



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

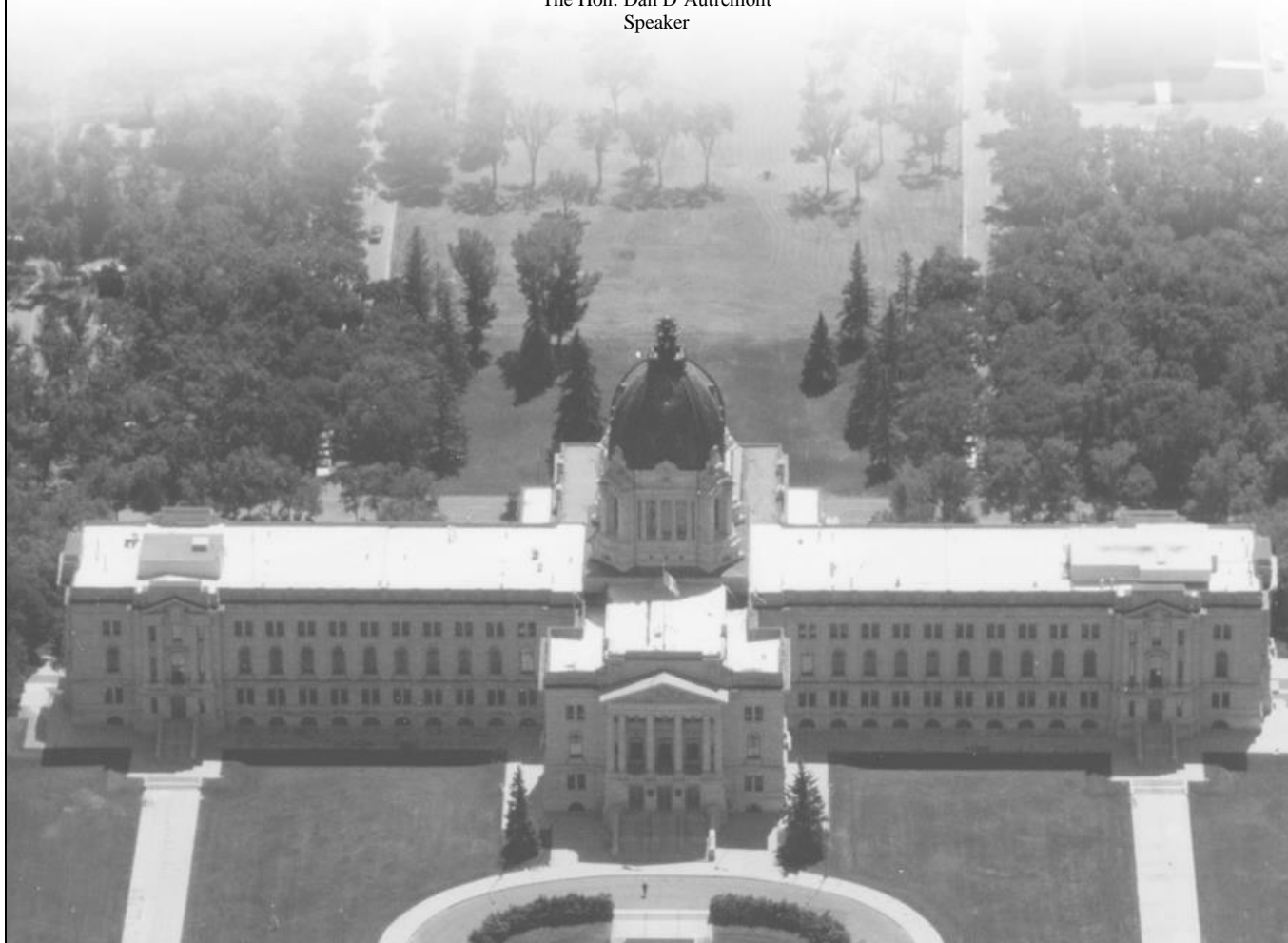
of the

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

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
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| Boyd, Hon. Bill | SP | Kindersley |
| Bradshaw, Fred | SP | Carrot River Valley |
| Brkich, Greg | SP | Arm River-Watrous |
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| Draude, June | SP | Kelvington-Wadena |
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| Kirsch, Delbert | SP | Batoche |
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| Lawrence, Greg | SP | Moose Jaw Wakamow |
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| Merriman, Paul | SP | Saskatoon Sutherland |
| Michelson, Warren | SP | Moose Jaw North |
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| Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg | SP | Yorkton |
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| Ross, Laura | SP | Regina Qu'Appelle Valley |
| Sproule, Cathy | NDP | Saskatoon Nutana |
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| Tochor, Corey | SP | Saskatoon Eastview |
| Toth, Don | SP | Moosomin |
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| Wilson, Hon. Nadine | SP | Saskatchewan Rivers |
| Wotherspoon, Trent | NDP | Regina Rosemont |
| Wyant, Hon. Gordon | SP | Saskatoon Northwest |
| Young, Colleen | SP | Lloydminster |
| Vacant | | Prince Albert Carlton |

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm requesting leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member for Cypress Hills has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, an honoured guest who is in your gallery. With us today is His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda, the ambassador of Colombia to Canada. And we just had a very delightful lunch together, covered a lot of ground, learned from the ambassador the growth in the economy and social status of the nation of Colombia, talked about opportunities in trade going forward.

There is one item I would like to identify in particular, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the free trade agreement between the nation of Colombia and Canada, Saskatchewan's portion of that trade has been probably the most dramatic. And we've seen quite an increase in particularly agricultural products going to the nation of Colombia. But we do have some important things in common. They've got an oil and gas industry; so do we. And they've got some coal reserves there that we might be able to help them with in terms of capturing carbon and sequestering carbon in the future.

But he's got a very busy agenda. He's going to be visiting a number of ministries and agencies in the next day or so, be travelling to Saskatoon and talking to university officials and students. And we hope that his trip is immensely beneficial, not just for his own sake and his own knowledge, but for that relationship that we are developing with the great country of Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have all members welcome His Excellency here to our Legislative Assembly today. Accompanying him is Melinda Carter, senior protocol officer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Nicolás Lloreda, welcome him to the Assembly here. As the member points out, opposite, there are important ties that Saskatchewan has with Colombia, ties of an economic nature and possibilities there, and of course with the people, Mr. Speaker. And I think

of many interactions that I've had — I know other members as well in this Assembly — in attending community events with the Colombian community, whether it's a fun soccer game or whether it's some other cultural supper or meal that's going on, Mr. Speaker. Of course the contributions of Colombians to Saskatchewan are significant. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Lloreda to the Assembly.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Spanish.]

Gracias, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Señor Lloreda to the Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well from Colombia to northern Saskatchewan, we have a number of leaders here from northern Saskatchewan that I'd like to introduce that are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

I'd just maybe have them give us a wave once I introduce your names. First of all is Vice-chief Joe Tsannie Jr. from the Prince Albert Grand Council, a member of Hatchet Lake; Chief Ricky Robillard from Black Lake Dene; Chief Bart Tsannie from Hatchet Lake Dene; Chief Rudy Adam from Fond du Lac Dene; Chief Lawrence McIntyre from English River First Nation; Chief Mike Natomagan from Pinehouse — sorry I missed that a little bit; Anne Robillard, the chairperson of the Athabasca Basin Development; Geoff Gay, who's president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Athabasca Basin Development; Russel Black from English River First Nation; Glenda Mercredi from the Hatchet Lake Dene; Sean Willy, who is the director of corporate relations, Cameco; and Jeff Hryhoriw who's the director of government relations, Cameco.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals are in the gallery today. They're spending today and tomorrow in the city. They're meeting with, obviously, ministers of the Crown as well as deputy ministers, and I believe they'll probably be meeting with some of the opposition as well.

I had the opportunity to have lunch with them today with a number of ministers and certainly hear their concerns and the positiveness that they feel for northern Saskatchewan. It is a land of great opportunity and great potential, Mr. Speaker. They've done a great job partnering with industry, and Cameco has been a great partner for northern Saskatchewan and done great work. They're looking for further partnerships with government, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward.

I want to thank them for their professionalism and the meeting that we had at lunchtime. We all learned a lot and certainly I got to know them better in times that aren't quite as heated as for example this summer through the forest fire season. So I want to thank them all for being here in their Assembly and ask all members to join with me welcoming them here.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with

the member in welcoming this important delegation from the Far North, Mr. Speaker, to the Assembly today. And of course we have representatives from PAGC [Prince Albert Grand Council] and representatives from individual First Nations within the PAGC, municipal leaders, and of course leaders on the economic front as well. So thank them all for their participation and their presence here.

And it's true, Mr. Speaker, that there's incredible potential in northern Saskatchewan. There's potential there that needs to be realized, that needs to be pursued with a sincere approach, Mr. Speaker. And I thank all these members for what they bring to the table in working for the best interests of their communities and their First Nations. And I think of the gathering that we had in Stony not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, where representatives from the Athabasca Basin got together to talk about the future, and that was an important milestone in many of the plans that are under way.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would say we look forward to the meeting that we will be having, and I would ask all members to join me in welcoming these important individuals to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going 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 of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce some friends and guests of mine that are sitting in your gallery in the House today, Mr. Speaker. We have with us Jason Zhao, Chris Triffo, and his wife, River Triffo.

Jason is an accomplished entrepreneur who specializes in making strategic investments in Saskatchewan and Western Canada. Growing up in Regina, Jason lived in Alberta for eight years before seeing the light and coming home. He brings significant investment to the province from abroad in a variety of sectors ranging from natural resources to real estate development, retail, and manufacturing. Jason is passionate about the arts, especially music, and is very active in the community through a number of organizations. He currently serves as the Chair of the Regina Symphony Orchestra board.

Chris Triffo has worked in the film business for over 35 years. His projects can be enjoyed in over 150 countries, 30 languages around the world. Chris has received many awards including an American Emmy Award and two Geminis. He enjoys assisting young producers, spends much of his time training up-and-coming directors and cinematographers. His latest project, *Nordic Lodge*, puts the spotlight on northern Saskatchewan and highlights the fishing tourism possibilities of

that great part of the province. Chris met his sweetheart, River Triffo, while working in Talladega, Alabama over 30 years ago and convinced her to marry him to come and see the beautiful Saskatchewan mountains. Despite not finding mountains when she arrived, she stuck around, working with Chris on many film projects, doing everything from casting to wardrobe to assistant director.

Aside from their film work, Chris and River also have two sons, two daughters, and a new daughter-in-law, all of whom call Saskatchewan home. It's my pleasure to welcome not only my friends but these guests to their Legislative Assembly. I'd like all members here to join me in welcoming them. Thank you so much.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to join with the minister opposite to welcome these important guests to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly, Jason, with your representation with the symphony orchestra, I know it's a very vibrant, vital force here in Regina. So great for you and great for us that you're doing that work.

And Scott . . . Chris — I want to call you Scott — Chris and River, welcome again to your Legislative Assembly. Your mom would be so proud. Chris's mom is a good friend of mine and she talks about him often, very, very proud of all his accomplishments in the film industry. And certainly Saskatchewan is proud. *Nordic Lodge* is a great project. So thanks for everything you do. And on behalf of the official opposition, we would really like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to highlight three guests seated in your gallery. And to start with, I'd like to highlight the presence of Vaidehee Lanke. She's accompanied today by her parents Uday and Kirti, and watching from home is Darshana, her younger sister who's at the École College Park.

The significance of this young woman sitting in your gallery really relates to the significance of her focus on medical research. She's in grade 10 at Aden Bowman in Saskatoon. She has already done an internship with Dr. Troy Harkness at the University of Saskatchewan with a focus on anatomy and cell biology, and she is contributing already to our global human fight against cancer. She is the winner of the Biogenius Challenge that's sponsored by Sanofi, and I know by others in the pharmaceutical community.

And I would like to offer my sincere thanks to that community for their work, but most especially to congratulate Vaidehee for your remarkable work, and I can only hope that you continue this fight through high school and into the post-secondary realm. You have tremendous, tremendous opportunities to help all of humanity as we continue to wage our fight against cancer. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming

Vaidehee and her family to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to rise and welcome the northern leaders. It's always important to note that the travel schedule to get all the way to the capital city is an amazing challenge, and I want to make sure that we make every effort to recognize them at every opportunity.

Of course, as I have mentioned, the North is a great place to live, work, and to raise a family. And some of these leaders, the Dene leaders, the Cree leaders, have made an incredible difference. So I too want to join my leader and members opposite in welcoming all these northern leaders to their Assembly.

It's important to note, Mr. Speaker, I know many of them very well, and in particular I know the two gentlemen way in the back, the newly elected chief of the English River First Nation, Lawrence McIntyre, and of course Councillor Russell Black. Many people may not know this but they're from the famous community of Patuanak, the home of legendary players like Abe Apesis and August George Jr. And, Mr. Speaker, I've played against Russell Black and Lawrence McIntyre in hockey, and Lawrence and Russell were actually my shadows in the 1970s and the '80s. Their job was to shut me down in hockey.

The great news is that Lawrence has since quit. He's pursuing his chief full time, and Russell continues to chase, Mr. Speaker. But I just want to point out that it's always a great pleasure to see leaders from the North and I congratulate them for making the journey, and tell them, welcome to your Assembly.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Dene.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery this afternoon it's my pleasure to introduce a number of guests that are here for not only an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception that's going to take place later this evening, but some meetings that we had not only with myself and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, but as well as a number of members. And they are representatives of the Rx&D industry that are very important in the health care field. And so I'm very pleased to introduce Geoff Squires, as well as Bill Gowen, Beth Kidd, and Anne Babineau — sorry, I didn't want to get those mixed up — as well as Ed Gudaitis, who is the new regional Chair of the Prairies committee for Rx&D. We look forward to tonight's reception and I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, as well seated in the west gallery, and I apologize I don't have all of the names of the individuals, but they're members that play an important role in terms of seeing a reduction in the use of tobacco in our province, in our society.

And so again I don't have all the names but I know Donna

Ziegler and Donna Pasiechnik from the Canadian Cancer Society, the Saskatchewan office; as well, Mr. Speaker, Jennifer Miller from the Lung Association. And I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the leader and the colleagues who have welcomed the northern leaders. I just want to take an opportunity to welcome Chief Bart Tsannie, also vice-chief, PAGC ... [inaudible] ... Tsannie.

I know the important work you do for your people. And I know sometimes there's challenges, but I just want to wish you well as you're here doing the work that you're asked to do on behalf of your communities. And northern Saskatchewan has its challenges, but we have to remember the successes. And it's the good work that's being done by leaders like yourself that directly impact the community and always lobbying, so I want to wish you well.

I know tomorrow we'll be meeting with you as well and we'll do all we can to support you. And I hope the government hears the concerns and the issues you raise. And I just wanted to also just take that opportunity to welcome all the leaders here from northern Saskatchewan. Thank you and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery, and from my vantage point I can't really see them, so I'm hoping that there are 40 students up there, 40 students who are part of the Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School Choir.

Mr. Speaker, many of the people in the Assembly had the opportunity to be part of the commemorative service earlier on today, and we heard this group of students sing. And I want to express my gratitude to the choir, but I also want to express my thank you to the choir directors, Ms. Cathy Schabel and Ms. Sonia Kodak, for taking the time to make that trip from Saskatoon here. It was very much appreciated.

I think also joining that group of students up there, Mr. Speaker, were four chaperones I would like to introduce. And I would hope that they would give me a wave or give the Assembly the wave when I introduce Charlotte Olson, Valerie Kaye, Kerry Kropelnichy, and Robert Rudy.

I want to ask all members to help me thank these people and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in in welcoming this large delegation and group that we have in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, today, thank them for coming today to the Assembly for the commemoration service that took place earlier

to mark the Holodomor.

And I want to welcome, Mr. Speaker, all of the students, especially, from Bishop Filevich for what they added to the service. I think a trip to the legislature is always a memorable one for children when they're in elementary school, but to play such a meaningful and powerful role in a service like we had earlier today I think is a memory that I know you'll carry forward for many years to come. So thank you, boys and girls, for your excellent singing and thank you for reminding us all about this important event that cannot be forgotten from one generation to the next. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's a privilege today to introduce through you and to all members of the Assembly 37 great students from the Humboldt Collegiate Institute in Humboldt. And they are accompanied today with their teacher, Ms. Jacquie Bergerman, and I'm looking forward to meeting with them after the proceedings.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming a few people here in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start with the folks here from the Heart and Stroke Foundation, from the Lung Association of Saskatchewan, and from the Canadian Cancer Society. We have Lorie Langenfurth, Melody Lynch, Jennifer Miller, Donna Pasiechnik, Rob Cunningham, Donna Ziegler, and Kelsey Michaluk.

I want to thank you for all that your organizations do when it comes to supporting the health and well-being of Saskatchewan residents, but particularly around the reduction of use of tobacco here in Saskatchewan, especially since it is the leading cause of preventable disease and death here in this province. So thank you for all the work that you do here in the province.

And I would also like to say welcome to the representatives from the pharmaceutical industry here today. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming these guests to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Post-Secondary Education.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce in the west gallery, we have Svetlana Lairich. Mr. Speaker, Lana is a senior business student at the University of Regina where she is studying marketing. She came to Saskatchewan five years ago from Germany, Mr. Speaker, and she's remained here.

Mr. Speaker, Lana is a student organizer in addition to being a student at the Paul J. Hill mentorship program at the University of Regina. Mr. Speaker, the mentorship program is available for third- and fourth-year students where it allows them to be mentored with someone from the business community, Mr. Speaker, and where they can interact and network, as well as

give the students an opportunity to ask questions, questions about world business, about provincial business, about business etiquette, Mr. Speaker, things like resumé preparation as well as a number of other opportunities for interaction with their mentors, Mr. Speaker.

So I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming Lana Lairich to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to quickly join with the minister opposite in welcoming Svetlana Lairich, Lana Lairich, to her Legislative Assembly, you know, certainly adding to the good work over at the Edwards School of Business here in the University of Regina. Keep up the good work and welcome to your Legislative Assembly . . . [inaudible].

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member from Canora-Pelly in welcoming Bishop Filevich School. It happens to reside in the constituency which I have the honour of representing.

But I wanted to specifically mention one individual. Boston Maxwell was a fine hockey player — played with my son last year on the Saskatoon Kodiaks and is currently playing with the Saskatoon Generals. He's a great young leader on the ice and off the ice, and I want to welcome him and the rest of the school to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and introduce a couple of folks in your gallery. I want to pay particular attention to Robert Rudy and the school principal. Both are good friends, and I want to recognize them because of the good work that they do within their own professional organization, the Saskatoon Teachers' Association and the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation]. These folks worked hard. Great to see them here with their kids. But they also take the profession very seriously. So I ask all members to give them a special welcome.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a fellow in the east gallery, Gunnar Passmore. And he's no stranger to this House. He makes regular trips here. But I do want to recognize Gunnar because, you know, we all fight our own personal challenges, and he's going through some tough times right now. And we just want to wish him the very, very best. I think the whole House does, as we celebrate and recognize Movember, and November is a very special month for him. But he does such good work for the people in the building trades, and we hope to see him many more times in this House. So welcome, Gunnar, to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Mr. Passmore to the

House today. Mr. Passmore has been a tireless advocate for the building trades, and we recognize, we appreciate that. We know he is going through health challenges, so we want to wish him all the best as he goes through that.

I know that he doesn't necessarily wear the same political jersey as some of our members, but on behalf of the member from Indian Head-Milestone, he is waiting for the sign to be put up on the front lawn so he can look at it when he goes by.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I also want to recognize and thank the teachers and members of the teachers' association and STF that are here today. These are people that work hard, are incredibly committed to the students of the province, and in fact are building our province's future, and we thank them for what they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, it's a rare privilege to invite all members, to you and through you, to join me in a second introduction. But I think this one is especially important for a number of reasons today. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to recognize the presence of our Treaty Commissioner, George Lafond, in the west gallery. We know how significant his work is in serving as a liaison, not simply here within the province of Saskatchewan but also with that interface and dialogue and collaboration with Ottawa. And so I would invite all members to join me in helping to welcome Mr. George Lafond to his Legislative Assembly, with special thanks for all his efforts on a very, very important file.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to welcome Treaty Commissioner Lafond to the Assembly today and thank him for his important work, and work that really is central to the discussion about the future success of our province, Mr. Speaker, as we — as all of us are treaty people, Mr. Speaker — seek to better understand and better live out the treaties. So I thank the commissioner for being here today, and also ask all members to join me in welcoming here to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present some more petitions calling for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts. And we know that in September 2014, this government walked away from a new 48-unit affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and rent the units at full price. And this government allowed the private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, setting a dangerous precedent for this type of default. 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

take the following action: cause the government to recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition asking for this government to support a homeless shelter in the Lac la Ronge area. With skyrocketing cost of living in Saskatchewan, home ownership is a real struggle across the province and, Mr. Speaker, the same is true for my community. A shelter for our community would provide a safe haven for individuals and families who deal with the realities of homelessness. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to build a homeless shelter in the Lac la Ronge area to meet the needs of addressing homelessness in the Lac la Ronge area.

It is signed by hundreds and hundreds of citizens of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to present a petition as it relates to cellphone coverage for northern Saskatchewan. And this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, deals with a number of smaller communities. And the prayer reads as follows:

To cause the provincial government to improve cell service 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 coverage as southern communities currently enjoy [Mr. Speaker]. This would provide support to our northern industries as well as mitigate safety concerns associated with living in the remote North.

Mr. Speaker, we have presented petitions here day after day, and these particular pages are signed from people from Laird, Hague, Saskatoon, Smeaton, Prince Albert, Michel Point, Dore Lake, and from many communities and people from across the province of Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. This petition grows out of the seniors' care crisis that we have here in this province, Mr. Speaker, around chronic short-staffing across facilities from the top of the province to the bottom of the province, Mr. Speaker, that has led to the neglect of our loved ones, Mr. Speaker.

I would 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 creating 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 Canora, Stornoway, Yorkton, Sedley, and Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from residents in the province of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the high costs of post-secondary education in the province. In the prayer that reads as follows:

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition, in an ongoing series of petitions from all around the province, is signed by individuals from Regina and Watrous. I so present.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition in support of better schools. This petition is signed by residents who are concerned that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under resourced and that the Sask Party government has eliminated hundreds of educational assistant positions so that students don't get the one-on-one attention they need. And so they state:

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

Mr. Speaker, these are signed by residents of Regina. I so submit. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition

opposed to correctional service job privatization. And the people who have signed these petitions wish to bring to our attention the following: corrections facilities, including those that deal with young offenders, are operated publicly in the justice system, and the government has privatized food services in the corrections and young offender facilities.

Whereas the government is failing to properly listen to front-line food service workers who have many concerns about what impact the loss of these jobs will have for the corrections system and for the community; and whereas costs will escalate, the safety of staff, inmates, and the public will be put at risk, local business will lose contracts, inmate training and rehabilitation will be undermined, and the door to full-scale privatization in the corrections system will be opened if the government goes ahead with this plan:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan may be pleased to cause the government to cancel its privatization in the corrections and young offender facilities in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from a number of communities including Unity, Southey, Stoughton, Melfort, Nipawin, Sedley, Macdowall, Meota, Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, North Battleford and Battleford, Hudson Bay, Melville, Wynyard, Hepburn, Kelvington, Conquest, Windthorst, Bruno, Assiniboia, Bredenbury, Yorkton, Esterhazy, Indian Head, and Outlook. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Holodomor

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, today we commemorated the victims of Holodomor, the man-made famine and genocide that murdered up to 10 million Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933. One of the most brutal events in modern history, Holodomor saw Joseph Stalin's Soviets confiscate the grain grown by Ukrainians for their own use. Even though Ukrainian farmers were reaping bountiful harvests at the time, Soviets took nearly all of the grain, leaving the Ukrainian farmers and their families to starve. One-third of those murdered were children, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately we do not yet live in a world free from war, genocide, and famine. Despite the tragedies of the past, agitators and aggressors continue to sow hatred and fear, and it is the innocent and the defenceless that continue to pay the price when they are caught in the crossfire.

Last year we all took note of the situation in Ukraine and unfortunately the Ukrainian people are still gripped in the throes of conflict, division, and Russian interference. I'm sure that all members share my concern for the present situation and stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people in this time of turmoil.

Mr. Speaker, with all the members of this Assembly joining to recognize Holodomor Remembrance Day and Holodomor

Remembrance Week, we will keep our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in our thoughts and prayers.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand in this Assembly to acknowledge a sombre anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Holodomor, a tragic man-made famine that devastated Ukraine during the early 1930s. Earlier today I had the opportunity to share some remarks in the rotunda about the Holodomor.

The great famine of 1932-33 in Ukraine, which took from 7 million to 10 million innocent lives, became a national tragedy for the Ukrainian people. The objective of the engineered famine was to destroy the Ukrainian national idea. A Holodomor eyewitness, Mykhailo Prokopenko, stated, and I quote, “It was Stalin who gave the order to pillage Ukraine, to take away the grain, and export it while our children died by the thousands.”

Mr. Speaker, in 2008 this Assembly passed a bill to ensure Holodomor is remembered every year, and officially acknowledged this as an act of genocide. There is a statue on the shores of Wascana Lake, just southeast of this building, of a little girl holding five stalks of wheat, a telling symbol of the harsh force that the Soviets used to crush political dissent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me today in remembering these tragic events. I also encourage everyone to take time this week and attend a Holodomor service near you.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Ukrainian.]

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

Positively Red Gala in Saskatoon

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night in Saskatoon I had the pleasure to attend the AIDS Saskatoon’s first ever Positively Red Gala. It was a successful event for an organization and a cause that is so important in our province.

Speaking to *The StarPhoenix* last week, Dr. Tyler Maltman described the gala as “. . . a celebration of the community. A lot of the stuff around HIV can get pretty heavy because it is a serious issue, but the gala we’re looking at it like a celebration of life.” And it was a great celebration, Mr. Speaker. With a fashion show featuring local designers Klassique Designs, SheNative, and Opinion Atelier, music by Eekwol and Main & 10th, a drag performance featuring Kiki Roquette, and stand-up comedy from Dawn Dumont, it was a fun night, Mr. Speaker.

We know that Saskatchewan is facing an HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] and AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] epidemic, and we need to do more to address this public health crisis. And we know that with better prevention, expanded harm reduction practices, early intervention, and a real plan to address poverty and intergenerational colonial trauma, we turn the tide on HIV and

AIDS in our Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Dr. Tyler Maltman and everyone else at AIDS Saskatoon whose hard work made the Positively Red Gala such a success. Thank you.

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

Moose Jaw Festival of Trees

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The festive season is nearly upon us and that was evident at the 24th annual Festival of Trees fundraiser in Moose Jaw this past weekend that was attended by myself and the MLA from Moose Jaw North.

This year’s theme was Oh Santa, and the Heritage Inn in Moose Jaw was decorated just like Santa’s workshop. The sellout crowd of 300 enjoyed a night of dining and dancing while partaking in the auction for the uniquely decorated trees, live and silent auction items, and a cash auction.

Mr. Speaker, the Festival of Trees is the largest fundraising event for the Moose Jaw Health Foundation. Funds from this year’s gala will go towards the construction of a hyperbaric space, refurbishment of the chamber, and the additional state of the art equipment for the new Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital. The popularity and yearly sellout of this event is a perfect example of the generosity of the people of Moose Jaw. This event is a huge undertaking but demonstrates the community commitment to the new regional hospital.

I’d like to extend my congratulations to Laurie Axten Kosior, Kelly McElree, their organizing committee, the dedicated volunteers, and the staff at the Heritage Inn for raising over \$188,000 at this wonderful and successful event and for their dedication to this great cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Enchanted Forest Season Opens in Saskatoon

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday I had the pleasure of participating in the official kickoff for the 17th sparkling season of the BHP Billiton Enchanted Forest in Saskatoon.

It’s incredible to have this fantastic attraction in the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs. I can tell you that each and every year, it is exciting to drive through the Forestry Farm and experience the magic of Saskatoon’s premier winter holiday light tour. This place indeed becomes the enchanted forest.

Mr. Speaker, this must-see event has become a family tradition in our home and many homes throughout our city and province. I sincerely thank BHP Billiton, Saskatoon Silver Spring’s resident Hugh Vassos, and all the sponsors for making this animated light show a highlight of our holiday season and a great attraction to our city.

The lit trees, hockey and curling displays, Noah’s Ark, Candy

Cane Lane, and many other displays make it an absolute must-see tour for people of all ages. The show attracts over 60,000 visitors every year from throughout the province and beyond, making it Saskatchewan's top wintertime visitor attraction.

Last year the show generated \$240,000 for the partner charities — Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation. Board Chairs Greg Porter and Ivan Bergerman were on hand as well as Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation CEO, Steve Shannon.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this Assembly to experience the lights this winter. Thank you.

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

University Hosts Truth and Reconciliation Conference

Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the honour of representing the Minister of Advanced Education in a truth and reconciliation conference led by President Peter Stoicheff and the University of Saskatchewan.

The formal name of this session was Building Reconciliation — Universities answering TRC's calls to Action. The truth and reconciliation report lists 94 calls to action. Many focus on education.

The forum, held at both the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and Wanuskewin Heritage Park, provided a vital platform to start this Canadian conversation. Joined by senior leadership teams from post-secondary institutions across the country, the U of S took the important work of facilitating this dialogue to ensure that Canada's post-secondary community will play a leading role in Canada's response regarding the truth and reconciliation report.

In the room there was a clear consensus that there is a need to do more as far as integrating more indigenous knowledge into classrooms and curriculum. That consensus included having more opportunities to share this knowledge, including in our Aboriginal languages. It also led to a constructive discussion about ways to address education and employment gaps that continue across the country.

Here in Saskatchewan, we're pleased to say that since 2007 we've seen a 30 per cent increase in our post-secondary enrolment for our First Nations and Métis students. Mr. Speaker, we know there's more to do, but we see that the University of Saskatchewan is playing a key role, a leading role in this Canadian conversation. And I would like all members to join me in congratulating the U of S in this vital time, as far as making sure that there are voices heard by this incredibly important sector. Thank you.

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

Remembering Manmeet Singh Bhullar

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the

Assembly today with a heavy heart but fond memories to join with colleagues and people from across our country to offer condolences on the tragic passing of a big man with a huge heart.

Alberta MLA Manmeet Singh Bhullar lost his life yesterday as he had selflessly stopped to help another driver who was in need during a blizzard on a busy Alberta highway, a reflection of how he lived his life. His nature was to always put others first.

Manmeet, affectionately known as Manny, cared about everyone he came into contact with. He never lost focus on the people he served, and represented not only the people of Alberta and his constituency but, as I experienced, well represented Canada when the opportunity arose.

Outside of politics, he was a dedicated family man with a strong faith, and was always community minded. I first met Manny on a trip to Germany many years ago. We were both part of a Canadian delegation. On that trip and thereafter, we developed a great professional and a very friendly personal relationship. I remember fondly his infectious laugh, his intelligence, wit, his great sense of humour, and how, no matter the circumstance, he always stood up for what was right.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all the members of this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan join in offering our most sincere condolences to the Bhullar family, Manny's many friends, the Sikh community, and many colleagues. You are in our thoughts and prayers as you grapple with Manny's tragic death.

Our Premier often reminds us to strive to leave the world better than we found it. Mr. Speaker, Manny Singh Bhullar, Manny, he did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Lean Initiative and Provision of Health Care

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now the Sask Party government has more than 120 people working in health care whose sole job it is to promote lean. To the Premier: why?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, these are individuals that had been working on ensuring that we have a high-performing health care system even prior, for many of these people, even prior to formally adopting the Saskatchewan health care management system, or the lean system, in the province.

Mr. Speaker, these are individuals that have worked in our health region, in our Health Quality Council, within the ministry to ensure that we are running an efficient health care system, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we are making progress as it relates to a number of important priority areas for the

province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen not only, I believe, better care for the people of the province, a more efficient system for the province, but as well a financial savings of well over \$125 million since lean has been adopted. Mr. Speaker, this is something that not only high-performing systems in North America are using, Mr. Speaker, including the SickKids Hospital in Toronto are now using lean. Mr. Speaker, I think we're certainly on the right track in this regard.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government's blind pursuit of John Black lean is anything but efficient, and we have seen that time and time again. These 100, 120 positions do not even include lean leaders or members of kaizen operations teams. These are just the lean promoters who work within the kaizen promotion offices, and the Sask Party has more than 120 of them working in our health care system.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, meanwhile, they're eliminating 150 front-line positions, including nurses and care aids here in Regina, and making cuts to health care throughout our province. How can the Premier possibly justify such misplaced priorities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, let's keep this in context. We have nearly 44,000 people working in the health care system each and every day. Mr. Speaker, we felt that it was important to ensure that we have an efficient system in the health care system, knowing that the days of health budget increases of well in excess of what the economy is growing at, Mr. Speaker, that's not sustainable. Other jurisdictions have indicated, have acknowledged that that's not sustainable. So we need to ensure that we do have tools in place to ensure that we have a sustainable health care system well into the future, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I can only point to a number of projects all across the province, both in terms of improving processes, but as well as the facilities that we're building. And, Mr. Speaker, I would share just most recently the Moose Jaw Hospital. The regional hospital just opened, and this is what Dr. Fred Wigmore had to say, the chief medical health officer: "In my years of touring 1,000 hospitals, this is the most intelligent hospital I've ever seen built in Canada." That was using lean principles.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government is cutting 150 positions, meanwhile they have 120 people devoted just to lean promotion, Mr. Speaker, plus many more on top of that as well.

The government spends \$11 million per year for lean promoters. You know what? That's 71 per cent higher than just two years ago, and that's just within the health regions. That

doesn't include lean promoters who work in the provincial kaizen promotion office, or eHealth, or 3sHealth [Health Shared Services Saskatchewan], or the Ministry of Health.

More than 120 people working in health care whose job it is to promote lean, yet we've seen cuts to areas that matter most for patients and matter most to residents in care facilities. How can the Premier, Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier not recognize that this is a blatant example of misplaced priorities?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take the question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to the House in terms of some of the successes that we've seen using lean methodology, or the Saskatchewan health care management system, Mr. Speaker.

For example, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region achieved a 95 per cent reduction in the time it takes for patients arriving via STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] or EMS [emergency medical services] to receive a first diagnostic in the cardiac care unit. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker — a 95 per cent reduction in the time when somebody arrives, either by STARS or EMS, to when they have a first diagnostic for cardiac care in a tertiary centre, Mr. Speaker.

That's looking at the way that we have normally operated in the past, looking at seeing where we can make improvements, and deploying that improvement, Mr. Speaker. That's ensuring that people are receiving more timely care, Mr. Speaker, reducing errors, reducing waste, and ensuring that we have an efficient and sustainable health care system well into the future, Mr. Speaker. That's the direction of this government and, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue in that direction.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when we hear about 120 people whose job it is to promote John Black lean, while basic needs in hospitals are not being met, Mr. Speaker, when residents in care facilities aren't getting the care that they need, when front-line positions are being eliminated, when this government refuses to cover important treatment for little Kayden Kot who needs \$14,000 in treatment, but they refuse to even give an answer to his parents, Mr. Speaker, that is outrageous that they would have money for 120 full-time people to promote lean but then not be able to focus on the things that matter most to families.

Last year nurses filed about 870 work situation reports when they couldn't meet their professional standards, when there was safety concerns, and when patient care was compromised. Eight hundred and seventy, and 81 per cent of those were about short-staffing. My question to the Premier: what does he have to say about that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I can say to the Leader of the Opposition it's a good thing that this government set targets to increase the number of RNs [registered nurse] in this province, Mr. Speaker, compared

to what the members opposite left us with. I can't imagine how many of those care concerns there would have been if we didn't have the over-1,000 additional RN positions that we do now under this government because we set some bold targets.

We looked at the way that we were operating under the NDP [New Democratic Party], and we decided that's not good enough for the people that are paying the bills in this province. We need to make changes, Mr. Speaker. A part of those changes is some of the work that we're doing. For example, the Ministry of Health, using lean, designed a process improvement that means that fragile infants will have to travel 65 per cent less to receive important follow-up injections. Mr. Speaker, that is going to save us in the system \$900,000, but more importantly it's better for those fragile infants. It's better for those kids that are receiving care, Mr. Speaker.

Would the members opposite want us to go back to a time where those kids were not getting the care that they needed, Mr. Speaker? We're going to keep working on improvements in this system under this government.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, you don't need a Japanese sensei to take care of children properly in this province, Mr. Speaker. You need the right resources put in the front line to help people, Mr. Speaker. You don't need 120 full-time lean promoters plus that, Mr. Speaker.

You know they brag about, Mr. Speaker, their overall roster, but we also know this government regularly has less nurses actually on each shift, and hundreds and hundreds of times last year, nurses filed situation reports about short-staffing. This government has at least 120 full-time lean promoters. They're spending tens of millions of dollars on this lean money pit, Mr. Speaker, every year. They're making cuts to the front lines and to seniors' care. Nurses are raising hundreds of alarm bells.

Now I don't know whose idea it was, Mr. Speaker, to cut the resources when it comes to front-line care for Saskatchewan patients and at the same time ramp up spending on more lean professionals, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it was John Black. Maybe this is his \$40 million contract wisdom that the government just took hook, line, and sinker. I don't know, Mr. Speaker, but will the Premier, will he at least admit that it was a mistake to follow his awful advice?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, how the Leader of the Opposition can stand in the House and say that in terms of our health care providers and the number of providers that we have in this province, that the situation is now worse off than it was under the NDP, Mr. Speaker? It's laughable. If it wasn't so serious, Mr. Speaker, of an issue, it would be funny coming from the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, I can go over the numbers. Under the NDP, we had 173 fewer physicians practising in the province. We had almost 500 fewer nurses practising from when they started as

government to when they ended, Mr. Speaker. We had 155 fewer pharmacists in the province. We had nearly 100 fewer physiotherapists in the province, Mr. Speaker.

On all of those counts, the numbers are up. Over 500 additional physicians, nearly 600 physicians practising compared to when this government started, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, more than 3,000 nurses of all designations under this government. Mr. Speaker, when you look at the track record, the track record is clear.

Mr. Speaker, we had a lot of work to clean up from the NDP mess. That work still continues, but we'll certainly stand on our record on this side of the House compared to the members opposite.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, they have unprecedented revenues and they've been spending money, wasting money on this lean project. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, not making sure that the dollars are going to the front lines where they're needed and not giving little children like Kayden Kot the medical care that he needs to do well, Mr. Speaker. They have money for 120 full-time lean promoters, do workshops . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the member from Wood River is talking about potatoes, Mr. Speaker. At a time when we're talking about health care that should be going to families, they're heckling about potatoes, Mr. Speaker. That sums up the approach of this government when it comes to health care needs here in the province, Mr. Speaker, and it's unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, nurses in the province have sounded the alarm bell about short-staffing. They've issued, Mr. Speaker, 870 work situation reports when they've seen problems, when they have seen patient care compromised, when they have seen concerns as professionals, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Premier: what does he have to say to those nurses who filed 870 work situation reports? It better not be about potatoes, and it better not be about John Black saying that lean is the most amazing thing in the world.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take the question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I would say, I would say this: when we had overcrowding in the emergency department in 2001 at the General Hospital here in Regina, this is what the then Health minister had to say, the member from Lakeview, and I quote. This is in *Hansard*, and I quote:

But what I would say is that we know that all across Canada there's a shortage of nurses and that . . . and other staff. We also know in emergency wards right across this country there are peaks and valleys in the requirements.

Mr. Speaker, you know what this side of the House did, what members on this side of the House did, Mr. Speaker? We thought, you know what, we do have a shortage. So let's

actually address the problem; let's set a goal. We set a goal on this side of the House of 800 additional RN positions in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, you know what we've done? We've exceeded that promise, Mr. Speaker, by a couple of hundred.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of all designations for nurses, over 3,000 practising in this province, Mr. Speaker. There is more work to be done. But I think the record would show that if you need that work to be done, don't rely on the members opposite. Rely on this side of the House.

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

Lowering Tobacco Use

Ms. Chartier: — The Cancer Society, the Lung Association, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation say this government is doing a poor job of protecting the public from the harms of tobacco, the leading preventable cause of disease and death in our province.

This government collects about \$275 million in tax revenue from tobacco every year, but it devotes just 450,000 in tobacco control programs. That's the lowest per capita amount in all of Canada at just 40 cents per person. When will this government finally get serious about tackling tobacco use?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government, we have made some moves over the last number of years to reduce people's use of tobacco in the province, Mr. Speaker. We have passed legislation to make it illegal to smoke on school grounds, to smoke in a vehicle with a child under the age of 16 present, to smoke near the entrance of buildings. We also did make a move that I know that groups had been calling for for many years, which was not acted on by the previous government, and that was to limit the amount of tax-exempt tobacco that could be sold in the province, Mr. Speaker. That's, I think, an important initiative that this government has done.

Mr. Speaker, at a time where we have seen the national average for youth smoking be reduced from, I believe, about 12 per cent down to 8 per cent over the term of this government, our rate in Saskatchewan has been reduced from 18 per cent down to 10 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to work with our counterparts, not only in the province, and accept their recommendations. We'll be looking at their recommendations, but as well as our PT [provincial-territorial] partners and the new federal government to see which initiatives that they may be moving on.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Most Saskatchewan people agree that this government should ban smoking in public outdoor spaces such as restaurants and bar patios. They should ban candy-flavoured tobacco products that are targeted at young people, and they should commit to an aggressive, well-funded tobacco reduction

strategy. Why won't the Health minister get on board with the majority of Saskatchewan citizens and just commit to that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again we will continue to work with organizations that are working not only in the province but outside of the province as it relates to providing for recommendations to further improve on tobacco use . . . the reduction of tobacco use in our province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there is some difference in terms of opinions. All you have to do is look even across Western Canada where Alberta has, the government in Alberta has moved on a ban that essentially is much more restricted, as opposed to NDP Manitoba next door to us on the other side that has put in place some exemptions as it relates to menthol, chewing tobacco, and snuff, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the new federal minister has a mandate that does include for bringing in some national legislation as it relates to plain packaging of tobacco. Mr. Speaker, that's something that I wrote to the former Health minister last October of last year. And I look forward to meeting with the new Health minister in January to have further discussions with her on what she may be doing on the national level.

[14:30]

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

Reduction of Carbon Emissions

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday, while he was speaking to reporters in Ottawa, the Premier said that Saskatchewan has a carbon levy for large emitters. To the Environment minister: is that really true, or did the Premier misspeak?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to say that Saskatchewan certainly recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, and that's why we've taken such concrete actions in this province by deploying . . . We heard it here in the last several days, in this Assembly, talking about our carbon capture sequestration down at Boundary dam 3. It's a very important project.

And I'm very happy to hear on Monday SaskPower's announcement that by 2030, we'll be going to 50 per cent renewals. I think that's very important. But I think it's also important to remember that climate change is a global problem, Mr. Speaker. And I think that by focusing on our technological changes that we're developing here in Saskatchewan, that's going to have global ramifications all across this world.

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

Ms. Sproule: — I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the answer to the question. I'm going to try this again. When speaking to reporters in Ottawa yesterday, the Premier said that Saskatchewan has a carbon levy for large emitters. And we want to know from the Environment minister, is that really true or did the Premier misspeak?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been working on several things in the Department of Environment, working on a phased approach to what we're going to do here in Saskatchewan. One of the things that we are working on is the initial phase. Phase 1 is going to be cutting down our emissions from our power plant, and that's why we're working on Boundary dam 3 as well.

We've done a lot of good work here in the province with regards to our low-carbon emissions technology. Over the last . . . since 2007, there's been \$5 billion invested in this province, Mr. Speaker, with regards to low-carbon emissions. And we thank the industry, provincial government, federal government for doing that. Presently, 25 per cent of our power comes from renewables, and certainly by 2030 we're going to increase that to 50 per cent.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier was very clear yesterday. He said that Saskatchewan has a carbon levy for large emitters. Now we know that the Premier and the SaskPower minister have really struggled with using the proper tenses here. They said that the carbon capture project was working when they apparently meant to say that it hopefully will work someday. But it doesn't make sense for the Premier to say that Saskatchewan has a carbon levy for large emitters because we don't. The Sask Party promised to implement one back in 2009, but they have failed to do so.

So again to the Environment minister: why did the Premier say the government has a carbon levy for large emitters when that's not accurate?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Mr. Speaker, we've heard so many times in this House over the past weeks. I would just like to hear the full context of what the Premier said down there before I took the word of what this member opposite is saying because I would need to see what the full context of that was.

One of the things that he did say down in Ottawa last week is that we will not be levying a carbon tax in this province. The present economy in this province and across Western Canada, I don't think we can stand another tax on consumers, another tax on businesses. I would just like to know what that opposition would do. Are they in favour of a carbon tax that would further cripple the economy of this province?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this is coming from a minister who didn't know whether climate change was real, and now he apparently can't read the newspapers to find out what his own Premier is saying in Ottawa. We want this government, we want this government to implement the carbon levy for large emitters. We want the Saskatchewan technology fund implemented which would reinvest that money into green innovation here in Saskatchewan.

What we don't want is for the Premier to fly around making statements that don't match reality about this government's shameful record on climate change. So to the Environment minister: since the Premier has already told the world that we have a carbon levy in place for large emitters, why not do the right thing and finally implement it. It's been six years since they proposed it. Why not finally get the job done?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Mr. Speaker, I really welcome this opportunity to finally set the record straight. And again, we're hearing part of what was said before. I'd just like to clear up what I said on my first interview after I became Environment minister, and had the member opposite heard that transcript or read that transcript since, she would know that my answer to that question was, yes I believe that it was an issue we all should be concerned about as individuals and certainly as government. So the short answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is yes, we believe in climate change and we believe in helping to mitigate the effects that man is having on that climate change.

And I would repeat my question to them: are they in favour of a carbon tax who would further cripple this economy of this province or are they not?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we're going to try this one more time. We've had five Environment ministers who have promised this carbon levy for large emitters. This is the fifth minister to come along, and we want to know whether or not he is going to agree with what the Premier's saying. The Premier says you have a carbon levy. Is that true or did the Premier misspeak?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Mr. Speaker, there's only one way to answer that again: without hearing the full transcript of what the Premier said in Ottawa, I'm not prepared to comment on it. I'm not going to take the word of that member opposite on what was said by the Premier. I would like to see it before I do. Thank you.

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

Costs and Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker.

Setting aside the highly questionable location chosen by this

government for the bypass, my question to the SaskBuilds minister is, will he admit that the capital costs, operation costs, maintenance costs, and rehabilitation costs of the Sask Party's P3 [public-private partnership] rent-a-road bypass scheme is going to cost Saskatchewan taxpayers more than \$100 million than a traditional, straightforward approach?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll answer that question as Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds. Mr. Speaker, this morning we were proud to release the value-for-money report with respect to the Regina bypass, which demonstrates that we will be saving \$380 million to the taxpayers of this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I'll remind the member, who was at a technical briefing this morning, that our auditor has said we have effective practices for evaluating P3s. I'll also remind him, Mr. Speaker, that the auditor said that risks are real when it comes to transfer of risk with respect to these projects.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's amazing to me that this member can continue to play politics with a very, very important infrastructure project, Mr. Speaker. We're going to deliver this bypass on time. We're going to deliver it on budget six years sooner than would otherwise have been done using a traditional approach, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time saving \$380 million for the taxpayers of this province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It was a really straightforward question to that minister. All he had to say was yes, Mr. Speaker.

In that technical briefing this morning, there were question after question that wasn't answered by that minister here today, Mr. Speaker. The fact of the matter is that if you just go to the government's own document, you can see within their numbers there that there is a significant savings for the traditional, straightforward approach, cheaper than the P3 approach. That's what the numbers show, Mr. Speaker.

But the Sask Party is so ideologically bound to the P3 approach that they had to add a \$480 million of what they call risk transfer that they won't define or won't provide the details on, so they could tip the scales in favour of their preferred P3 approach. That doesn't sound like evidence-based decision maker. That sounds like decision-based evidence making, Mr. Speaker.

To the SaskBuilds minister: will he at least admit that the risk calculation is based on a whole lot of assumptions and let us know why he won't publicly release those numbers publicly and why wouldn't he support an independent audit of those numbers? What's he hiding?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'll repeat my answer. We do a detailed risk analysis with respect to these P3 projects, Mr.

Speaker. A significant part of a P3 project is the transfer of risk from the government to the proponent team, Mr. Speaker. Those risks are real, Mr. Speaker. The auditor has said that. The member opposite would be prepared to sit and rely on an audit report out of Ontario without listening — and I know he has respect for the Saskatchewan auditor — without listening to what the Saskatchewan auditor has to say, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this is an important project for the people of Saskatchewan. And in terms of releasing commercially sensitive information, and we explained to him this morning, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, this government will not release commercially sensitive information. When they were in government, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't release commercially sensitive information with respect to traditional projects. We're not going to do it with respect to traditional projects or with respect to our P3 projects.

If it's their position, Mr. Speaker, that commercially sensitive information needs to be released by the government, then he needs to stand up and tell the people of Saskatchewan, tell contractors that contract with the government that he is prepared to release that information if they were the government, Mr. Speaker. I very much suspect that they would be very disappointed with that answer.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,058 through 1,087.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,058 through 1,087.

I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to order the answers to question 1,088.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered a response to question 1,088.

I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,089 through 1,094.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,089 through 1,094.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Trans-Pacific Partnership

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today on a motion before the House and a question before the House that's of significant importance for the province of Saskatchewan, and I speak specifically of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

This was an agreement that was reached by 12 countries who had been members of the TPP [Trans-Pacific Partnership] process. That agreement was assigned, announced on October the 5th, 2015, a deal that's going to be the largest free trade zone in the world, the most comprehensive free trade agreement on the planet, and going to be something that's very important for this province going forward.

The agreement . . . Of course maybe I'll talk a bit about Saskatchewan's reliance on exports. This province, of course, is a very large exporter of goods right around the world, whether that be agricultural products, whether that be potash, whether that be energy products, whether that be other mining-associated commodities. We are very, very dependent on trade. \$35 billion a year of GDP [gross domestic product] is generated by exports each and every year in this province and has been increasing steadily over the last eight years, I might add as well, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the free trade zone that's being created, there's an area of 800 million people, a GDP of \$28.5 trillion of whom and with whom we will be able to trade freely in terms of our export products. We are the most export-reliant province in the country, Mr. Speaker. Last year we exported more than \$25 billion worth of goods to our TPP partners, which was 71 per cent of our province's entire exports.

And the reason this is so important, Mr. Speaker, that Canada be a part of the TPP, is that by not being a part of the TPP . . . There's going to be very significant tariff reductions. Tariff lines are being reduced right across, right across the board for other countries. If we are not a part of the TPP and are not able to trade on that preferential basis, we're going to be left behind and we're going to be at a very, very significant competitive disadvantage with our partners and with our competitors around the world. So it's pivotally important that we actually sign on to this agreement and ratify this agreement as expeditiously as we possibly can.

And that's why we put this motion into the House here today, Mr. Speaker. We want to hopefully speak with one voice as a province. We'll see. It remains to be seen, I guess, but we hope to speak with one voice from this legislature and sending that message to the national government and encouraging them to put the ratification to a vote in parliament as rapidly as they can. So we believe this is very important.

[14:45]

I just want to touch on some of the benefits that we're going to see specifically for Saskatchewan in this agreement. And we're going to see benefits right across the country, in all sectors of the economy, but I'm going to look at kind of Saskatchewan-specific sectors where we're going to see benefits.

Agricultural equipment is a big one. We know that we've had some very, very successful agricultural manufacturers, agricultural equipment manufacturers here in Saskatchewan who have done great work in building their companies, expanding their markets. This is going to give them even more opportunity to do that.

On the harvesters, mowers, and other ag equipment category, tariffs of up to 5 per cent will be eliminated within three years in Vietnam. In Australia and New Zealand, tariffs of up to 5 per cent will be eliminated upon the agreement taking effect. In Malaysia, tariffs of up to 30 per cent will be eliminated within three years. Agricultural equipment manufacturers also believe that thanks to TPP and the benefits the agreement will bring to our agriculture and agri-food producers, they'll sell more equipment here as well, Mr. Speaker.

And in terms of the tariff lines that I had referenced earlier, in terms of the reductions, we're going to see very significant reductions across the board. But we're going to be seeing some very significant reductions in Japan, which is a market that we currently sell into, but a market where we think that we have tremendous opportunity to sell more into. In terms of tariffs on canola oil, these will be eliminated within five years in Japan and in Vietnam as well.

Dried peas will have their tariffs eliminated within two years in Vietnam, and over-quota tariffs eliminated within 10 years in Japan. In Vietnam we'll see tariff elimination of 10 per cent on our honey immediately upon the TPP taking force, which will obviously open up a significant new market for some of our honey producers here in the province. And Japan will eliminate their tariff of 25.5 per cent within seven years on honey as well.

TPP will provide new access for wheat and barley, and of course anybody listening and in this Chamber knows what an important pair of crops those are for Saskatchewan. In Japan, feed barley will be duty free upon the agreement taking effect, while food barley markups will be reduced by 45 per cent within eight years. Wheat producers will see Vietnam's tariffs of up to 5 per cent eliminated once the TPP takes effect as well as Japan's tariff on feed wheat. Japan's markups on food wheat will be reduced by 45 per cent in eight years.

In terms of our beef industry, this will also be substantially benefited by Canada being a member of the TPP. We'll see tariff reductions of 38.5 per cent down to 9 per cent on fresh and frozen beef in the next 15 years in terms of Japan. In terms of Vietnam, they'll be reducing tariffs of up to 31 per cent on fresh and frozen beef within two years.

And also, something that didn't get a whole lot of play I don't think when the agreement was first announced, but the forestry sector is going to be greatly benefited by this. Japan will be eliminating its tariffs of up to 6 per cent, within 15 years, on lumber. Australia will be eliminating its lumber tariffs of up to 5 per cent upon the agreement's entry into force. Brunei's tariffs of up to 20 per cent on lumber will be eliminated upon entry into force.

OSB, oriented strand board, tariffs will be eliminated upon the TPP taking effect in Malaysia, Brunei, Australia, and New Zealand, which is going to be very helpful for our OSB

producers here in Saskatchewan. Japan will be eliminating its OSB tariff within 15 years, opening up a significant new market and giving us a significant advantage in trading into that market from where we sit right now.

And TPP will further ensure that we have our potash industry continuing to be able to export into these countries where we know we sell a lot of potash.

Today in Saskatchewan, even before we benefit from the TPP, one in five jobs depend on international exports, so we need to have this agreement ratified.

And there's other very, very significant and important parts of the agreement in terms of the technical barriers to trade. There's an entire chapter on eliminating technical barriers to trade based on some WTO [World Trade Organization] guidelines in terms of that. But what these are, technical barriers to trade, are essentially . . . They're standards. They are certain things that national governments can put in place to make sure that the health and safety of citizens are protected, and that's important. But they're also on occasion used as a barrier, as a trade impediment to protect domestic industry.

So we're going to see an entire . . . There is an entire chapter. And these TBT [technical barriers to trade] chapters are included in CETA [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement] and Canada-Korea and other free trade agreements as well. So this isn't entirely new, but it is new in terms of our relationship with these 11 countries.

We're going to be seeing a brand new chapter on small- and medium-sized enterprises. We've never actually had an entire chapter in a free trade agreement that's been dedicated to SMEs [small- and medium-sized enterprise] before. We know how important SMEs are. There's about seven and a half million SMEs that are active in Canada, or thereabouts, I believe. This is going to allow those companies who are small- or medium-sized enterprises to have the ability to export and work in the partner countries that we have, and hopefully we're going to be able to use this concept going forward as a part of future free trade agreements. So it's an important and innovative new way of making sure that we can engage all parts of our economy in these trade deals.

The other part of the agreement, there had been criticism in the lead up to the actual announcement of the agreement with regard to supply managed industries. When the agreement came out, I think we actually saw some pretty positive reaction from supply managed industries when they recognized that there was protection for the pillars of supply management and for programs that the Government of Canada had put in place to ensure that supply managed farmers, producers are able to stay whole financially.

So there was a provision that . . . about three and a quarter per cent, I believe, increase in terms of milk, exported milk quota over and above what we produce right now would be allowed into the country. So there'd be some additional opportunity for export into Canada, but for the most part we saw positive reaction from even supply managed industries.

A chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary standards, which are

basically health and safety for agricultural products, what we again, kind of in the lines of the technical barrier to trade chapter, these are often used as . . . or on occasion used as non-tariff barriers to import. By actually having these addressed in the agreement, and they were addressed in CETA and in Canada-Korea and other free trade agreements as well, but having the sanitary and phytosanitary protection will allow for us to have some certainty in terms of the export of our ag products and that we're not going to be facing unfair action, trade action, from partner countries.

Protection on intellectual property, which also we would find I think in other trade agreements and it's often based on . . . It is based on WTO work that had been done, World Trade Organization work that had been done.

A chapter on e-commerce, which is a new thing as well as far as free trade agreements go, that provide protections for those doing commerce on the Internet, protecting of privacy of those that are both engaged in that business and those that participate as consumers. So these are positive things as well.

We saw chapters as well . . . There was about 20 chapters in the agreement. I'm just touching on a few of them. But in terms of labour and environmental standards, ensuring that the countries that are partner to the agreement have appropriate labour and environmental standards.

And this agreement was widely supported. We have . . . I have a list. I'm not going to read all of them, but just right here, 37 letters of support for TPP, many in Saskatchewan: North Saskatoon Business Association, Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, Sask Pork, Canola Council of Canada, Canadian Cattlemen, Saskatchewan Manufacturing Council, Sask Pulse, Sask Cattlemen's Association, Sask Stockgrowers Association, Barley Council of Canada, SaskCanola — I'm just trying to hit on the Saskatchewan-specific ones — but many, many. Wide support right across the spectrum in terms of industry groups and in terms of business organizations.

So this is a deal that's going to be very, very good for Saskatchewan, I think almost unequivocally, unarguably a positive thing for Saskatchewan. Not being a part of this deal would be very bad for Saskatchewan. It would be a very negative thing. We need to . . . Obviously it's not up to us to ratify the agreement, but I think by having this Assembly speak with one voice and encouraging the Government of Canada to ratify this agreement as rapidly as they can will be sending a very important message. And we'll be moving a motion of transmittal in addition to the main motion which I'll be moving shortly.

But I think it would be really positive if we could have that one voice. And we know the NDP had indicated initially that the deal sounded good for Saskatchewan. They indicated shortly after that they needed time to take a look at the agreement, which is fair. The agreement's been, in its entirety, has been publicly available now for nearly a month. The New Zealand government, which is the repository of the agreement, has had it online. It's on the Internet, and the members of the opposition have had a full month to review the agreement in the legal form. The full agreement was basically released on October the 5th as well. It wasn't in its legal framework, but it has been now for

about a month. We're hoping that the NDP will be supporting this, that we can speak with one voice in this legislature and send that one voice to, that message to Ottawa that we need this agreement ratified expeditiously, that Canada needs to be a part of this agreement, that we need to be at that table.

Actually I had a very good discussion with the consul general from the United States this morning as well with regard to this issue amongst others, and the United States is moving full steam ahead. The president had been granted trade promotion authority. I think we'll be seeing a presidential signature on the agreement. There's still a bit of a time frame in terms of congressional approval, but the president said TPA [trade promotion authority] will be lasting until I think the beginning of February.

So this agreement is a very good one for Saskatchewan. It's a very good one for Canada. It's the result of many, many years of, at times, challenging negotiation and trade-offs. But in terms of Saskatchewan, this is unequivocally positive. This is a very good thing for us. And I think it's incumbent on us to speak with that one voice, to send that message to Ottawa, and to have this agreement ratified as quickly as possible.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move the motion:

That this Assembly supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, the largest and most ambitious free trade initiative in history, and calls on the Government of Canada to ratify the finalized agreement at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Immigration:

That this agreement supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, the largest and most ambitious free trade initiative in history, and calls on the Government of Canada to ratify the finalized agreement at the earliest possible opportunity.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into this debate on this motion around the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. And I think I want to start from a perspective where the New Democratic Party and the New Democratic Party governments over many decades in Saskatchewan have always been pro-trade. We've always been a party that's promoting what's happening in Saskatchewan.

We're concerned about getting an open market for Saskatchewan products, and we've always held that perspective. But we've also held the perspective that Saskatchewan citizens deserve the best, they deserve protection, and they deserve careful review of any document. It was very distressing, you know, a few weeks ago when the Minister of Trade for Saskatchewan made the comment about our party saying, "I'm hopeful that they don't say that they need to see the details."

Mr. Speaker, that's changed slightly today, but I think what we

know, what we know is we have a version of this agreement which every single page says at the top of it, "Subject to legal review in English, Spanish, and French for accuracy, clarity, and consistency subject to authentication of English, Spanish, and French versions." Mr. Speaker, what we're dealing with here is a question around what will the finalized agreement be.

We know from our new federal government that they're very much concerned about what this actually means for Canadians, and they are going to take some time to take a very careful look at this document. Because we know that it was rushed at the end to deal with the fact that . . . a number of factors, but one of the key factors was that we were having an election in Canada.

[15:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that we on this side of the House are going to be very careful in how we look at the documents that are here. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to spend some time taking a look at what's here. We need to understand what it is that is . . . the document that's taking place here.

And so, Mr. Speaker, in the very first part of the agreement it sets out who are the parties to this agreement. And so, Mr. Speaker, for the record — because the minister hasn't done this — for the record, the parties to this agreement are: Australia, the Commonwealth government; Brunei Darussalam, the national level of government; Canada, the Government of Canada; Chile, the national level of government; Japan, the Government of Japan; Malaysia, the federal level of government; Mexico, the federal level of government; New Zealand, the national level of government; Peru, the national level of government; Singapore, the national level of government; United States, the federal level of government; and Vietnam, the national level of government.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have an agreement involving 12 parties, and all of these parties have been involved obviously in other agreements and other information. And in the very opening clauses of this agreement it states very succinctly this. It says that this agreement . . . Just give me a second here. This is the very opening page. It says this agreement is going to establish a comprehensive regional agreement, and it's going to cover probably the largest area in the world. It's going to deal with issues of:

. . . economic integration to liberalise trade and investment, bring economic growth and social benefits, create new opportunities for workers and businesses, contribute to raising living standards, benefit consumers, reduce poverty and promote sustainable growth.

That's the very first paragraph of this document. And if you can see there, this is very much a forward-looking document about improving the life for all citizens of all of these countries. And that includes all of us here in the province of Saskatchewan.

So what does it mean that it's going to do that? It also is here to strengthen the bonds of friendship and co-operation between these 12 countries. And it's going to build on the respective rights and obligations under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.

So, Mr. Speaker, on the 15th day of April in 1994, a whole number of countries in the world established an organization called the World Trade Organization. And this organization has dealt with many issues that affect international business, but that it also affects the rights and the benefits for citizens around the country. And so what this Trans-Pacific Partnership does is it builds on the World Trade Organization. And, as we'll see as we go through this document, it builds on the various GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] agreements that deal with very specific issues.

But what also this agreement is to do — and I think it's important we understand the intent of these 12 countries — is that it's also going to recognize the differences in their levels of development and diversity of economies. It's going to strengthen the competitiveness of their businesses in global markets, and it's going to enhance the competitiveness of their economies by promoting opportunities of businesses, including the promoting and the development and strengthening of regional supply chains.

And you know, it's also interesting to look at how carefully things are worded at the front end of a document. And so what this gets to is why these 12 countries are interested in working together. They understand, and they understand that the trade, the regional supply chains throughout this area are crucial for the further economic development of their countries and the further economic development and the further social development of their citizens.

It also states very clearly that this agreement is going to support the growth and development of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises by enhancing their ability to participate in and benefit from the opportunities created by this agreement. Mr. Speaker, I think that's a significant goal, because many of the largest companies in the world that control much of the international trade are in these 12 countries and so they also have a very specific goal of making sure the smaller businesses are going to be able to compete in a worldwide fashion as opposed to just in their local areas.

It's also the goal here to “Establish a predictable legal and commercial framework for trade and investment through mutually advantageous rules.” And so we have these 12 countries and they're going to create some rules that are to their advantage. Obviously this is also taking place within the World Trade Organization and so there'll be discussions about whether they're benefits for trade or restrictions on trade. But the goal is that it should be mutually advantageous at least for the 12 parties to this agreement.

Its also going to “Facilitate regional trade by promoting efficient and transparent customs procedures that reduce cost and ensure predictability for their importers and exporters.” Mr. Speaker, this speaks to the kinds of discussions that arose in many of the bilateral agreements between Canada and US [United States] over 150 years. It also speaks to the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and what's happened between Canada, US, and Mexico. And hopefully there's some recognition that there's still lots of work to do between our southern Saskatchewan border and our Montana and North Dakota, because we still have quite a few procedures that are very, very costly. But maybe this has got some advantages

there. We'll have to find out.

It also emphasizes that it's going to:

Recognise the inherent right to regulate and resolve to preserve the flexibility of the Parties to set legislative and regulatory priorities [so in other words, regulate business also], safeguard public welfare, and protect legitimate public welfare objectives, such as public health, safety, the environment, the conservation of living or non-living exhaustible natural resources, the integrity and stability of the financial system, and public morals.

So we have in here in a very short paragraph an encapsulation of the goals, I think, for all citizens of the earth, that we want to make sure that we're able to preserve this place as a place to live for ourselves, for our children and our grandchildren, and for many, many generations.

And so practically it also has a clause or a recognition that there's an “inherent right to adopt, maintain, or modify health care systems.” In other words there's going to be a recognition that different places may have different kinds of health care systems, but clearly there's a goal to have public health be a benefit right across the board.

Another goal of this agreement is to:

Affirm [in other words, recognize and affirm] that state-owned enterprises can play a legitimate role in the diverse economies of the Parties, while recognizing that the provision of unfair advantages to state-owned enterprises undermines fair and open trade and investment, and resolve to . . . [set up] rules for state-owned enterprises that promote a level playing field with privately owned businesses, [and also with] transparency and [with] sound business practices.

So, Mr. Speaker, that's a topic that we'll get at a little later when we get into some of the chapters and it's one that's, I think, crucial for Saskatchewan and for Canada because we have a number of state-owned enterprises. Probably not as many as some of the other partners in this agreement but we do have some very important state-owned enterprises that play a very legitimate role in our Saskatchewan economy and our Canadian economy.

Another goal of this agreement is to:

Promote high levels of environmental protection, including through effective enforcement of environmental laws, and [also to] further the aims of sustainable development, including through mutually supportive trade and environmental policies and practices.

And this is obviously a question that was being dealt with in question period today around our provincial laws. We maybe have some hope in Canada again that we will work in this area to do some things that are important for not just Saskatchewan and Canada but for the whole country.

We also have a goal in this agreement to:

Protect and enforce labour rights, improve working conditions and living standards, strengthen cooperation and . . . [all of the different countries'] capacity on labour issues.

And there's a specific reference in that clause in that chapter when we get there about the International Labour Organization. And we know the role that that organization played in dealing with some provincial legislation which was held to be unconstitutional, and so this agreement has some direct impact on the ability of provincial legislatures to create labour law. And so I think we need to look pretty carefully at what that means and how it's, once again, part of the protection of workers when they are often in a position where they don't have as much power as the people that they are bargaining with about their jobs.

There's also a whole section in this agreement which goes to promote transparency. In other words, have governments tell us what they're doing, share the information about how they're making decisions, making sure they're using good evidence. It also promotes good governance and the rule of law, and that's clearly what our job is here in this legislature. Also, promoting the elimination of bribery and corruption in trade and investment.

Another section deals with the important work that all of the various authorities and countries are doing to strengthen macroeconomic co-operation, including on exchange rate issues in the appropriate places. And this is a very interesting and good goal, but we obviously feel that in Saskatchewan now, because most often our international trade deals are set out in American funds, or if they're in Canadian funds, there's some kind of a hedging that goes on to make sure there's some protection for our businesses here. It may be that through co-operative work through these 12 countries, we would develop some co-operative ways in dealing with some of the exchange rate issues.

Another section of this agreement recognizes the importance of cultural identity and diversity among and within countries, and that trade and investment can expand opportunities to enrich cultural identity and diversity at home and abroad. And I think that's an important clause for Saskatchewan that we haven't heard much about. But it's about what some people call tribal economies. That's a term that's been used in the last 20 or 30 years, but it's about how people like to do businesses with others that they know.

And so we know that there's international connections among our Canadian or Saskatchewan people. If they know a Saskatchewan person is running a business in Texas, well, you make some connection. But there's also connections in the South Asian community. There's connections within the Chinese diaspora around the world. There's connections within the Jewish community, within the Lebanese community, within the Norwegian community. I can say that myself.

[15:15]

And also this is a recognition that that type of trade is something that needs to be enhanced and promoted. And one of the advantages that we have here in Saskatchewan is that we

have many different cultural backgrounds and many connections around the world and, as we've seen in the last couple of decades, an expanded array of new citizens in Saskatchewan who bring their connections to trade around the world. And clearly one of the poster childs of that kind of expansion is the expansion in the production of lentils here in Saskatchewan through Mr. Al-Katib and his company. That builds on an international business situation with also the cultural identity in trade as an important factor.

Another part of this agreement talks about contributing to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade, and provide a catalyst to broader regional and international co-operation. Mr. Speaker, I think that goal relates to this whole agreement, including the 12 nations that are around the Pacific area. It doesn't include all the Pacific nations but it includes many of them, and I think we would identify that the biggest one not included is China. But what this agreement is saying is that there may be ways that there can be broader regional and international co-operation. And one of the goals in this agreement is to be a base from which to work to build that broader co-operation.

And then there's a clause that basically sets out an agreement to address future trade and investment challenges and opportunities and contribute to the advancing of their respective priorities over time. And, Mr. Speaker, that's a very kind, I think, and generous way of describing dispute resolution. In other words, if we're going to have some disputes — trade disputes — that relate to this agreement, we've got a system whereby those challenges can be dealt with in an orderly fashion. The procedures are set out in advance and they will hopefully resolve those differences as quickly as possible.

Now we as Canadians have quite a bit of experience in dealing with these kinds of issues. Whether it's in the lumber industry where we in Saskatchewan get caught in the international battle between Canada and US around the lumber trade, or obviously the whole issue of automobile manufacture and how that's worked out, the country origin of . . . labelling issue, which is still one that's not totally resolved at this stage. There's a whole number of issues like this that . . . There's an intention here that this particular part of this partnership agreement will address some of those challenges or those conflicts.

And then I think the final area or the final section of the agreement relates to the inclusion of other states that aren't there yet. And so it says the partnership's going to encourage the other states or separate customs territories to join this agreement to enhance the regional economic integration and create the foundations for . . . the foundation of a free trade area of the Asia Pacific. So I think that's an invitation to our neighbours to be included in this particular agreement.

And so as you can see, there's quite a few goals and issues in this document which, as I said before, is still in the process of being finalized. And I think that there's a lot of work to be done on the provincial level, on the national level in Canada, to understand what this means for all of the citizens of Saskatchewan and the citizens of Canada.

And so as a result, the details do matter. The details are important, because how else are we going to understand what it

means for our province? And as I said before, we are always . . . We're the number one trading province in Canada, and that's been the advantage that we've had for many years.

I know that we're all proud of the work that the Romanow government did in establishing STEP [Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership]. And STEP was an organization for trade enhancement, and it's still doing a very good job today in building those connections with our, I guess, buyers or purchasers of our assets around the world. And when that whole organization was brought into place, it was as a result of substantial consultation with the Saskatchewan business community, led by people within the government and very capable civil servants. And ultimately we ended up with an organization that has much government involvement but very substantial private involvement as well.

And that type of perspective is what informs our trade policy here in Saskatchewan. It's that constant discussion going back and forth to make sure that the rules work for our Saskatchewan people, for our Saskatchewan businesses. And we've clearly . . . That came in a time when we had the North American Free Trade Agreement as a given, and what was the rules that we had in North America.

I know that there were, at times, issues that arose in that context that directly affected our Saskatchewan institutions, and we wanted to make sure that there were protections for some of the ways that we organized our utilities, which are still there. We wanted to understand what it meant for our delivery of health care, and we continue to raise those questions as, you know, this whole process moves forward.

And so I think just on those two questions alone, there's much to be said for taking a careful look at this agreement. Because as I said before in the preamble, that clearly the goal right up on . . . The very number one goal is to basically bring economic growth and social benefits, liberalize trade and investment, create new opportunities for workers and businesses, and contribute to raising living standards, benefit consumers, reduce poverty, and promote sustainable growth. And so, Mr. Speaker, those are the fundamental goals, I think, of any good government.

And so practically we need to know what this agreement does to enhance those issues. And it's not just about, how does this benefit our businesses? It's important about that, but it's not just that.

And so let's take a little look at what this agreement is and try to see where some of the positives are and where some of the negatives are. We know that there are 12 countries that are involved in this deal, and I gave you the names earlier. And this agreement, when it's ratified at some point after it's finalized — and clearly that's going to take some time — will create the largest trade zone in the world. It covers North America, South America, Asia, and Australia. Or Australasia, I guess they call that. And it's 800 million people. And clearly that number would jump substantially if China joined in with the group, but still it's 800 million people. And we're quite a small chunk of that coming from Canada, and even a smaller piece coming from Saskatchewan.

The combined gross domestic product of these 12 companies is about \$28.5 trillion, and this is about 40 per cent of the world's economic output. And thus the hyperbole in describing this I think is accurate, because it does affect a very large part of the globe.

One of the key issues for Canada, which wasn't always obvious in the negotiations, related to the automobile industry. The North American Free Trade Agreement, which took some getting used to when it was brought in, had established the fact that sixty-two and a half per cent of a motor vehicle's content had to be local. So if it was made in the States, it would be 62.5; if it was made in Canada it was 62.5. And effectively they worked out ways so cars were built all over North America and South America and Mexico.

This agreement, at whatever time it comes in effect, would reduce that sixty-two and a half per cent to 45 per cent. Now it's been I think about 85 years, or maybe a little less, 80 years since we were producing cars, General Motors cars, in Regina, so it doesn't directly affect us. But I think there may be some businesses in Saskatchewan that provide parts to cars and so this affects our Saskatchewan business as well. I know one business in Saskatchewan that was making some of the sound baffling systems out of our flax straw and that would be affected by this type of an agreement.

Now another factor involved in this particular agreement, and this is a decision made by the previous federal government and we'll have to see how that works out over the longer term, but effectively the Government of Canada, under the previous administration, promised to protect current dairy, chicken, and egg farmer revenues at a cost of \$4.3 billion over 15 years. And also this agreement allows for access to 3.25 per cent of Canada's dairy market and 2.1 per cent of the poultry market. And the numbers sound somewhat small but we know that there are some issues in this area and, when we get to that chapter a little later dealing with some of the agricultural stuff, we will have a chance to see what kinds of things are affected.

Another number here that's important for Canadians is the value, the annual value of Canada's exports of metals and minerals to these 11 countries. And the annual average of money over the years 2012 to 2014, according to numbers provided by the federal government, said that the annual sales or trade amount to these 11 countries was 158.6 billion. And we know, as one of the leading mining jurisdictions in Canada, Saskatchewan, it's a very important part of our business. And the items that are included in that metals and minerals section would be petroleum products, which we have; potash, which we have; precious metal, which we have; iron, which we have; and steel, which we have; aluminum; and I guess we have some nickel. But the aluminum isn't one that we have here in Saskatchewan. So right away one of the key parts of this agreement does affect Saskatchewan.

[15:30]

Now one of the other factors to look at, there's a number of free trade agreements that Canada has with countries on top of this and we know that there are 40 other countries where we have free trade agreements on top of the 11 that are included in this proposed agreement. So it is important. It is a major factor in

what's going on.

Now as we know, this agreement, you know, is in the process of being finalized. It's not there yet. And what always needs to take place is that many different voices take a look at what is going on and register their praise or their concern so that we can understand exactly what the effects are. Unfortunately much of that kind of information wasn't available during the discussions that took place, and so we're at a point where we're having to play catch-up. And I don't think it's appropriate to just sort of jump on and say, oh, we've got to approve everything that's here. We need to ask the important questions because it does affect our Saskatchewan businesses. It does affect our Saskatchewan people.

Does it affect our labour rules? We don't know that for sure yet. We're looking at that. Does it affect our health care? That's an area that we'll get into a little later, but I think there are some major voices being raised in Australia and in New Zealand and the United States and in Canada around some of the patent protection for pharmaceuticals that may or may not have some difficulties for us. What we've known for decades is that the highest price for pharmaceuticals in the world is the United States. And I think they would, many of the people in their health care system would like to get Australian prices or Canadian prices or some other, but this appears maybe to have the other effect, that we'll have similar prices but we'll all be jacking them up rather than dealing with these on a broader basis.

And so we need to understand what that means. We're having a hard enough time in our province with the money that's being allocated to health care to provide for our citizens. And if the trade side of the world is off increasing prices to something that's as important as health care is to our Saskatchewan citizens, then we need to know about that before we jump wholeheartedly into endorsing this. And unfortunately we don't yet have that information. We have much more than we did two or three weeks ago, but we don't have that information yet.

And so what kinds of other issues are here relates to the kinds of longer term issues that are included. And if you think about Saskatchewan industry, I think the minister did list some of the areas where what we produce here will be affected. I'm not sure he mentioned alcohol, but clearly that's one factor. We don't produce autos, but we do produce auto parts.

And clearly agriculture is a big part of this agreement. Beef and pork, that's clearly an area where there can be some advantages for us, especially in opening up or reopening the trade with meat products to Japan. And so we also know that many of the countries on the other side of the Pacific are increasing the amount of beef and pork and chicken that they're eating, and so we can provide a role there as well. But we also know that, as part of this agreement, we have New Zealand and Australia, and they have many strongly held and I think well-held opinions on the production of agricultural products and how they should be traded or sold into these markets. And so it provides some opportunities, but it also provides some interesting questions.

Clearly there's a number of fisheries issues, and we'll get to those when we look at some of the chapters. But we have a substantial amount of fishery products that come from the other

side of the Pacific to North America. And in the same way, we have fish products from Canada that go over the other direction. And how all that works I think is important for some of our freshwater fish marketing that takes place here in the province.

Forestry will once again be an issue, and I think we'll all be looking carefully at the dispute resolution clauses as it relates to the forestry issue.

And then look at heavy industry. Well we're producing a lot of equipment here that's used right around the world. That's part of . . . Dealing with some of the tariffs on that will be a factor.

And then pharmaceuticals. And I guess once again there will be things that are hidden in the details that we need to take a look at.

Now in the discussion and development of this agreement, there were many I guess myths and theories flying around about what actually was happening. And so that is another factor that has to be dealt with as we take a careful look at the wording. What we know is that New Zealand is the holder of the pen in the sense that they have all the documents in their system. And we start with English but we obviously have Spanish and French versions of this as well, and part of the finalization process involves making sure that all of these different pieces come together in a way that works for Canada and for Saskatchewan.

And so it's a bit interesting to review what kinds of things are going to be included in the agreement itself. And what happens is that we know that we're part of Canadian agreements. Our constitution says that the federal government is the level of government that does the negotiating. But clearly many of the areas that are negotiated in the agreement, like this around trade, are subject to provinces coming on board or being part of the discussion or working on various aspects of this. We don't know, from what information we have here, how much our Saskatchewan officials were involved early on in the international discussions. I mean clearly they're more involved now as the documents are more open, and we're all trying to respond to individual businesses and individual questions that arise.

But just to get a breadth, a sense of the breadth of this agreement and how many other places it affects, you just have to go to some of the definitions of the clauses that are going to be used in the agreement itself. And so, you know, you start right off the top and what you recognize is that the first . . . We talked about it earlier but the WTO agreement from Marrakesh in 1994 is where all this starts. But then you go into, well what other parts are affected as well where you have the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation? So that's APEC. You have the central levels of government of all 12 parties. And then you have to go into this agreement and talk about the regional levels of government in quite . . . not all of them but probably about 8 out of the 12 where there are regional governments.

So in Canada, we have provinces and territories. In the States, they have states and territories. In Australia, they have states and sort of national territories. So there's a whole number of other parties that are brought into this and a lot of that gloss, if you could put it that way, or that further explanation is in other places besides the actual agreement. And sometimes some of

the issues that affect us in Saskatchewan are part of that extra layer of how this all works.

Also there's ... important to note that this agreement establishes the Trans-Pacific Partnership Commission, and we'll get to that a little later. But there's another body being created that's going to add to the international discussion.

A further area that they specifically reference is the whole area of customs administration in every jurisdiction, and that's the administration of actually entry and exit from different jurisdictions. And then on top of that is a whole customs duty clause which relates to what kinds of expenses might be there for travel between countries or trading between countries. And so there are many areas there where there's concern.

There's also an issue related to agreeing on the evaluation of products that are transferred over international boundaries, and that relates to the customs valuation agreement. And that then ties back into the taxation issues because we've got some litigation going on, not in Saskatchewan but relating to some of our major Saskatchewan companies right now that specifically relates to the valuation of goods that are transported across international boundaries.

So then we also deal within this agreement something called GATS, G-A-T-S, and that's the General Agreement on Trade in Services. So that's not trade of goods, but it's trade of services or provision of services, so that has to be dealt with.

Then we have the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1994. That's part of the original Marrakesh WTO agreement.

We also then end up having a number of other issues that are dealt with in the definition. And there's an attempt to define terms like preferential tariff treatment, in other words are there special tariffs for certain types of goods or recovered material, so what happens when you put some used parts into a new product, and how that's dealt with and whether it meets some safety standards but also health standards. And there's all kinds of use of recycled material and how those things are dealt with. There's a whole area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

And this looks like it's a bit interesting, but one story I would share, which is kind of a sad story. But it relates to this whole issue of moving goods back and forth across the Pacific. A few years ago, probably about four or five years ago, people around Seattle starting noticing that there were way more mosquitoes in Seattle than there ever had been. And I know from visiting that area regularly that people are now putting screens on their windows where they hadn't for, you know, 50, 60, or 70 years.

And when they started tracking and getting the entomologists to see what kinds of mosquitoes there were there, they discovered that they all happened to come from one of the river basins in China. And so they wondered, well how did this many mosquitoes get here from China?

Well what happened was, when they traced it all back, the whole situation arose I think in Nebraska or Kansas, or in those two states, where a company had collected used tires. They had a huge number of these used tires, and they ended up seeking purchase of these used tires and got a buyer in China. So they

were all loaded on ships and went to China and sat on the docks in one of the port cities, I think near Shanghai, and they were being held in customs or in a brokerage place until the seller was paid. Well unfortunately the seller wasn't paid. So all these tires were sitting there, and they couldn't find another seller and eventually decided to bring them all back. And they brought them all back, unloaded them at the port of Seattle onto an area near, I think it was near Renton. And all of a sudden you had these tires there.

[15:45]

Well it wasn't too long after that that these mosquitoes showed up. And what they figured out was they had come back with the product, with the tires which were to be recycled from China. And so, Mr. Speaker, there is a whole section of this agreement that relates to some of those kinds of issues and how we provide the protections because it does affect many different aspects of how we live. What happens in a modern world is that practically we need to protect our citizens. We need to understand how these citizens are being protected, and we need to do the things that are right.

Also this agreement includes references to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, which is defined as the SCM agreement. That's also an annex to the world trade agreement, and that agreement then gives remedies where somebody has breached the trade deal that's there.

So practically I think there's a few other ones. There's the whole TRIPS [Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights] agreement, which will be referred to a little later, and that relates to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. And that's the one that affects some of the patent medicines. It affects music. It affects writing. It affects all kinds of research that's being done, and that agreement and some of the terms of that whole area are brought into this particular agreement as well.

And so what we have is, as was stated in the preamble, an agreement by these 12 countries within the World Trade Organization agreements, and so how that plays out for our Saskatchewan people becomes an important factor. And so what we do is, we look at how are we going to be affected in Saskatchewan, and once again I think this is where the details matter. And so then you look at what kinds of protections are there. They call it national treatment and market access for goods, in other words, what kinds of things can you have a special condition for that relates to your own country?

And I think this is quite enlightening. We end up once again taking a look at what kinds of things are defined. Well it starts right off the top with advertising films and recordings. And I thought this is kind of interesting because various places in this document, there's a very clear protection for promotional material so that you can go and tell them how good Saskatchewan is or how good Canada is. And I think everybody agrees about that, but sometimes lines can get blurred if it's a way to bypass certain other kinds of restrictions that are there. So they're very careful in how they define this. And so I think that, you know, you look at it, it's a detailed description:

Advertising films and recordings means recorded visual media or audio materials, consisting essentially of images and/or sound, showing the nature or operation of goods or services offered for sale or lease by a person established or resident in the territory of a Party, provided that such materials are of a kind suitable for exhibition to prospective customers but not for broadcast to the general public.

So there's a concern, and I think it's a good concern, about people promoting products but not stepping in and setting up sort of a way to bypass some of the restrictions on the entertainment or the work of artists and singers and others in a country. And I'm not sure if this comes from our Canadian negotiators or from the Australian or New Zealand ones. But this is an area where we as Canadians have been very careful over the last five decades because we are concerned that our Canadian artists — whether they be musicians or visual artists or dance or other — that the work that they do is protected. And we all know examples of blurring between promotional kind of material and artistic material and how that's dealt with, and this is an attempt to try to deal with that.

Then it goes on. Another area where there's maybe some special rules that relate to commercial samples of negligible value. And so this means:

Commercial or trade samples having a value, individually or in an aggregate as shipped, of not more than one U.S. dollar, or the equivalent amount in the currency of another Party or so marked, torn, perforated, or otherwise treated that they are unsuitable for sale or for use except as commercial samples.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that's kind of interesting that if you have a sample that's worth more than \$1, then you better mutilate it in some way to make sure nobody can use it when you are showing people your product in another place. Once again it's a recognition of how carefully people are observing the clauses of this agreement to protect their own businesses but also make it possible for businesses to, you know, sell products in other places.

Then there's another sort of exemption or a specific description which relates to consular transactions. And I used to be the Norwegian consul for a number of years before I was in politics, and so I took a look at this one because it's interesting how, once again, how very specific they get in defining what this is. And so consular transactions means:

Requirements that goods of a Party intended for export to the territory of the other Party must first be submitted to the supervision of the consul of the importing Party in the territory of the exporting Party for the purpose of obtaining consular invoices or consular visas for commercial invoices, certificates of origin, manifests, shippers' export declarations, or any other customs documentation required on or in connection with importation.

So that's a long clause, I think, that means if you want to take your Canadian-style maple furniture to your consular office in Denver, you better take it to the US embassy and get one of

these certificates that allows it to go across the border, or else it won't get across there because there's lots of good maple furniture you can buy in the States for your office. And why wouldn't you do that?

But once again it's a way to make sure that people are discouraged from fooling around at all with using consular bags or consular stamps or consular moving vans to move products between one country and another. And I'm not sure that it's that big an issue between Canada and the US, but it must be in some of the other parts of the 12 nations. But here it is. It's very clearly spelled out what that is.

In this same section, they also have to define what the word consumed means. And consumed means it's "actually consumed." In other words you ate it or you used it, or it's "further processed or manufactured so as to result in a substantial change in the value, form, or use of the good or in the production of another good."

So this is another interesting clause. How does that relate to us when we will send certain food products or certain other kinds of products that are then incorporated and used in other places? I mean presumably there's people looking at what this means, but it's interesting how carefully this is worded to deal with some of the kinds of products that we will have.

Then there's a couple of other: duty free and goods. Well those are pretty simple definitions. But then there's a clause that specifically defines "goods admitted for sports purposes." So this is an interesting one, but obviously if you're Australia and New Zealand, you want to make sure that you can take your Australian equipment to play rugby in New Zealand and vice versa. So this one says, "sports requisites for use in sports contests, demonstrations or training in the territory of the Party into whose territory such goods are admitted." So in other words, you can take those kind of goods with you to play the game. The idea is clearly that you take them home again so that you're not selling them in the other jurisdiction.

And then there's a whole definition of the term "goods intended for display or demonstration." And that one's I think fairly straightforward. It's things that are part of displays. Now if somebody wants to bring in some of these things, then you end up having to get import licences, and those import licences are pursuant to an import licensing agreement which is effectively the World Trade Organization Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. And so practically, that's another factor.

I mean these are terms around defining how trade works. But it's important to actually take a look at them because it identifies how I guess careful the people are that are describing what this trade is. Now I think an example of this will be when we look at this term, "performance requirement." So the word performance requirement is a defined term, and it means a requirement. And then there are, looks like about 11 different paragraphs. It says a requirement that:

a given level or percentage of goods or services be exported;

[A requirement that] domestic goods or services of the Party granting a waiver of customs duties or an import

license be substituted for imported goods . . .

[A requirement that] a person benefiting from a waiver of customs duties or [a requirement for] an import license purchase other goods or services in the territory of the Party granting the waiver of customs duties or the import license, or accord a preference to domestically . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. There are a number of members that appear that they'd like to enter into the debate. Once the member from Regina Lakeview has concluded his remarks, there will be opportunity for other members to enter the debate. At this time, the member from Regina Lakeview has the floor. I recognize the member.

Mr. Nilson: — So thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was talking about the performance requirement definition which deals with this whole area of national treatment or treatment of protection for national goods and market access for goods and how carefully this is being worded because there is a concern about certain products that are to be traded in this way.

And so then the (d) requirement is that:

a person benefiting from a waiver of customs duties or [a requirement for] an import license produce goods or supply . . . [goods], in the territory of the Party granting the waiver of customs duties or the import license, with a given level or percentage of domestic content.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that one relates to the fact that sometimes there are economic development contracts that are put in place that involve construction of boats or airplanes or very complicated products that require a certain percentage of the product to be from the domestic place, the place where it's actually being assembled. And so this goes back then, a performance requirement could be that in Saskatchewan if we were going to assemble a certain type of vehicle for use up in the Far North or in the desert, that 22 per cent of it had to be produced here locally. And so that could be a performance requirement which would then be part of an import licensing agreement, which would then fit under the World Trade Organization agreement on import licensing and fit into this agreement. But to actually get to that point describing some of these things, it takes a fair bit of description and some very careful wording.

[16:00]

Another performance requirement could be a requirement that "relates in any way [to] the volume or value of imports to the volume or value of exports or to the amount of foreign exchange inflows." So that's another example where a certain amount of Saskatchewan wheat maybe could go to a country provided that we bought an equivalent amount, either value or volume, of oranges from Mexico. So it's a way of doing trade in different items that therefore sets a specific performance requirement.

But then it goes on and talks about performance requirement means requirement . . . but it doesn't "include a requirement

that the imported good be: subsequently exported." In other words it can be used where it is, or it doesn't require that that imported good be "used as a material in the production of another good that is subsequently exported." Or that it can be that imported good be:

substituted by an identical or similar good used as a material in the production of another good which is subsequently exported; or

[is] substituted by an identical or similar good that is subsequently exported.

So in other words, they're once again trying to protect the national or the local situation.

So basically it's protection of our Canadian situation, our Canadian producers. And so how some of these kinds of agreements are entered into will be absolutely crucial in the further use of this agreement. And that's why I think the discussion is subject to legal review, and it's subject to authentication in English, Spanish, and French of the actual wording of the agreement.

Now another definition, and I think luckily it might be the last one, is "printed advertising materials." And this:

. . . means those goods classified in Chapter 49 [we haven't got to 49; we won't get there for a while] of the Harmonized System, including brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, trade catalogues, yearbooks published by trade associations, tourist promotional materials and posters, that are used to promote, publicise or advertise a good or service, are essentially intended to advertise a good or service, and are supplied free of charge.

In other words, you can do all that kind of promotional material as long as you're not charging money for it and therefore competing or selling some published book, whether it's a brochure or a magazine or something like that.

Now then, this whole section gets into the national treatment. And so in other words all these definitions that we've been looking at are now used in a clause that says that nations have certain rights to protect some of their businesses. It also then is used to talk about the elimination of customs duties and also certain places where you waive customs duties.

Now there's a clause that I think is maybe standard in some of the international trade clauses, but it relates to an area where you don't necessarily always think that trade agreements apply, and that's about goods that are re-entered after repair or alteration. And basically it says you can't apply a customs duty on a good that's sent back to its original place to get fixed and then brought back.

So I think that's probably a fairly practical one, but it's interesting that, you know, you spend half a page going through very clearly how this is an important factor in trade. So in other words, people are ingenious when it comes to figuring out ways to get around trade rules, and what this document, and why it's so many pages and why there's so much kind of discussion around it, relates to all of these clauses that deal with some

very, very specific things.

And then, you know, further on it goes on then to describe the commercial samples issue we talked about, and then also the temporary admission of goods, which includes sports equipment and other things like that.

Now another sort of factor that seems obvious but is spelled out in great detail in this agreement relates to the fact that if you are transporting your goods or samples or equipment or whatever that's brought in duty free or with an exempt tariff exemption and they're located on a pallet or in some kind of a box, the company or the country where those items are going can't charge duty on the pallet or on the box.

And I mean clearly these are clauses that relate to situations that have arisen, and people are going to make sure that nobody messes around with the intent, the general intent, which is to encourage trade, in other words encourage promotion, encourage the use of products in other jurisdictions.

But when you're actually going to sell those products in those jurisdictions, and so the product remains in another country, then you need to make sure that you're applying for all the appropriate or paying all of the appropriate fees and tariffs that each country might have or might not have.

Just a little bit of a, just an early warning: later in the book there are pages and pages of the percentages of tariffs that apply to specific goods. And that's once again the detail that could very directly affect some of our Saskatchewan businesses. And we need to, you know, to understand and I think businesses need to understand where or when they might get caught.

We've all, after you've been in this kind of a job for a while, have had businesses come to you and say, well I tried to sell a product here or there, and all of a sudden there were some of these rules I didn't know anything about. And those rules are in things like this and that's why taking a careful look at this is extremely important for us as legislators.

Now in this section as well, and we're talking about sort of the national protection or the, you know, specific rights to have national treatment of certain products, there are clearly many points of discussion when products are moved from one place to another. And one of the things that this agreement does is it sets out a process which attempts to get at that, what's sometimes called a poor communication line, so that each country will have people who deal with particular issues. And so here there's a whole page that sets out how you get ad hoc discussions to sort out a particular problem that has arisen.

And then this part further goes on to talk about import and export restrictions. And I think this gets to the heart of what this deal is all about, which is these 12 countries agree to be very open and direct about any time they're going to add import or export restrictions. And in fact they have agreed that they won't do that or that they'll hold or even reduce slightly some of those tariffs that they put if the goods not totally restricted from being imported or exported. And so then again there's some fairly detailed rules around how this information is used.

And it's interesting that one of the very specific clauses that's

mentioned here relates to what they call commercial cryptographic goods. And so they've defined the term "commercial cryptographic goods." And this means:

Any good [so any product] implementing or incorporating cryptography, where the good is not designed or modified specifically for government use and is sold or is otherwise made available to the public.

And so effectively what this is dealing with is the fact that some countries have quite open sale or transfer or trade of cryptographic material, in other words, coding information for whether it's a BlackBerry or it's your computer or your car or whatever. And there's a concern that some of the countries might be allowing for the importation of some of this kind of material without taking into account restrictions that national governments have in preventing the export of that kind of material.

And so I would think this probably comes from Japan and from the United States as a clause where, because they have so many . . . so much of their electronic or their exports do have protections for the intellectual property that involve cryptographic means of protecting it. And so this clause is one there that then says you're not supposed to, or you're not, you know . . . There's a penalty if you start giving out these decoding devices to countries where there may be a possibility of knock-off products being made because they've gotten access to the specific codes in your equipment. And so practically it's once again in this whole national protection area that there's lots of concern around protecting the intellectual property as well as protection of the physical goods.

And I think when you look in a broader way at some of the commentary about this agreement, it's in that whole area where there's substantial concern that basically US law overrides everything else, although we've gotten some, I think, concessions for Canada, but we don't totally know how all that fits. But that's once again for a later chapter. We'll get there yet.

Then we get into the transparency issue which has been referred to a number of times. And basically it's making sure that all the processes around getting importing licences are very open for all of the 12 countries involved. And I'm not sure if that has been an issue up until this time. I assume it has and that there has been secrecy involved in the ways that affect the trade and affect the ability of some of the other competing countries to get involved.

[16:15]

One of the . . . well, the word product isn't right, but one of the institutions that is created out of this whole Trans-Pacific Partnership is a committee on trade in goods. And so there is going to be another interesting international committee for somebody to be part of that will deal with a lot of the problems that are set out in this chapter of protecting the national market or national perspective of various countries. And so then you start looking at where, you know, what kinds of things have we dealt with.

So clearly there's a whole area that relates to goods. And we've

talked a bit about that, and actually a lot of the definitions deal with that. But then we get into a whole area around making sure that each of the parties — so in other words, each of the countries — will make sure that it's open and accessible as it relates to publishing information about a number of different things.

And this is another one which is really quite fascinating, and I'll talk about the first one and then give you an example of why this is absolutely crucial. The first one, and this is Article 2.19, it's called Publication. It says:

Each Party shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner, in order to enable interested parties to become acquainted with them.

And then (a), the first one is, "importation, exportation and transit procedures (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures) and required forms and documents."

So in other words, what they don't want is a country that sets up all its documents and procedures so only their citizens know how to do it, and if anybody else tries to compete, they can't do it. And my story about this one is . . . and it kind of relates to people travelling in and out of countries. Sometimes you don't really know what the forms are. There's not really transparency.

But I had a friend who was travelling in Africa, or actually there were two of them. And they were in an airport, and I think it was in Tanzania, and they were trying to get on the airplane to fly back up to London. And there was a bit of a free-for-all every time a plane came in and by the time they actually figured out what was going on, all the seats were taken. And what was happening is that they were giving all the information in the local language, then five minutes later giving it in English and French and a few other languages. And so the people that were from afar couldn't get there.

Well finally, somebody figured out that maybe the guy that was the announcer might say it in English first if he had a little help. So they gave him some money and the next plane, they announced in English first. They all got on the plane, and then all the others got the announcement and they got there. Well this clause in this agreement relates to a similar issue around ease of import and export and how it affects the ability of businesses to trade or people to be there.

So that was the first one. Then they need to be published in a non-discriminatory, easily accessible manner, all the applied rates of duty and taxes. So in other words, you're not surprised by those kinds of taxes. Also the rules for classification or valuation of products are these ones that are subject to certain rates of customs or duty or not. And also then the laws and regulations and rulings around rules of origin. And I suspect that might be there because of our pool issue with the United States, or it may relate to some other issues in other parts of the other side of the Pacific, but it is a specific one.

And then there's the clause about import, export, or transit restrictions or prohibitions. Well if you don't have a clear and non-discriminatory way to understand what those are, well then you can have a whole load of things going somewhere that then

is totally blocked and therefore is not able to be, you know, traded at all.

And then it goes on to talk then about transparency around fees or around penalties for other things. And then something as simple too as appeal procedures, in other words how do you appeal something when you think you've been treated unfairly.

So I think in that whole world around goods, they've set up a committee that's going to deal with these issues, and then they've set out some rules around some transparency. So then we get in this chapter, the same chapter we're dealing with around national treatment and market access, there's a whole section on agriculture. And clearly this is an area that's important for us here in Saskatchewan.

And so what it starts off by saying that they're going to use the same definition for agricultural goods as in the World Trade Organization agreement on agriculture and that also the term "export subsidy," is going to use that same term as well. But then it goes on, it talks about modern biotechnology. And this has got a very specific definition of this and also the term "products of modern biotechnology." And I think this is one that we need to watch carefully in Saskatchewan. We've got Agribition going on; we know that a big part of the value in the cattle industry and other related industries does relate to the genetics, the different parts that are able to be sold.

So here the definition of modern biotechnology means the application of:

(a) *in vitro* nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (rDNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles, or

(b) fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family,

that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombinant barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection.

So that's a definition of modern biotechnology, which then is a definition to be used in this section on agriculture under national treatment.

Then there's a definition of the products of modern biotechnology, and that means agricultural goods, as well as fish and fish products. And then they say go and look at the term for fish and fish products as defined in chapter 3 of the "Harmonized System," so that's another section of this one. So it's ". . . agricultural goods, as well as fish and fish products, developed using modern biotechnology, but does not include medicines or medical products." So we're going to obviously deal with those in another chapter.

But in agriculture those are the extra terms that are added to this specific agreement on top of what's traditionally been the World Trade Organization definitions. I think it gives us a bit of a hint of what they're trying to deal with in this agreement. And so it is interesting, but it's also I think important that these very specific clauses are dealt with.

And as we all know, sometimes there may be free trade, but

then there are import restrictions or export restrictions. And how those fit in with the actual sale of what the farmer says is what I've produced on my farm can have dramatic effects on our economy here in Saskatchewan or in Canada.

And so then in this section, once again under national treatment, as it relates to agriculture, there's a whole paragraph that says this . . . And let's reflect for Saskatchewan what this means. It says:

Recognizing the ongoing work in the WTO in the area of export competition and that export competition remains a key priority in multilateral negotiations, Parties shall work together in the WTO to develop multilateral disciplines to govern the provision of export credits, export credit guarantees and insurance programs, including disciplines on matters such as transparency, self-financing, and repayment terms.

Now this specifically relates to the export development bank, other kinds of facilities that we've had in Canada in various ways over many years. And what we know is that just south of the border, in the States, that a number of their export development bank provisions expired last year, and all of a sudden people who were quite able to sell much of their product around the world were finding that their customers couldn't buy it because they didn't have that bridging finance.

And so what this clause says is, well we're dealing with that over in the World Trade Organization side; we're not going to try to deal with that specifically in this Trans-Pacific Partnership. But it also is a signal, I think, that they couldn't agree on what to do with this and that's something we need to know more about as Canadians, as Saskatchewan people, because it is very much a part of how we end up selling our products around the world.

So there's a clause that kind of dodges a tough issue by a simple paragraph. They haven't, you know, eliminated the issue or they haven't said they're not going to deal with it, but they're saying to get this agreement to at least to a stage for discussion, we're going to set that issue off to the side.

The next issue under this national treatment is another one that directly relates to us in Saskatchewan, and it's called the Agricultural Export State Trading Enterprises. And it says:

1. The Parties shall work together toward an agreement in the WTO on export state trading enterprises that requires:

(a) the elimination of trade distorting restrictions on the authorization to export agricultural goods;

(b) the elimination of any special financing that a WTO Member grants directly or indirectly to state trading enterprises that export for sale a significant share of the Member's total exports of an agricultural good; and

(c) greater transparency regarding the operation and maintenance of export state trading enterprises.

Now this particular clause was probably one that is targeted at institutions like we used to have, like the Wheat Board, but

there are some other institutions that we have that are like this. I think there are some in some of the other countries, especially countries that are concerned about having their own local supply of food. Often there are state trading companies to make sure that, in a situation of dire need, they actually have the food products in their own country. So once again there's a clause that we need to understand how it relates to what we do in Saskatchewan, what we do in Canada. It has a different meaning in 2015 that it might have had in 2005, but I think it's still important that we understand what this means for options that we might want to set up in our country.

Then the next section under this national treatment relates to export restrictions as it relates to food security, and basically it says that a country can stop the export of food even to their traditional customers. So it would be, I suppose, like us in Saskatchewan in the wintertime, if the United States said, well we have a concern around having enough food in Texas, and we're not going to send any of the citrus fruits north during the winter months. And this, I think, allows that to happen on a temporary basis.

But it's also clear that there's quite a number of rules to specifically look at that question of how you define a crisis in having enough food in your own country and how you then respond. And so this is important as we once again look at how it affects us in Saskatchewan and how it affects us in Canada.

And the rules as it relates to this specific clause go on at quite a length, but they want to make sure that the rule is not being used as a trade-distorting rule. In other words, if it's a humanitarian purpose because you've got people in your own country that are without food, then you can make some restrictions or terminate even some agreements that you might have had. But if you're doing it because you want to force the prices up, or you want to do something other than provide food for people, then there's some dispute. It can go into some of the dispute resolution kinds of clauses.

[16:30]

Now one of the things then that comes out of this section as it relates to agriculture is that these 12 countries are setting up a committee on agricultural trade with representatives for each party. So there's going to be this agricultural trade, and it's kind of a forum where trade's promoted, but it's also monitoring all of these other topics that I've just been talking about to make sure that everybody is treated fairly. And I think that it's a recognition that there's no way, even in a 6,000-page document, that you can anticipate all of the kinds of issues that may arise when you're involved in trade of any kind, but even more specifically when you're involved in trade in agriculture, or as it relates to food.

Now the next section that we'll look at here is around trades of products of modern biotechnology. And we saw the definitions of the terms, and here once again . . . and I think this is maybe new territory, because it hasn't been in other agreements. And so what happens is that they are setting out, I don't know if it would be first draft, but an early draft of how this all would work.

And so practically what it's doing is setting up a forum where

they can identify what they call LLPs [low-level presence]. And that's a whole new term that we're going to probably end up seeing at some point, and basically LLP means low-level presence. And low-level presence is, some examples arise and this is a way for this committee to identify possible issues that are coming up that relate to the specific modern biotechnology issues.

And so what we're really looking at here then is, as I said before, a new area, a new process to deal with some of these products that come from modern biotechnology, and to remind people what that relates to. It's the recombinant DNA. It's some of the gene sort of changes that are made in certain products, and how you end up identifying and dealing with them in a trade area becomes a very big issue.

We know that some of the challenges to our products in Saskatchewan — some of our really important products — does relate to concerns that there have been some sort of use of modern technology to change the nature of some of the products. And the question always becomes, is it manipulation in some way, or is it a natural development that has been identified and developed using good biological evidence?

Clearly our research that we do in Saskatoon with the synchrotron is something that actually does relate to how you can develop new products. And so practically this whole area and this new procedure that's being set up is a procedure that's going to try to deal with some of the genetic issues for food products. Now whether this is fully set out, it's not clear here.

What they say on page 2-25 is that these 12 nations are going to set up a "... working group on products of modern biotechnology under the Committee on Agricultural Trade (Working Group) for information exchange and cooperation on trade-related matters associated with products of modern ... [technology]."

And so this working group's going to be comprised of representatives of all of the parties, so all of the different countries. And they'll be working to try to exchange regulations and policies, information on these issues, including on existing and proposed domestic laws and regulations and policies related to the trade of products of modern technology and to further enhance the co-operation among two or more parties where there is a mutual interest related to the trade of products of modern technology.

And so in some ways this is a bold statement. It's a statement saying we have to understand these LLPs, these low-level — what was the definition again? — low-level presence occurrences. In other words, where is that line? And they've defined on page 2-23 here, 2-23 of this agreement, that for the purpose of section 2:

... LLP occurrence [low-level presence occurrence] means the inadvertent low level presence in a shipment of plants or plant products, except for a plant or plant product that is a medicine or medical product of [recombinant] DNA plant material that is authorized for use in at least one country, but not in the importing country, and if authorized for food use, a food safety assessment has been based on the Codex Guideline for the Conduct of a Food

Safety Assessment of Food Derived from [recombinant] DNA plants.

So in other words, this goes right to the heart of one of the toughest issues that we end up having to deal with in Saskatchewan as it relates to world trade of food products. And I would hope that our Agriculture minister and Trade minister have been in discussion with the federal government to make sure that somebody from Saskatchewan — or at least has a strong knowledge of our agricultural industry in Saskatchewan — will be part of this working group. Because related to 40 per cent of the market in the world, but in a big part of our market to the west, we want to make sure that we have people that understand Saskatchewan and our agricultural practices involved with this very specific clause.

And once again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an example where you've got, you know, thousands and thousands of words and you end up honing in on a new concept, a new way of doing things which, if it's done in a correct way or a positive way, can have huge benefit for our province. If it's interpreted some other way, it can cause much damage to our economy. And so it's these kinds of things where we're looking for information from our ministers, from our civil service as to where and how people get on to the working group, where and how we have a way to make sure the kinds of science that we have in Saskatchewan can be used as evidence in dealing with this very specific issue.

We're still in this national treatment section, and as you can guess, this is where probably the hottest discussions have taken place over time.

And so I think once again we need to make sure we look at the next area, and the next area is called TRQs [tariff-rate quota]. Lots of acronyms in this business. And so a TRQ is pursuant to Article XIII of GATT 1994. Everybody know what a TRQ is? It's a tariff-rate quota. And practically, once again it's something that affects trade and it affects trade in some fairly direct ways. And so it's important that we actually take a look at and try to understand what they are doing here.

Under the GATT 1994 agreement, there are I guess tariff-rate quotas, TRQs, that are implemented and administered by each state or each country, or each party to this agreement. And those TRQs are set up in a way that are plain, obvious to all of the other parties, all the other countries that are involved in the deal.

And so the point is that there needs to be once again an open and transparent administration of these kinds of things so that people who are producing something, whether it's a farmer or whether it's a miner or whether it's a manufacturer, that they know exactly what kind of hurdles they're going to have to cross as far as the tariffs are, when they export a product into another country.

And so what do we do there? Well we need to make sure in this national area, the whole area of the national treatment, that it's being done in a way that takes into account that we're a pretty small actor as a producer in Saskatchewan compared to some of the big interests in other places.

And so once again our job is to be vigilant. It's to be part of the discussion. It's to be asking questions, making sure that there isn't something that'll happen in this whole area of the TRQs that causes difficulty for us.

So then once again, and I think the key point on the TRQs is just the fact that it has to be very transparent and open as to what happens.

So then the next area that we get into is the national treatment and import and export restrictions. And this is one where we get into the big tables, but I don't think we'll spend a lot of time on the big tables, but you never know. There's some pretty interesting stuff. And what happens is when you're in this section of national treatment, then you have an annex. Okay. So you have the main agreement, and then you have an annex. And so I'm now in annex 2-A for anybody who's online and watching this and trying to follow where we're going. But what it does then do is say okay, each nation, each country, each party to this deal should tell us what kinds of things are going to be affected. And some of them it's sort of obvious; some it's not so obvious. And I'll give you an example.

Basically it gives two general statements. It says "... nothing in this Annex shall affect the rights or obligations of any Party under the WTO Agreement with respect to any measure listed in the Annex." In other words, they're not trying to renegotiate the WTO. It also says that this national treatment and import and export restrictions:

... shall not apply to the continuation, renewal, or amendment made to any law, statute, decree or administrative regulations giving rise to a measure set out in this Annex to the extent that the continuation, renewal, or amendment does not decrease the conformity of the measure listed with ... [national treatment and with import and export restrictions].

So we have those general rules in the annex, and then you go to each of the 12 countries. The first one is Brunei Darusalaam, and basically they have a Customs Order 2006, section 31, and you have to go and look at the Brunei Darusalaam laws to actually find what it is that they're saying that these rules don't apply to.

[16:45]

But the next one is the measures or the things that are important for Canada. And so Canada says that these rules that we've just been talking about for the last half hour, national treatment and import and export restrictions, "shall not apply to (a) the export of logs of all species."

And guess what that's all about? Well we know that Japan for years has wanted to just take the logs to Japan, take the logs from British Columbia and Alberta and Saskatchewan forests to Japan so they can cut them up and use them in the ways that they like to do it over there, taking many jobs out of Western Canada. I think it's also true ... So there's export of logs. I think it also applies from logs from Eastern Canada as well.

Second item, "(b) the export of unprocessed fish pursuant to applicable provincial legislation." Well that relates directly to Saskatchewan. We have freshwater fish produced here. I think

people didn't realize, but often some of our whitefish in Saskatchewan that went to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board in Winnipeg ended up going to China for deboning. And then they'd bring it back and make gefilte fish and then sell it in New York.

You know, it's a very strange kind of transport of a product, but it's a recognition that some of our unprocessed products created can be ... Value can be created in them in other places. And as Canadians, we want to develop as much of that processing here in Saskatchewan. So this is what Canada has said: we don't want lots of unprocessed fish leaving the country without being processed.

And then the next one, it's not entirely clear just from this document, but it says, doesn't apply to "the importation of goods of the prohibited provisions of tariff items 9897.00.00," and then 9898 and 9899 of the schedule of the customs tariff. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't have the customs tariff with me right now. If anybody has a question, maybe I can find it for later.

Then the fourth area is one that once again I think affects us in Saskatchewan. It says the national treatment and import and export restrictions shall not apply to "Canadian excise duties on absolute alcohol, as listed under tariff item 2207.10.90 in Canada's Schedule of Concessions annexed to the Marrakesh Protocol (Schedule V)," Marrakesh Protocol World Trade Agreement from 1994. And for those, that absolute alcohol used in manufacturing under the existing provisions of the *Excise Act* as amended. Now I'm not directly certain exactly what that is, but I know we produce absolute alcohol or we produce alcohol that's used in other situations here in manufacturing, and this relates to that.

Then the next area where these special rules don't apply relates to "the use of ships in the coasting trade of Canada." In other words, we have a special protection for our Canadian sailors as long as those ships are going between Canadian ports.

Anybody who's gone on a cruise out of Vancouver knows that they're very careful to make sure that they go to a US port on that cruise. Or if you take it out of Seattle, well then they're very careful to make sure they go to a Canadian port on that cruise. And the reason is that both in the United States and in Canada, if you're on a ship that goes between two US ports, it needs to be US crew on there. If you're on a Canadian ship that goes between Canadian ports, there has to be Canadian crew. And this rule is a bit unusual ... or it protects Canadian jobs. And the Government of Canada is saying, we're going to protect our Canadian sailors' jobs. And so I mean, I think that's important, but it's another one of those special provisions.

And then the next one, (f) or number six under this category, where these special rules shall not apply, in other words Canada is protecting it, is "the internal sale and distribution of wine and distilled spirits." In other words, Canadians buying Canadian wine and Canadian distilled spirits, there's a protection for those businesses that's spelled out right in this agreement. And given all the discussion from the minister in charge of alcohol, this is another place and another rule that fits or applies to some of the rules that we have here in Saskatchewan under Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

So practically, those are Canada's exemptions. That's the ones that are in this document. Then you go on . . . Well no, there's one more I forgot. There's national treatment "shall not apply to a measure affecting the production, publication, exhibition, or sale of goods that supports the creation, development or accessibility of Canadian artistic expression or content."

So this is a specific protection for our Canadian artists, our singers, our writers, our painters, musicians. And once again, it's something that I think we support and other countries say, oh well we can supply all that kind of thing for you. And other countries — I'm talking about United States — they've got lots to share.

But what we know is that in the Canadian content rules in Canada over the last 45 years have actually changed the number of our citizens who can actually find a career or make money in that area. And so this agreement is protecting that or at least trying to protect that.

And then you go to the next section and it talks about other countries. Interestingly, Chile, the only thing they're concerned about in Chile is that they want to make sure that the Chilean rules relating to imports of used vehicles are not affected. So they must have some strong protections for their local car manufacturer and they want to protect that, or maybe they don't want a bunch of used Hondas coming in from Japan or Canada or whatever.

But then Mexico has some very specific ones, and they go on into descriptions of, I think, pricing of hydrocarbons. I guess I haven't ever travelled to Mexico, but I think their prices for gasoline and other things are substantially less than in either the US or Canada. And it appears what they want to do is protect their pricing structures in Mexico as it relates to gasoline and also to diesel fuel and other petroleum products. Their other protection relates to, they restrict import of used tires and clothes and vehicles. So once again they're not wanting to be a dumping ground I guess for stuff from other places.

Then when you go to Peru, the concerns they have, once again, used clothing and footwear. Peru's got a big shoe industry, and they don't want to have footwear coming from other places. And then also again, used vehicles and used tires and used goods and machinery. So it's interesting to compare.

The United States, they list, and it kind of complements, so the United States says they don't want national treatment or import and export restrictions to apply to, number one — can anybody guess? — export of logs of all species. In other words, they're going to make sure they continue to be in a strong discussion with Canada about logs and lumber going back and forth. And once again the protections that they have under their *Merchant Marine Act* of 1920 and the passenger vessel Act, to the extent those measures were mandatory legislation at the time of the accession of the United States to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades in 1947, have not been amended so as to decrease their conformity. So in other words, once again the point I was making about taking a boat from Seattle where you go to Alaska will end up . . .

So now, then we go and look at Vietnam. And Vietnam is an interesting case as well because they're looking at things that

they want to protect. And one of the things they want to protect is a prohibition on the import of right-hand drive motor vehicles. So obviously they're a left-hand drive country. They don't want any right-hand drive vehicles in their country. And you know it would end up there coming from Australia or New Zealand or China, I guess, is right-hand drive as well. So anyways it's interesting just to look . . . and once again used items. They don't want a lot of used items in Vietnam; maybe they've had enough of things being sent there. And then they also have specific protections around timber from their forests, and they have a big forest industry as well and wooden products.

So then practically, those are the areas I think where there's very specific restrictions of a national nature. And I suspect in the negotiations, it's in those areas that we've just been talking about where there was some of the horse-trading that went on. But those items were politically difficult to deal with, whether it was logs in the United States, or logs in Canada, or obviously cultural protections for Canadians. And they're here, so that's good news.

Then the next area, and it's pages and pages, but it goes into the kinds of changes that are happening around some of the export duties. And you know, there's lots of very specific export duties that are important. And so practically, you end up having to dig out your dictionary to find out what some of these things are, but clearly what they are is local food products and industries that need to be protected or not protected, depending on how they go, and basically also some of the changes that are made.

So now Vietnam and Malaysia, you can go and look at quite a few different items, but the specific kinds of things relate, you know, to a lot of the products I think they must make in their countries. And they're very careful about how they set up their tariff to protect some of that information. But it's interesting because once again it's informative of what local issues, what political issues have arisen in the negotiation of this agreement.

And so if you're in a business in Malaysia, in the palm oil business which becomes, in some ways it's kind of like corn oil is in North America. Palm oil on an international market is one of the cheapest oils, and it's often used in conjunction with other oils. And if you look carefully at some of our products even in Canada, they've got palm oil here and there in ways that you don't even think about. But practically they have various kinds of duties, and obviously it's a way where, because so much of that product is exported, the government can make some money for their government expenses and . . . [inaudible] . . . they do.

So also in Malaysia it's, you know, clearly Malaysia is a country that produces rubber. So a lot of the products they're concerned about are various products made with rubber, whether it's conveyor belts or tires or transmission belts or other kinds of things, and they set up some fairly specific rules around how this should go. And so practically what has happened and what's going on is that we have a very, very, very detailed description of products that we use here in Saskatchewan and then . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. It now being past 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed till 7 p.m. this evening.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of the Economy
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Jennifer Campeau
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

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