perhaps fitting we are having this discussion on the day where we've had guests in the Assembly from Open Door Society, many people coming to Saskatchewan for a fresh and a safe start.

I do think in that context, Mr. Speaker, while the Premier made remarks about the need to ensure the security measures are there — I wholeheartedly agree that we need security measures — I think it's also very important as we have this discussion in Canada and in Saskatchewan that we never take steps to fan flames where there may be fear, where there may be attitudes that we don't want in an inclusive Saskatchewan. And that's why I have taken issue with some of the language and the approach that the Premier has used on this as he expressed perhaps some comments about the approach that we've been talking about.

But I think of the context within the national perspective. I think about some of the news that we saw yesterday where we saw the director of CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service] say in a large news conference with our Public Safety minister, Ralph Goodale, where the director of CSIS said, "I'm confident that the measures in place are robust and appropriate." And he was referring to the screening process. And we know we've also heard from our minister from Saskatchewan on this issue for public safety, talking about the measures that are in place. We've also had comments from respected individuals like Lloyd Axworthy with a lot of experience and know-how in this field.

So this is an important step, Mr. Speaker. I hope that it in many ways signals a change from some of the earlier positions that we saw the government take. And I think this is something that I know Saskatchewan people want to get behind, something that Saskatchewan people indeed want to support.

Mr. Speaker, we think of the refugees, the pictures that we've seen. We think of young Alan Kurdi on a beach, washed up. And it's absolutely impossible to look at a child that age and for us not to think of our own children, for us not to think of our grandchildren, for us not to think of any little toddler that we know, Mr. Speaker.

Absolutely there are security threats existing, and there are measures to ensure that those coming to Canada would have the necessary screening so that Saskatchewan and Canada can be safe. But, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan and Canada has been a welcoming place for many, many years. For many years, in treaty territory, this province has welcomed people to this province for that fresh start, and that's something that I absolutely want to see continue. And I want to see a spirit of inclusion that is promoted and spread throughout Saskatchewan.

So I thank the Premier for his remarks and the opportunity to make some as well. Thank you.

[11:00]

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 188 — *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 188, *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I wish to inform the House that the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 11:04 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour, to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 179 - *The MRI Facilities Licensing Act*
 Bill No. 183 - *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 184 - *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Motorcycles) Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 185 - *The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Measures) Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 186 - *The Municipal Conflict of Interest Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 187 - *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 188 - *The Best Value in Procurement Act, 2015*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:06.]

The Speaker: — You may be seated. Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Phillips: — To make an introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the House, I would like to introduce five people from the Failure Prevention Services in Watson, Saskatchewan, FPS. They've been contributing to our province for nearly three decades. They make recyclable stainless steel filters for a variety of industries around the world. In fact only about 2 per cent of their production actually ends up in Saskatchewan. They look after filters for nuclear mining and power generation industries and they're great members of not only the Watson community but the entire Saskatchewan community. And with us today are Dan Beuker, CEO; Dean Beuker, sales manager; Leanne Beuker, operations manager; and Jesse Schwartz, operations manager; and Ron Graf, production manager. I would ask all members welcome these constituents to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — With leave to welcome guests.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very briefly, it's nice to join with the member for Melfort and welcome these business leaders and this business to their Assembly. Thank you for your work within Saskatchewan and your role within our economy. It's a pleasure to welcome you here today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 1,043 through 1,057.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,043 through 1,057.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Performance of Government and Opposition

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to, one more time, be able to get up and debate a motion in this legislature. And today I think it's very timely with an election coming up very shortly. And what the motion really is saying in essence is that we're comparing the vision on this side of the House to the lack of vision on that side of the House. And I'll maybe elaborate a little bit on that, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, you know I heard once in this legislature someone say that when you're in opposition, you can say anything you want. And you know after today . . . I've been here 20-plus years, and have never seen anything like today in question period. I almost feel like a mentor for the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I know we have a popular Premier in this province. We all know that on this side of the House. In fact, I think they know it on that side of the House. Maybe a bit envious of that, especially when it comes to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that our Premier, and we're very proud of him, is very influential in the province, across this country. But today went to new extremes that even I couldn't imagine. Now the Premier's affecting votes in the US, in the Senate. Next thing it'll be in Congress. The next thing he'll be blaming the Premier for is affecting the presidential race in the U of S, and we know where his sympathies lie in that case, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I just want to take the opportunity to make some comparisons between the members opposite and the

members on this side of the House. And how do we do that? We do that by going back over our record of eight years, and I think a number of the accomplishments that we've had, and then the accomplishments of the members opposite in the 16 years previous to that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we could talk for one thing about population, be a good example. It's probably just something that shows how this province is doing. But under the NDP government from '91 to 2007, Mr. Speaker, 56,000 more people moved out of Saskatchewan than moved back in. Mr. Speaker, under the Sask Party government — we were elected in 2007 — 80,000 more people moved into Saskatchewan than moved out. So, Mr. Speaker, just an example of where the comparisons lie. With an election coming, I hope people take that into account and show how our province is growing.

Mr. Speaker, we could talk about many areas of the province that are growing right now. Economic growth. Let's talk about the NDP for a minute. From 2001 to 2007, we had the worst economic growth rate in the country. Well, Mr. Speaker, right now, from 2008 to '14, in Saskatchewan we have the second-best economic growth in the country, only second to Alberta. And probably we're neck and neck with them right now due to the oil prices being somewhat lower than they had before.

Mr. Speaker, we can talk about balanced budgets and lower taxes. I will take a minute and talk about lower taxes, Mr. Speaker, and remember back. And I know many people on this side of the House will remember the NDP government. They raised taxes 21 times in 16 years. And I think that's worth repeating: 21 times in 16 years.

Now on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, I believe we have record property tax reductions and record income tax reductions. The education tax on property, remember that one for farmers? There isn't a farmer in this province that doesn't shudder when they hear the word NDP because every time they hear that, they think there goes . . . The education tax will be back on farm land.

And remember one of the previous premiers said at SARM a number of times, the status quo is not on; we will deal with the education tax. Well they did; they lost the election. We won and we dealt with the education tax on property. And I know the member opposite from Nutana appreciates that. She's the Ag critic, and she knew we should have took that off. They just wouldn't do it.

Mr. Speaker, there's so many areas that I can talk about in comparisons with the NDP to the Saskatchewan Party, and I think we have a number of areas where I think we've dealt with a number of issues. Sure a lot more to go, Mr. Speaker, but after the next election I feel we'll have the mandate to do that.

I want to talk about highways for a minute, Mr. Speaker. And the member for Indian Head-Milestone was Highways minister, and now the member for Martensville is the Highways minister, Mr. Speaker. And they've done some really good work across this province, but they've done some really good work out in my area for the people of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, some of the good things I think that have happened in highways here, besides the record number of dollars that have been spent on highways compared to where the NDP were, the passing lanes between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle. And I actually drive on that road, Mr. Speaker, usually at least once a week, and those passing lanes, I believe, have saved lives but made driving out there much safer.

Highway 7, Mr. Speaker, \$8.9 million in funding for that project. Highway 16, 45 million between Clavet and Saskatoon, twinning, Mr. Speaker. Estevan, twinning from Estevan to Bienfait, 8 kilometres there, Mr. Speaker. That's in the works. I believe the member for Estevan the other day was out there, and the bypass around or the road around Estevan, which has been asked for — for how many years? — for many, many years even when the NDP were in power.

[11:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, I think we all remember very clearly out in rural Saskatchewan especially . . . Well the urban will too because every time they come out to visit us, they saw them.

But the number of orange flags, remember that trend out there when the NDP were in power? You'd come across a road and there would be an NDP orange flag — well I think it was NDP colours — and then there would be a sign that says, the next 7 kilometres not in good shape. And then you'd go that 7 kilometres. You'd get to another one. And the next sign would say, the next 10 kilometres not in very good shape. They had a different word for it, but I got sick of looking at it. And that went on and on and on.

My daughter lives in Eston, over in the member for Kindersley's constituency, or the member for Rosetown. And, Mr. Speaker, I would go across the province, and that was continual right across this province. And it always made me wonder, why wouldn't you, on the Manitoba border and the Alberta border, just put a sign up that said, highways for the next 4 or 500 miles, lousy? In fact, some cases worse than that. It would've saved a lot of money, and they could have spent that on the health care and the hospitals that they managed to close right across this province.

And speaking of that, Mr. Speaker, I think there's another good comparison. The Health minister could tell you a lot better than I can on the millions and millions of dollars that have gone into the health care system since 2007 when we came to power. And then that brings back memories of when the members opposite came into power, and one of their first acts was to close 52 hospitals.

And, Mr. Speaker, why I remember that so clearly, because in my constituency, in the community of Langenburg, the community had got together with the blessing of the NDP government as they came into power and said, let's go out and raise, I think at that time it was about \$3 million for the community for a new health centre, a new hospital in the community of Langenburg. So the NDP at that time said, go for it; go raise your money. And they did. They raised every cent of it. They were ready to go, ready to build a new hospital, and guess what happened, Mr. Speaker? The NDP, in their wisdom, come along, along with 51 other hospitals and shut down the

Langenburg hospital. So the community had gone to work, done their share to provide health care in their community, and the members opposite saw fit to close that.

And, Mr. Speaker, when you think about that, you know, the shortage of nurses, as we got into the late '90s and into the 2000s we were short of nurses. The nurses were not happy. Patients were . . . Everybody was complaining about the health care in our province, Mr. Speaker. How did the NDP think that would affect when you close 52 hospitals? And then you, on top of that, part of that, you close the Plains hospital, which was one of the most accessible hospitals in Regina. I know many of my constituents were really not happy when that hospital was closed.

But what, I wonder, did the NDP, in their wisdom, think would happen to the nurses and doctors that worked in those 52 hospitals and mostly, in fact, other than the Plains, I think all in our rural constituencies? They left the province because they had no jobs here.

At the same time we were short of nurses, we were short of doctors. We were short of specialists. But then at that time, Mr. Speaker . . . And we have to remember this because there's an election coming. But at that time in the '90s and into the 2000s, rural Saskatchewan didn't much matter. And I know there's members, well in fact all of the members on this side of the House, all the representation of rural Saskatchewan is on this side of the House . . .

Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is go out, and people remember out there the record of the NDP. And I don't think those people that lived through that time will have to be reminded too often, but it doesn't hurt to do it. When the election comes in April, remember the comparison between the members on this side of the House — and we care for our constituents; we work for our constituents — and the track record of the NDP, what they did to rural Saskatchewan, not just in health care, but that's one of the main issues I think that I got elected for five terms in the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's so many things I'd like to talk about today, but I better speed it up a little bit. But, Mr. Speaker, you know, we talked about the shortage of doctors, the shortage of nurses, and all that right across the province. But remember back . . . And I think a lot about my kids right now as I'm coming to the end of my time in here. And I had three kids. Two went in for teachers; one went in for an accountant. And remember, many of you did at the same time, pretty close to the same age. Well most of you are close. Some of you are close to the same age.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, remember when our kids would go through grade 12, graduate, and then go on to university, some of them. And they'd go get their university, whatever it was, teacher, you know, whatever it was. Nurses at that time of course. They were short of nurses, but they weren't hiring any. But you'd go through that, and you couldn't get a job in Saskatchewan. Do you remember that? And I talked about the out-migration before, and it was the trend then. When you passed grade 12, you got luggage, and you headed for Alberta, Ontario, the States, anywhere it was because you couldn't get a job in Saskatchewan.

And a lot of what's happened since 2007 in this province, Mr. Speaker, I believe is right here. The attitude of the people in Saskatchewan has changed. There's no more of this, that we can't do it. We just . . . Oh, in Saskatchewan we can't do it, Mr. Speaker. I think that attitude out there — rural, urban, doesn't matter — people are saying . . . Whether if you're in business, they're saying, I can succeed in business. Or people that are getting a job, I can find a job out there, Mr. Speaker.

It's so different than where we were in times past, Mr. Speaker, where the members opposite, even in government, promoted doom and gloom. Remember that? It didn't matter when Mr. Romanow was premier, and I remember we were in opposition and you'd get up and ask questions and, we can't do this, we can't do that.

I remember the day . . . Some of my colleagues will remember when I think I was Highways critic, and I know the member for Athabasca is going to appreciate this. But do you remember the day that a constituent from Estevan in fact come in, and she had this piece of pavement off the highway? It was about yay big. I could hardly lift it. I'm just a little guy. But it was about that big and I brought it in the legislature and I was asking questions to the Highways minister. And, Mr. Speaker, you'll appreciate this. I think you were sitting with us at that time. The Speaker took it away from me because . . . We knew that would happen because it's a prop. But it was a sign of how the highways were in the province of Saskatchewan. That piece of pavement had flipped up behind a semi and gone through the windshield of that lady's truck.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite . . . I think we had a couple of highways questions this session, maybe two, and that's probably two more than the Agriculture minister's had. Mr. Speaker, I think the comparisons are obvious out there. We've seen some really good things happen across the province out there and certainly not all because of the provincial government. But I think why it's timely right now, we have an election coming, and we want to show our record compared to the NDP members opposite.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute and talk a little bit about the Leader of the Opposition because he seems to take what I say to heart. So I think I could possibly give him some advice. But what I will say, Mr. Speaker, is question period has been a really funny agenda for the NDP this session. They asked questions on health care day after day, and the Leader of the Opposition, if they look like they're good ones, he takes them. If they don't look so good, he lets the critic take them. Did anybody notice that? You know about that old saying, there's no I in team? Well there is in some places, Mr. Speaker.

But he asked questions on health care day after day after day and, Mr. Speaker, you know I would feel a little bit . . . If I had sat in government side and then went over to opposition and then got very critical of the health care system, I would feel somewhat hypocritical, and maybe he does. You know, he probably does; he's just not saying it. He's not saying it very loud, that's for sure.

But, Mr. Speaker, when he asks these questions about emergency wait times, isn't that funny how that works? He's talking about people at times waiting three to four hours. Mr.

Speaker, under the NDP, eight, ten hours was nothing to sit in an emergency room and then actually quite often not get to see a doctor because we were short of doctors at that time.

And, Mr. Speaker, he also gets up and the member for Rosemont gets up and talks about education. You know, he has the audacity to get up and tell the Minister of Education that oh, we're short of teachers, we're short of rooms. Well you know in a way he's probably right because the population's growing so fast in this province the 58 schools that the Saskatchewan Party and the Minister of Education have on the go right now — 58 schools are being either built, built or in the process of coming for that to happen. And, Mr. Speaker, when you compare that, and we have to going into an election, that's in comparison to 176 schools that were closed by the members opposite to 58 being built on this side.

Now which side of the House do you think is more qualified to run this province, creates the attitude that people in Saskatchewan want to have? And, Mr. Speaker, I think when this election comes up, not that we want to harp on what we've done — we certainly aren't bragging about it because we've got a lot of things we want to do yet, Mr. Speaker — but I'm going to take great pride when I get a little bit older and retire. Well I am retiring, but I'm going to take great pride in watching the government of the day, which I believe will be the Saskatchewan Party, carry this province forward, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to read the motion into the record that we're talking about today:

That this Assembly supports the government's vision and plan for growing Saskatchewan, most notably for its work and ongoing plan to invest in infrastructure projects across the province and for its work to foster economic opportunity; for its continuing work to keep taxes low for Saskatchewan families; for improving the lives of those living with disabilities; and for making Saskatchewan the best place to stay, work, and grow a family after post-secondary education; and further

That this Assembly condemns the opposition for not having a plan or vision for the future for Saskatchewan people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion from the member for Melville-Saltcoats:

That this Assembly supports the government's vision and plan for a growing Saskatchewan, most notably for its work and ongoing plan to invest in infrastructure projects across the province; for its work to foster economic opportunity; for its continuing work to keep taxes low for Saskatchewan families; for improving the lives of those living with a disability; and for making Saskatchewan the best place to stay, work, and grow a family after post-secondary education; and further

That this Assembly condemns the opposition for not having a plan or vision for the future of Saskatchewan or its people.

I recognize the member . . . Why is the member on her feet? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm quite pleased to enter into the debate. And as I listened to the presentation by the member from Saltcoats, Mr. Speaker, what the Conservative Party does, Mr. Speaker, is they refuse to recognize . . . They want to go down the historical path of where Saskatchewan was in the '80s and the '90s.

Let's go down that path, Mr. Speaker. They know very well and he knows very well, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservatives put the Saskatchewan people in debt for years and years and years — fifteen and a half billion dollars in debt when the NDP took over, Mr. Speaker, fifteen and a half billion dollars in debt. And every single day, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, under the NDP government, had to pay \$2 million-plus in interest alone as a result of the mismanagement of the Devine government in the 1980s.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker, they tried to sell our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. Not only that, they even sold highways equipment, Mr. Speaker. They put all the highways equipment on sale, Mr. Speaker.

It's convenient that the member from Melville-Saltcoats forgets those facts, Mr. Speaker. It's very convenient for him to put the blame . . . But every single day, the people of Saskatchewan, if you want to go down in history, you cannot escape from your history. As a Conservative Party you almost broke the backs of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. You almost broke the bank of the Saskatchewan people, the Government of Saskatchewan. And every single day, Mr. Speaker, every single day, we had to pay down massive debts racked up by the Conservative government of the 1980s.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan were well served by leaders like Blakeney, Romanow, Calvert, Mr. Speaker. They were very well served. They had a job to do and there was some very tough choices. But, Mr. Speaker, let the people be reminded of the Devine government in the 1980s. And it's convenient that the member from Melville-Saltcoats forgets to mention that fact, that we had a fifteen and a half billion dollar burden called the provincial debt, Mr. Speaker, compliments of the Saskatchewan Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that's why we will not listen to any words that they talk to us about the history of how Saskatchewan was left with very little to build on, Mr. Speaker, and that is a direct result of the mismanagement of the Conservative government of the '80s. And they all know it, Mr. Speaker. We all know it.

And how do you fix highways when you have no equipment that was sold by the Conservative government? How could you fix some of the issues? We had no money, Mr. Speaker, in the bank. How could you talk about a bold plan and a vision when you're busy going to banks in Eastern Canada to try and keep our lights on, even in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker?

That's the record of the Conservative government, Mr. Speaker.

And we will never apologize, never apologize for helping the Saskatchewan people, for cleaning up that Tory mess of the 1980s. That's the real story, Mr. Speaker.

Now as I look at some of the issues, Mr. Speaker, of how they're back-patting themselves, Mr. Speaker, everybody knows, everybody knows that the Saskatchewan Party inherited a booming economy, Mr. Speaker. Everybody knows they inherited money in the bank, Mr. Speaker. Everybody knows that we had a growing population. They simply inherited all that great news, Mr. Speaker.

[11:30]

But the bottom line is, after eight years of record revenue, we have seen they have failed on many fronts. They have failed on many fronts, Mr. Speaker. And I want to point out to the people that are listening, they have failed on many people. They have failed on many people's issues and they have failed many people as well. And I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, one of the particular people that I had a opportunity to visit, Mr. Speaker, were really heartbroken. These people live in Makwa, and Makwa is a community on Highway 306 probably about a half-hour west of Meadow Lake. And this couple, Mr. Speaker, their names are Fran and Virgil Paul, and both the Paul couple, they really had some difficult times over their lives.

This is an example of how this government has ignored many people's issues across the province. And most recently, Mr. Speaker, they had a bunch of flooding issues that really affected two of their homes. They have two homes in Makwa, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of some of the flooding that was occurring, they ended up losing one home that was an older home. Then they had their entire basement, which was part of their existing home, flooded and they lost a lot of the contents, Mr. Speaker, a lot of the contents.

And they tried hard to deal with the Highways and Highways really said it's not an issue; the flooding's not our concern. So they went to SaskWater, and SaskWater said, well it's not our concern. They went to Environment. Environment said, it's not our concern. So one after another, some of these departments slammed the door in their faces saying, it's not our problem. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's how this provincial government is failing many families throughout the province of Saskatchewan as they have historically failed the province overall, Mr. Speaker.

Now what I want to point out with Fran and Virgil Paul, Mr. Speaker, whose problem is it that the highway construction that was undertaken near their home had simply taken out a bridge and replaced that bridge with culverts, Mr. Speaker? And as a result of taking the bridge out and putting culverts in, a lot of the water backed up onto Makwa, onto the actual community of Makwa. And what happened, Mr. Speaker, is the water flooded into basements. A number of homes were affected, including the Paul's home. And as a result of them having insurance, they found out later that after they lost so much, Mr. Speaker, after they lost so much in their homes, that they didn't have insurance for flooding. Flooding wasn't covered in their insurance policy. As a result they had a financial loss of their buildings, of their homes, and also their contents, Mr. Speaker, none of which insurance would cover.

And then they turned to the government saying, well as a result of you replacing a bridge with culverts, it was poorly designed to begin with. All the water that backfilled our property and backfilled our homes, can you guys help us with this problem? And, Mr. Speaker, all they got was a non-response from the Saskatchewan Party government. And I say shame on them. This has got to be fixed.

These people have put their lives into these homes. And as a result of all the hardships, as a result of not having no insurance, losing one older home, and then having their entire new home backfilled with water, Mr. Speaker, because Highways, the SaskWater, Environment ministers wouldn't deal with them, Mr. Speaker, now we have a couple, an older couple that has to relocate because their home has become so destroyed. And yet no one is helping them solve this problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the issues that I speak about in the Assembly. And we have asked time and time again to the Minister of Highways, will you help the Pauls? We have asked the Minister of SaskWater. We met with the Minister of the Environment. Would somebody take leadership on that side to recognize that as a result of how you've designed a bridge or you've taken a bridge that used the proper way to let water through and you replaced the bridge with culverts and those culverts couldn't handle the volume. So it was the government's mistake and yet, Mr. Speaker, they are simply not dealing with these issues.

These are some of the things, a few stories that I've picked up over the last few weeks, Mr. Speaker, of people that are frustrated with this government, so busy patting themselves on the back that they forget the people in the background that are hurt by some of their decisions. And yet they continually ignore people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to shift gears in the last few minutes I have to point out to the people of Saskatchewan this. We know that the governments across, the municipal governments across the province have to take on more debt, Mr. Speaker. They have to take on more debt because the province is making them take on more debt. And as a result of that record debt for municipalities, guess who pays that, Mr. Speaker? Property owners pay that. The business community and the private homeowners pay that.

Carbon capture failure, we're talking about that for the last several weeks, Mr. Speaker, means that as a result of the political mess created by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker — not SaskPower but the Sask Party — what's going to happen is they're going to start paying more on their power bills, Mr. Speaker. They're going to pay more on their power bills, and that's thanks to the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

Then look at the private health care services that they're promoting. It's going to cost people more money out of their pockets, Mr. Speaker.

And as well to the future taxpayers, their work is not done there, Mr. Speaker. The future taxpayers are going to pay more through their P3 [public-private partnership] schemes. The current taxpayers are going to pay more for some of the debt that we see the government is piling on this year, and this

despite the fact that they had record revenue the last eight years, Mr. Speaker, record revenue. They had a booming economy yet somehow, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives once again found a way to mess that up.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to talk about history. Let's go down that path. But the future is where the real challenge is. We see that the Saskatchewan Party government is so busy patting themselves on the back with motions like this that we're seeing that the decimation of services and the loss of hope by many people throughout the province of Saskatchewan is starting to be something that is occurring on a regular basis. And, Mr. Speaker, we will always oppose the Saskatchewan Party.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to rise in the House today for probably what will be the last debate as an elected member. It's interesting that I got a chance to debate with the two gentlemen that were elected the same year as I was. The member from Athabasca that just finished speaking was elected. We sat on the same side of the floor, and I remember him ranting and hollering at the NDP. For the whole time that we sat together on that side of the floor, he was ranting at the NDP, and now he's ranting as an NDP, and he's saying the very same words. And he uses the word shame just as often as he did when he was ranting at the NDP. I can't believe the gentleman that actually doesn't have the nerve to know what's the difference in life here.

Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to follow the member from Saltcoats who talked about the change in government since we were elected in 2007. Of course him being much older than me, he can remember some of these details that I can't, but I'm really glad that I've had a chance to listen to what he had to say today and understand some of what he has been saying. Mr. Speaker, he did mention when he first stood up that he could remember somebody in opposition saying that you can say anything that you want to. I do believe that was that member that said it. But that's okay because we actually got to do what we said we were going to do when we were in opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why the member from Saltcoats ran is the same reason why I ran. Mr. Speaker, we've been elected five times, and I understand and I agree with what he has to say. But there was another reason why I ran. I ran because I was fed up with listening to the NDP who had given up on rural Saskatchewan. Not only had they given up on rural Saskatchewan, they actually wrote it off. They believed as long as they could get Saskatoon and Regina and Yorkton and P.A. [Prince Albert], they could be government, and they really didn't care about the rest of us. They ripped up the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] program. They tore it up, the program that actually was the basis for what our farmers needed, and at the same time they increased crop insurance twice and the coverage actually went down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we actually lived through the time when those people opposite closed 52 hospitals, hospitals where some of my children were born, a hospital where one of my daughters lost two of her fingers. We had to go to the hospital during that night for the care that we needed to be able to go on to a larger

hospital that isn't there anymore. That's what used to happen in rural Saskatchewan before the NDP came into government.

They also closed 176 schools. That's one school for every month they were elected. Mr. Speaker, that's affected my children and many of the children that are from members on this side of the House. We probably had the highest education tax in all of Canada. We laid off 400 teachers when they were government. And, Mr. Speaker, they downloaded onto every municipality they could.

But all of that wasn't as bad as the biggest issue that I . . . the reason why I decided to run, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I ran because of what had happened to the attitude of the people of our province. The propaganda and the programs that controlled our citizens because of the NDP government was perpetual fear. There was a long time that we were ashamed of dreaming for something better. We didn't believe we had the right to dream.

Mr. Speaker, people from all over Canada would feel sorry for us. They would say, you're actually from Saskatchewan? That's okay. When are you going to move out? Are you the last one going? You have to turn the lights off when you leave. Mr. Speaker, we, in a province that has over 40 per cent of the arable land in Canada, we have the world's largest supply of potash. We have oil and gas and uranium energy, and people felt sorry for us. Under that government, they allowed us to be able to not feel proud, and that's something that I can never accept, Mr. Speaker. We were embarrassed about our roads. We were embarrassed about our schools. We were embarrassed about our hospitals. We are embarrassed about everything that happened in rural Saskatchewan because of the NDP government.

People sort of jokingly asked, are you still there? And they'd say, do you only build highways going one direction, going into Alberta? Well, Mr. Speaker, at that time we didn't stand tall. We didn't hold our heads up high. We had people, the NDP always had people believing that they knew what was best for the people of the province. We couldn't have it. They decided we couldn't have something because it wasn't good for us. They were the big brother in the province. They would let us know of what we should be doing.

Under the NDP, government knew best and they let the people use issues. You know, Mr. Speaker, the government under the NDP owned the land and they let the people use it. Under the NDP, the government would own the liquor stores and let people work for them. People didn't have a right to actually look at the opportunities themselves.

People would tell me, if you flew a small plane across the border at night going into Alberta, it was dark; it was dark; it was dark until about 50 miles from Alberta, and you'd see the lights on. You'd know that there was pumpjacks going. You'd know that there was people working. You knew there was activity going on. But in the darkness of Saskatchewan under the NDP, it wasn't happening.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP always acted like big brothers, and they would decide what we could do and when we can do it. But you know what happened? The day after the election in 2007, something happened. There was a change in attitude. There was

a difference in people's eyes. There was a difference in their optimism. It was like they'd fought a war for independence and they finally won.

And I look back now and I know that the economic opportunities were there before the election, but people didn't feel it. Not because of government but because there was no hope. In 2007 I think most of you remember that we had a campaign that said, hope beats fear. Mr. Speaker, that's what we believe in. We believe that action will still allow people to have hope.

The NDP used the fear factor with all citizens. But, Mr. Speaker, none more brutal . . . There was nobody that was more brutally used than our seniors and those that were vulnerable, Mr. Speaker, those that were with a disability. Mr. Speaker, seniors under the NDP, the assistance for seniors was frozen for 16 years, Mr. Speaker — 16 years. For 16 years the government told our pioneers that \$90 a month was good enough for them. They eliminated 1,200 long-term care beds in a province where we had the highest percentage of seniors per capita in Canada. And for any senior that actually did have some money, they were expected to pay up to 90 per cent of their income for seniors . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. It appears that a number of members would like to enter the debate. I think they will have a chance, but currently the member from Kelvington-Wadena has the floor. I recognize the member.

Ms. Draude: — I think many members know that I have a deep interest in people with disabilities. In fact I've had the opportunity and the fortune to meet with a number of them in the last 20 years, and I consider many of them my friends and examples of how humanity and goodness can take the place of sometimes physical and intellectual capabilities.

But the NDP had told the vulnerable people that they had to be scared of us. Mr. Speaker, that was the message that went. Regardless of the disability or why the people weren't working, they were on something called the SAP [Saskatchewan assistance plan] plan, the social assistance plan.

There was an opportunity for people who had a long-term disability to actually be in a separate program where they wouldn't have to, on a monthly basis, explain that, yes, they still had a vulnerability, and yes, but they still would get the same amount of money as anyone else. Some people with a disability can never work and they can never get any more out of their life, but they deserve more. And as a government it was one of our first steps, that Minister of Social Services now, at that time introduced that plan. We now have over 13,000 people in this province that have a pride in who they are. They know they are valued in our province and it's something that we can all be very, very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, our government has a plan. We have a plan for growth. And included in our growth is a plan to recognize opportunities in places like our military. For the first time I believe government has, with the different scholarships and the Highway of Heroes and the supporting our troops, we actually are looking at our veterans and our military force and doing more than what we did before, rising it, making sure that people

understood that we are proud of them and we have to do more.

[11:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are ads on TV right now. The Leader of the Opposition is talking about what they should be doing, and that is looking backwards. And again it's a fear factor. Mr. Speaker, they're not talking about a plan for the future. They're talking about . . . They're criticizing us, but they're never telling us what they're going to do.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there are 10 of us right now who have decided not to seek re-election. Life has changed in Saskatchewan since 2007 and even with the decline in things like the oil prices, life is still very good in Saskatchewan. It's the best place in the world to live. And right now, we know that nobody wants to go back. Mr. Speaker, there's still opportunities in this province. We're never going to go back to the days when the NDP were telling people how to live, what they could do, and where they could go.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so very proud of having the opportunity of being in here today and speaking and to make a difference. And I know that with democracy, we have a . . . The criticism that's coming from their side is what their job is, but there also has to be a plan. There has to be hope. And the people of the province deserve to have a government who cares about them and knows that they are as smart as anybody and they will grow the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to enter into the debate, and we always have good debates and this morning, Thursday morning, private members' day. And it is always interesting how this government bends over backward and I've got to say, I was going to count how many times but there's dozens of times, to stretch and just give the, pat itself on the back, just really . . . And then it's . . . I find it very interesting that they're always full of pointers about what we should do, because they're pretty good . . . They were pretty good at opposition. They should go back to opposition because they're pretty good at it. They seem to know what opposition's all about, you know.

But here we have a strange session this term where we didn't get a chance to have a Throne Speech. Why is that? Why didn't we get a Throne Speech or any message from the government about what their plan or vision was? They're criticizing us for not having a plan or vision, but what happened to the Throne Speech? You kind of forgot, kind of forgot what you do. You kind of forgot what you do. Now they will say, well you know it's just, what we do. But it's sort of funny that, very convenient for them to have pointers for us but we're just saying, where's the Throne Speech? Where's the Throne Speech?

Now it's also very convenient and I understand that in a few weeks we're going to have our third quarter financial, mid-year report, after we're done here. After we're done here. How convenient. How convenient. Now would they stand for that in opposition? Major, major documents that we should have for this House, how convenient that it's after the fact, after the fact.

And even my colleague from Cumberland House today asked about where's the apology for the Sixties Scoop that they'd promised in June. Made a big deal of it. They said sometime in the fall. Well now they've got a delay on it, so we can't talk about that. All the things that we can't talk about.

But you know what the real question is out there? The real question is, so where did all the money go? And here we have a Minister of Finance who really doesn't know. And please don't tell me where the money went and don't tell me about the clawbacks because he can get up and say, apparently with a straight face, he didn't know. But a week later, he does know. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that amazing? Here we have those folks over there that can stand up with a straight face.

And you know, I do appreciate the members who have spoken. And it seems that, you know, maybe all the folks who are retiring . . . And we know that's interesting. It's good that they get up and have their say in a 75-minute debate, but we'll know they'll have their say next week.

But you know, I have to say that it is rather odd that when they talk about us, talking about our vision, they're having their retiring folks get up and speak, and they have to talk about the '90s. That's fair enough. And we talk about the past. But they conveniently forget about the '80s. They conveniently forget about what happened in the '80s. And I've got to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I remember some of the phrases we had like whoa, don't say whoa in a mudhole. And that may be what the Minister of the Economy's talking about when he talks about Boundary dam. But you know, today we even heard and we've heard, you know, they talk about our commitment about that. But what's their commitment about Boundary dam for 3 and 4, 4 and 5? What are they going to do about 4 and 5? Silence on that. Silence on that.

But you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I heard the member from Kelvington and she was talking about the good work they did with SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] and fair enough, and we've got up and we've said that we've appreciated that. But man, the stuff that's happening in Social Services today, I don't think there's a lot of pride to go around. You know, today we know kids are staying in hotel rooms. Kids are staying in hotel rooms, foster kids who should have better care.

And I just got this morning an answer to my questions, and I'll just put this on the record because we don't have many days left to go. And we talked about this in the summer, that we need to have better protection for those kids who are in vulnerable circumstances. But here we have, in May there were seven kids in hotel rooms; June, 27; July, there was 17; August, there was 55 kids in Saskatchewan who were in hotel rooms because they couldn't find the care for them; September, 37; October, 36. And we don't know the numbers for this month.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think this is an urgent issue, and we need to deal with this. We need to deal with these things. And this is the kind of thing we should be debating, as opposed to, how can the Sask Party once again pat themselves on the back yet again?

And I don't know how many dozens of times I've heard it over the past eight years. And people are asking, where did the

money go? Why aren't you investing it in things that matter to people, investing it in things that matter to people?

Instead we get in question period time after time, every one of them . . . I don't know whether they have a school back in their room where they get, you know, they have to do the lessons of the '90s but forget about the '80s because of the debt the Conservative government at the time put on this province and almost bankrupt this province, almost bankrupt the province. And that's a pretty straightforward thing. We know that's what was happening in the early '90s. This government tends to forget all about it, tends to forget about it.

And you know, the question is, where did all the money go? And you know, the Minister of Finance said, we'll tighten the belts; we'll do things that we . . . We'll have to for example cut post-secondary, and they've clawed back money from there.

But interestingly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a couple of things I want to raise, a couple of things. When we go into this election — they talk about how they're going to look forward to this election — we'll have three more MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. How can that be? How can that be? And we fought that good fight a couple of years ago. But how can that be when we know that really this is the . . . We should practise what we preach. We should practise what we preach. We should be looking at ways to make things more efficient, more effective.

And yet we have the lowest number of people represented by each MLA in Canada, and we could afford to keep the same numbers. We could afford to keep the same numbers, but the government of the day say whoa; never say whoa in a mudhole. And we told them, this is not good planning. This is not good planning. But yet here we are. In this election we're going to see three more MLAs. And we're going to wonder, do we really need those MLAs?

And we have lots of questions about what this government's up to but you know, and they talk about, I mean . . . And the other thing I wanted to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I found it very, very interesting, and I guess we'll hear about it next week, is the Premier let it out of the bag that we're going to be having 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Isn't that a great idea? That's a great idea. Where have we heard that before? Where have we heard that before? Yes, I think we heard that before from the member from Nutana, in the spring, in a private member's bill. So I just think it's passing, very interesting that all of a sudden this number is lifted by the government over there, and then says we have no vision, no plans, and here we have here.

And then we have an accountability Act that this government talked about, that we had just passed, and the Lieutenant Governor was here. Where have we heard that before? From the member right here talking about how we need to have more accountability and transparency. Where have we heard that before? And yet they tell us, they tell us that we have no ideas, and it seems that they found some of our ideas very, very interesting.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I tell you we've got lots of ideas, and stay tuned when we come into the election. And we've got a great group of candidates, and we're ready to fight that election.

We're ready to fight that election, but you know right now, our job right now is to hold this government accountable.

I find it interesting, you know, the member over there will talk about how they would like to have other questions. Yes, I bet they would. Because they want to talk about anything else other than Boundary dam. Can we please change the channel on Boundary dam? We're not going to change the channel when we are fighting for transparency and accountability and truth and honesty. And it just makes some of those members over there a little uncomfortable because we are going to talk about the things that matter to the people of Saskatchewan and the job that this government has to be doing.

So I will be voting against the resolution, very clearly. And I have so much more to say, but I've got to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when we have to talk about the issues of this government, it's clearly it's coming forward in the dying days of their term, we're going to raise those issues for the people of Saskatchewan because they deserve the truth and the accountability. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now the problem with speaking third in a debate like this is that most of the really good material has been used already, but some of it was so well presented that I'm not going to try and compete with it. But I do think it's worth, it's worth repeating. It really is substantial material, and I want to highlight some of the good points that were made by my colleagues earlier.

And you know, when you have a voice like this, you probably shouldn't be speaking at all, but you know, this is an important topic and I wanted to address it because it speaks to the reason I first became involved politically. This is an argument of can do, can't do. This is an argument of optimism versus pessimism. This is the glass half full and running over or the glass half empty. And I think this particular discussion today will represent clearly the distinction between the governing Saskatchewan Party and the NDP in opposition.

I think that attitude of we really can't have too high an expectation or we may not be able to achieve what we ought to be able to achieve was most clearly articulated by former Premier Calvert when he said, we'll always be in and out of equalization. There was no thought of, hey, we can get out of equalization. We can grow our economy. We can become a net contributor to the national economy and take a leadership role in the nation. It was always, well we may or may not be able to do what is possible and we might have to accept a little bit of equalization.

You know, there was a former Finance minister by the name of Janice MacKinnon who said the reason we couldn't do certain things in this province is it would affect, it would undermine our opportunity to collect equalization. What she was saying basically is that it was easier to sit here and collect federal welfare payments than it was to pick ourselves up and do what we had the potential to do all along.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's some very clear

statistics that indicate how this province has changed attitudinally in the years following the 2007 election. And I want to talk about this specifically because this is very clearly the best way I think we can identify how the attitude has changed here.

Saskatchewan is known as an exporting province. Most of our GDP [gross domestic product] actually comes from exporting products around the world, but what has happened since 2007 is that our growth in exports has been not just marginal, not just steady, but exponential, frankly.

[12:00]

And as most people know, the United States is Saskatchewan's largest trading partner. But in the seven years from 2007 to 2014, Saskatchewan's trade with the United States saw an 89 per cent increase. We went from \$12 billion in sales to the US in 2007 to \$22.7 billion in 2014 — 89 per cent increase. That's unheard of, and that is clearly a statistic that is representative of the new attitude that has enveloped Saskatchewan.

China. This is an interesting story, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because China has become Saskatchewan's second-largest trading partner. We have seen a 231 per cent increase in sales to China since 2007 — 231 per cent increase. The real interesting part of that discussion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that when Premier Roy Romanow was asked if he would consider going to China on a trade mission, he refused to participate with the federal government and many of their partners because there was no clear benefit to the province of Saskatchewan. He wouldn't go. He couldn't see the potential that might arise from that visit, and now China has become our second-largest trading partner.

Number three is India with an 86 per cent increase in sales. We had the High Commissioner from India visiting us just in the last couple of days and they're so optimistic about their relationship with Saskatchewan and Canada as a whole, and they anticipate doing much more business with us. The interesting thing about India is that within the next 25 years it will become the most populous nation on Earth. And the trade potential and the economic development opportunities dealing with India present a real opportunity for this province in its own right. And really, the bulk of our sales to India had been in agricultural products: peas and lentils and wheat and canola, both seed and oil. And now we're starting to look at other manufactured goods and other potentialities that will make that trade option and opportunity that much greater.

You know, when the NDP talked about twinning the highways west from Gull Lake to the Alberta border, they had about a 15-year schedule to get that built. It was never going to happen. But when Lee Morrison, the Reform MP [Member of Parliament] from Cypress Hills-Grasslands, heard that, he said he was afraid that it would be three lanes west and one lane east. And at that time the people of the western part of the province were evacuating and moving to Alberta because there was no opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Early in my elected career I went to the school in Burstall and did an informal poll of the grade 12 class. There wasn't a single young person in that class who said that he or she were going to

stay in Saskatchewan to pursue their education or a career. Every one of those young people were heading to Alberta. That was replicated in class after class after class in small-town Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that saying, and I think of my colleague from . . . One of the people who spoke earlier said that, you know, there was a saying at that time that the last person out of the province, turn out the lights. Hey, we lived with that reality in small-town Saskatchewan: schools being closed on a regular basis, 176 of them under the NDP.

Let me tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how bleak the outlook was for the province and the young people of this province under that former government. Jim Melenchuk was the minister of Education and stood at his desk right there and said that they had a plan that foresaw 30,000 less students in the public school system in the next 10 years. They were predicting a loss of 30,000 young people in 10 years. It's no wonder they had to close schools, and they weren't concerned about it because we had members stand saying, more left for the rest of us. Good for those people who go. There's more left for the rest of us. That is an attitude of defeatism if I ever heard it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is all kinds of opportunity in this great province of Saskatchewan, and we're seeing it more and more because the Government of Saskatchewan believes in the people of this province and believes in their ability to contribute in tremendous ways, both economically and socially, and that our growth opportunities are unlimited. The sky is the limit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've had a clear indication of how attitude informs the actions and the activities of people. And since the government has changed, we have seen numbers of people moving into Saskatchewan, never seen before outside of possibly the 1920s when so many people moved to Saskatchewan to take advantage of settlement and free land opportunities. But in the intervening years, for the most part our population was leaving.

Since the Saskatchewan Party has become the government of the day and helped recharge and renew that optimism, we have seen a net increase of something like 60,000 people coming into the province. Much of that is just simply driven by attitude. And if you're in a jurisdiction where your leadership doesn't believe in your future, when your leadership won't unfetter the opportunities and potentialities that exist, people tend to leave. And that's what happened under the previous government.

You know, it was so disturbing when we as an opposition projected a growth plan of 1 per cent. You know, just the national average, 1 per cent of growth per year. And we were told by an NDP member that sat on this side at that time that that was so wild and absurd it was impossible to achieve; it just wasn't possible to do. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've exceeded that substantially and now Saskatchewan is home to record numbers of people once again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a topic that bears real reflection. We are not congratulating ourselves. This isn't an exercise of patting ourselves on the back. This is an exercise of recognizing the people of this province have flourished under this government and the conditions we've set in place, and we are

happy to continue to provide those opportunities for the people of this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly my pleasure to enter into a discussion here today. And it's certainly nice as well to see members across the way that maybe that was one of their last speeches in this Assembly. And regardless of political stripes or debate over issues, and being sometimes probably on different sides of issues, certainly I think those three members have served honourably in this Assembly, and it's nice for them to enter in here today in that debate.

[Applause]

I don't know if they're going to be clapping in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I think, you know, I think that we have a lot of opportunity in this province, Mr. Speaker. It's been provided by the resources within this province, the hard work of Saskatchewan people, the exceptional entrepreneurs within this province, the organizations that have been built that serve within our communities, the Crown corporations that have been built within this province, Mr. Speaker. We have a lot of potential in this province, really because of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And my speech, I know many of them have been focused maybe on, you know, elections past or different periods of time in Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Speaker. I really do want to focus on the future, Mr. Speaker, as well on really what matters to Saskatchewan families today all across our fine province. And I think ultimately that's what's most important to them, Mr. Speaker. So I'm not going to . . .

Although the speech was well done by the member from Athabasca who laid down the facts that are certainly facts, that are ones that Saskatchewan people remember or many Saskatchewan people remember, the hard realities and impacts of the period of the 1980s. I'm not going to get into the period that was discussed as much by members opposite, Mr. Speaker. But what I do know, Mr. Speaker, is we have day in, day out in this province, workers and businesses doing their part to make this province such a great place. We have community organizations and settlement groups, Mr. Speaker, doing all that they can to make this a great place, Mr. Speaker.

And I guess what they deserve or what I believe they deserve is a government that respects the work they do, that understands the reality of everyday families and communities across Saskatchewan, that focuses on what matters and that moves the yardsticks where it matters, Mr. Speaker. We have tremendous opportunity in this province to be able to deliver incredible opportunity for young people, affordability for families, security and dignity for seniors, Mr. Speaker. But to do so, we have to change some of the decisions that we see right now that permeate government.

Unfortunately what we see day in, day out from a government that's grown long in its tooth, Mr. Speaker, that presides with a large majority, is a government that seems to have fallen out of

touch with Saskatchewan people. I hear many people tell me, Mr. Speaker, that a government that has changed in their time in office, Mr. Speaker, a government that no longer seems to get the reality of everyday families and some of the pressures that they're facing, Mr. Speaker, and when we think of some of those pressures, certainly they're paramount when we look at cost of living, Mr. Speaker, families working harder and harder to certainly make ends meet and to build the future for their families that they all deserve, Mr. Speaker. But they also look to government to make sure that government's holding up its end of the bargain.

Too often, Mr. Speaker, we see an approach from the current Premier and cabinet, Mr. Speaker, the current government, the Sask Party, of this self-congratulatory sort of boosting and boasting, Mr. Speaker. And don't get me wrong. Anyone should be proud of accomplishments that are in the interests of people, Mr. Speaker. But far too often we see a government tripping over itself to pat itself on the back and really to focus on its own political self-interest, if you will, Mr. Speaker, instead of what really matters to Saskatchewan people. Not the public's interest.

You know, we're going to be committed, Mr. Speaker, to addressing the neglect that we see in classrooms across Saskatchewan under this government. This government's been provided a historic opportunity with record revenues, but it's failed to fund classrooms all across Saskatchewan. Right now we have school divisions that have new students after new students coming into classrooms every day, which provides a tremendous opportunity for all of us in this province, Mr. Speaker. But the funding has been cut to support those students coming into classrooms, and we see classrooms that are bursting at the seams. We see supports that have been cut, Mr. Speaker. And that limits the opportunity not just of those young people and the families that it directly impacts, but it impacts all of us, Mr. Speaker, and the future of Saskatchewan economically, socially, and otherwise, Mr. Speaker.

We see a government that spins and boasts on apparent accomplishments in health care but is disregarding the reality on so many fronts: ER waits that are far, far too long, Mr. Speaker, and far too often going in the wrong directions; wait-lists for specialists, Mr. Speaker, that are absolutely unacceptable; and surgical waits, Mr. Speaker, that are on the rise once again, Mr. Speaker, which is really the wrong way to go.

We see a government that spends money hand over fist on big, misplaced priorities, Mr. Speaker, not managing the resources of the public in a way that's prudent, Mr. Speaker, piling on debt for the next generation, Mr. Speaker, passing along costs to current families.

And a prime example of that, Mr. Speaker, is the whole carbon capture debacle that we see, Mr. Speaker, where we see a government that, once we had leaked documents that came forward, was that this government was briefed about the high-risk nature of this experiment, Mr. Speaker, as well as the high cost to it, as well as the uncertainty to it, Mr. Speaker. That government went out without caution, Mr. Speaker, and spent \$1.5 billion of Saskatchewan people's money, sticking Saskatchewan people with massive power bill hikes across this province, adding on top of that to the smart meter mess and the

massive costs created by this government with similar types of reckless decisions, Mr. Speaker, and then didn't share the facts with Saskatchewan people or the world, Mr. Speaker, and continued to spend big money, public's money, taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker, to tell a story that just wasn't accurate.

You know, Saskatchewan people know that there's tremendous opportunity in this province, but they also know that there's challenges that families are facing. We're forward looking. We're going to continue to work to develop a plan that's going to ensure the bright future and the prosperity that every family deserves in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly won't support a motion that was put forward here today to simply . . . really that's out of touch, that self-congratulates and boasts, Mr. Speaker, instead of moving the yardsticks where it really matters in the lives of Saskatchewan families all across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Estevan.

[12:15]

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the last time the NDP was in government, they sat idly by and GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions rose by 17 per cent in this province. In more recent times, members opposite have regularly stood in this House and called for real action on climate change, only to stubbornly dismiss the actions our government has taken to reduce carbon emissions produced as a result of power generation in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Centre: will you take this opportunity to present to the people of Saskatchewan your party's plan to reduce GHG gas emissions, or does the NDP have nothing more than rhetoric to offer when it comes to the environment?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to get up and answer that question. And you know, I find it interesting to come from a member from Estevan who we now know . . . I just looked at the report about the food bank usage in Estevan, and this is what the Salvation Army major has to say — up 40 per cent. And she's very happy about the record.

But I'll talk about the greenhouse gas emission, and clean . . . our plan forward. We put forward a bill last spring, and I'm sure glad to see the Premier's lifting some of the numbers from that. That's very nice. That's very good. So we're very proud of our plan. I would suggest the member from Estevan should do her homework and not read her statements that have been poorly written . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I'm going to ask my question to the member from Melville-Saltcoats because I like how he gets up

and he certainly gives it back. But my question to the member: certainly we see some really massive overruns with taxpayers' money here recently, over \$1 billion on a bypass with a European company that's engaged, Mr. Speaker. We see \$1.5 billion and counting on an experiment that's adding massively to the costs, the power bills of Saskatchewan people. Add that to the smart meters, Mr. Speaker. I guess my question to the member: why do Saskatchewan people, why should they have to pick up the tab for Sask Party mistakes?

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the opportunity and the question from the member opposite. What he neglected to talk about was the 58 new schools that the members on this side of the House are building. What he forgot to mention was the new Moose Jaw hospital in Moose Jaw that just opened last week, I believe it was; new hospital in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker — that's infrastructure — and all the new facilities and infrastructure and highways, and all the other things that are happening in the province.

It's funny how the members opposite neglect to talk about all the good things that are happening in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, the Opposition Leader has been the NDP's leader for two and a half years. That's two and a half years without a plan. While the Opposition Leader signed off on the tree book in 2011, it's nowhere to be seen. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the tree book is nowhere to be found. It's even been removed from the NDP website. Mr. Speaker, my question to the member from Regina Rosemont: what is your plan?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we heard speeches about the 1990s and 1970s, Mr. Speaker. Now we hear a debate about the last election, Mr. Speaker. What we're going to be focused on, Mr. Speaker, is making improvements where they count for Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. The plans that we've laid out in education, the plans providing protection and dignity for seniors, Mr. Speaker, the Act around renewable energy and affordable power for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, and about fixing procurement, Mr. Speaker, where we had a government that dismissed the issue and delayed action, Mr. Speaker, all while doling out massive contracts, Mr. Speaker, to companies all around the world, all while not providing fairness or best value for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Melville-Saltcoats, as he can't wait to get out of Dodge. Based on the fact that he's left record debt through things like

the lean program, as my colleague mentioned, the Regina bypass, the one and a half billion dollar bill that you're leaving SaskPower, Mr. Speaker, I guess the question I would have for the member from Melville-Saltcoats: why won't you answer the question about the debt you're leaving behind, as you can't wait to get out of Dodge?

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm glad to have another opportunity to get up today because I actually didn't get all my material in that I wanted to talk about when I was giving my speech. The one thing I wanted to talk about was the 25 per cent in the polls that the NDP are at right now. Even under Mr. Lingenfelter, he couldn't see that big of a drop when he was the leader of the opposition. So maybe the members opposite should be out knocking some more doors instead of sitting in here asking me questions.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know that although the NDP have changed their logo, their tag line, and probably their colour shades a little bit, but they're really still the same old NDP. Their tired, outdated ideology saw a decline in this province for a generation and kept the province from reaching its full potential, whereas our government, the Government of Saskatchewan, is now leading the country in economic growth. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Centre: why would people in Saskatchewan vote for a party that has no vision and no plan?

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

Mr. Forbes: — I find this very interesting from the member from Moose Jaw. I mean I really have to say to the people who write these questions, you know, what they should be really writing is a Throne Speech. We would have really appreciated a Throne Speech. We come back here for 25 days, and we have no idea what this government's plan is. We get bills that are copies of our ideas, but here we have a member who will stand up, ask a question. Our question is, where is the Throne Speech?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was interesting yesterday that, the Premier couldn't help himself, but he had to sort of sneak a preview, an announcement that's coming on Monday where this government is finally committing to having a 50 per cent mix of renewable power.

I'm always bothered by the fact that this government's had five Environment ministers who have promised 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the last eight years, and we've seen no reductions. But we have the minister giving advanced notice of this promise. Remarkably, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's the same content that was in our plan, the NDP

plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To the member from Kelvington: does she support the Premier's use of our plan?

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, first of all I should tell you that I support everything our Premier does because he's working in contact with a caucus that's working well together.

And the other thing that the members opposite should know is that at least we're giving you a hint. On the other side of the House, we have no idea what these members stand for, neither do the constituents who are going into the next election. People don't have a clue what you stand for. And our government is open and accountable, and I'm proud of them.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, there were some dark days for those unfortunate to have disabilities during the NDP's 16 years in government.

Our government's making Saskatchewan the best province in Canada for those living with disabilities. We've invested 2.7 billion since 2007 on programs such as SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability]. I'd like to know from the member from Saskatoon Centre, what is the NDP's plan for people with disabilities?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members over there will know that we support SAID. We've said many positive things about SAID, and that's a fact so we will continue that.

But I want to know, what will they do about the kids in hotel rooms? I mean I find this really interesting coming from a member from Regina when we know that in October there were 36 kids in hotel rooms in this city. What's he doing about that? That's an issue.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm reminded by one of the speeches opposite that it's rare that you see a windmill that runs on water, and we got to see that again here today. But my question is to the member from Cypress Hills. They've adopted the NDP plan on renewable energy production. Now that's very interesting, and we're glad to see they've at least got, they've finally got a clue on that front. I guess my question to him is, on Tuesday after they come out with it full bore, is the Minister of Finance going to come along and take half of it back?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's an interesting question. Anybody of . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for the 75-minute debate has expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 609

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Chartier that **Bill No. 609** — *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour again to enter the debate on Bill 609, *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act*. I've had the opportunity to speak to this bill already, but I would like to put a few more comments on the record.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that we have a seniors' care crisis here in Saskatchewan. We know, Mr. Speaker, from a steady stream of individuals who have been willing to come to the legislature to share their stories, Mr. Speaker, families talking about their loved ones in care, and because of a lack of staffing what has led to neglect because of a lack of staffing, Mr. Speaker. We hear those stories in our offices, and not everybody is comfortable coming to the legislature, but I can guarantee that all of us in here have heard stories about seniors not receiving the care that they need.

We have, Mr. Speaker, this government's own CEO tour report from a couple years ago, that they were dragged kicking and screaming to actually do in the first place. And it highlighted a lack of proper care because of a lack of staff, Mr. Deputy Speaker, across the province. We have the minister's second CEO tour which also showed that there was no progress made, Mr. Speaker.

We have this government . . . the Ombudsman did a report on long-term care that showed that this is, the issues of quality of care, the challenges with quality of care are widespread. It's not isolated in one community or another. It is in fact an issue that goes across the province where our seniors in long-term care are neglected, not because care workers don't want to do their job well and not because they don't have the skills and abilities, it's because they don't have time because they're stretched so thin, Mr. Speaker.

We had an opportunity last night as MLAs to meet with the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan, and I know there were members opposite there as well. And many of those folks there last night work in long-term care, are very familiar with it. And those in their profession who work in long-term care — occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, dietitians, CPAS

[client patient access services] assessors and coordinators — sharing their stories around the challenges with seniors' care, but long-term care in particular, Mr. Speaker.

This government has buried its head in the sand and refuses to acknowledge that there is a seniors' care crisis in the province. I would argue you can't fix it unless you're willing to acknowledge that it exists. So I wish they would take the first step and say, hey we have a problem here.

But what this bill does, Mr. Speaker, it undoes some of the damage that this government caused back in 2011 when they cut the minimum quality of care standards that, Mr. Speaker, those minimum care standards in special . . . They scrapped the minimum care standards in special care home regulations. So these regulations used to require a minimum of two hours per day of nursing and personal care for residents but, like I said, this government got rid of those, and quite quietly. They didn't send out a news release, Mr. Speaker. They got rid of them quietly, that minimum care standard. They didn't want anyone to know that they were scrapping those. That two hour standard wasn't close to good enough, Mr. Speaker. So what the government should have done is strengthened that number, not scrapped it and thrown in the towel, Mr. Speaker.

The minister talks about a very lengthy document, that he says, oh we do have standards. Well those standards, as the Ombudsman has said, are very difficult to operationalize. It's very hard to staff for when it comes to . . . Very good language, Mr. Speaker, but they're very high level statements and really very difficult to put teeth to that, Mr. Speaker.

This bill here, it does a few things, but I think the most important thing it does is it would require the government to put back in place minimum quality of care standards to ensure that our seniors, our vulnerable loved ones have the care and the dignity that they deserve, Mr. Speaker.

So I was very proud to bring this bill forward. I think it sends a strong message to the government, that get your head out of the sand and start doing something about the seniors' care crisis.

Mr. Speaker, they have an opportunity to vote with us here today, and I am optimistic that they will. I know that they hear from their constituents that there are issues in long-term care facilities across this province. So I know they've all heard stories, Mr. Speaker. So I'm optimistic that they will see the benefit in our bill for not only the loved ones of their constituents but possibly their own loved ones as well, Mr. Speaker. So I look forward to the vote. Thank you.

[12:30]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale that Bill No. 609, *The Residents-in-Care Bill of Rights Act* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — The motion is lost. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:30 until 12:33.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Brotten	Forbes	Wotherspoon
Vermette	Belanger	Chartier
McCall	Nilson	Sproule

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 36]

Morgan	Stewart	Wyant
McMorris	Boyd	Doherty
Reiter	Moe	Huyghebaert
Cox	Docherty	Campeau
Cheveldayoff	Harrison	Tell
Eagles	Bjornerud	Hart
Brkich	Makowsky	Weekes
Merriman	Draude	Wilson
Marchuk	Ross	Bradshaw
Kirsch	Hutchinson	Michelson
Jurgens	Steinley	Young
Tochor	Elhard	Phillips

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the second reading motion, 9; those opposed, 36.

The Speaker: — The nays have it. The motion is lost. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Monday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:36.]

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Minister of the Economy
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
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Power Corporation

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