



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

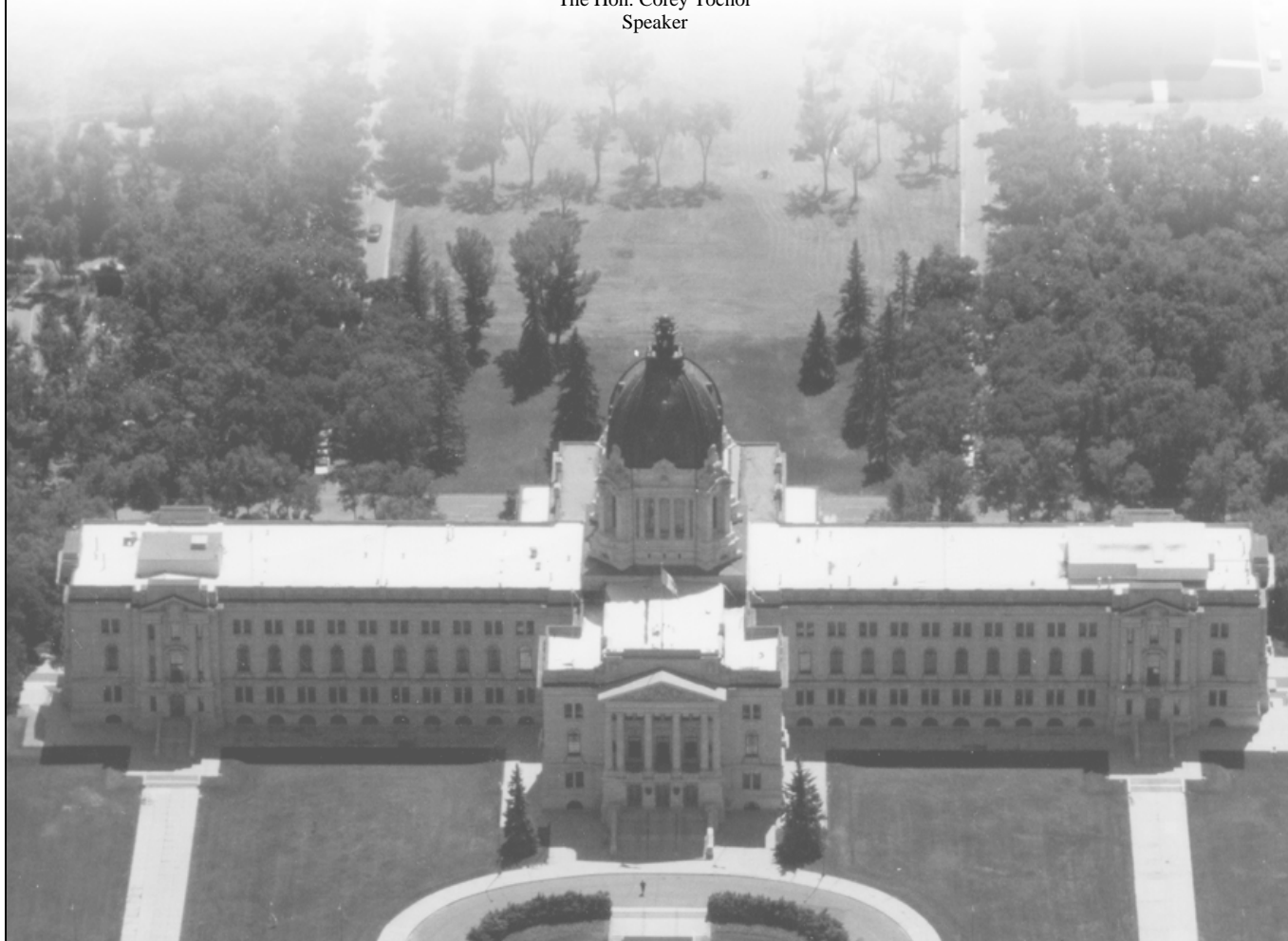
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
1st Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

Beaudry-Mellor, Tina — Regina University (SP)

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Boyd, Hon. Bill — Kindersley (SP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Brkich, Greg — Arm River (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Campeau, Hon. Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

Carr, Lori — Estevan (SP)

Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cox, Hon. Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

D'Autremont, Dan — Cannington (SP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Docherty, Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

Doherty, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

Doke, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

Eyre, Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Heppner, Hon. Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Merriman, Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Parent, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

Phillips, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

Ross, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Tochor, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Wall, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 51; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Maurice Riou

Hansard on the Internet

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/legislative-calendar>

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to report that on your first regular day in the chair there's a school group here from the great city of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. There's two grade 4 classes from O.M. Irwin Middle School in the west gallery. There's 39 students altogether that have joined us today. They're accompanied by their teachers, Karen Schommer and Mark Siemens. Also, educational assistant, I think, Jeanne Myers is here. She's raised a couple of really good football players. I had the pleasure of coaching one of them. Maybe she's wandering over to the Regina Thunder offices later.

They're also joined by a number of chaperones today, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues and they include Kyle McIntyre, Tammy Wilson, Michelle Button, Leah Tait, Carrie Shumaker, Kari Burnett, Treena Davis, Wade Carlson, and Darren Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to welcome, to have these students here from Swift Current. I look forward to meeting them a little bit later on, and I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I seek leave to make an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave to make an extended introduction. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. It is a great privilege and an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly today, someone who has shaped, in a very, very significant way, the very identity of the province and the people of Saskatchewan. And this individual is only now really receiving the acknowledgement and the recognition that is so richly deserved and long overdue, might I add, on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Drake is the designer of the beautiful provincial flag of Saskatchewan. He has joined us today in your gallery, all the way from England — Howden in East Yorkshire, to be precise. With Anthony are his wife, Joan — maybe they could give us a wave as they are introduced — and his son John. Also the Hapanowicz, they're a family from

Hodgeville. Gail, Mirek, and Zabrina are here. Maybe they could also give us a wave. They are hosting the Drakes during their visit to the province of Saskatchewan.

And accompanying them is no stranger to the Assembly, the former member for Wood River and currently a rancher at Glentworth, Saskatchewan, I expect. Lieutenant Colonel retired Yogi Huyghebaert has joined us as well. David Carter, the former Speaker of the House in Alberta, is a family friend of the Hapanowicz as well. And George Tsougrianis is also here. He's from Swift Current; he's someone we know well in our community. And Craig Chaplin, they're actually making a documentary about the Drakes' return to the province of Saskatchewan, as well they might, Mr. Speaker, because this is a story that truly deserves to be told.

It begins when a young, adventurous British couple took teaching jobs in southwest Saskatchewan. First they were in Ponteix. Later their teaching took them to Hodgeville. And that's where the Drakes resided in 1968 when the government of the day announced a competition for a new provincial flag. People were encouraged, Mr. Speaker, to send in their designs, and Anthony took up the challenge with some enthusiasm. He sent in 13 designs, I think. It greatly increased his odds of being selected. I think it's a pretty good strategy. And one of them was chosen from about 4,000 submissions for the flag of the province of Saskatchewan. That flag flies over the entrance to this Legislative Building today.

Two years ago our flag was chosen number one, ironically enough in an Alberta website's power ranking of provincial flags. Someone has a lot of time on their hands. Here's the website's assessment of our flag that I want to share with the Drakes:

Half forest, half wheat fields, striking red flower, and a solid coat of arms near the staff side. Traditional and modern at the same time, creative use of colours, and like no other flag I can think of.

That's what the website had to say; I think sentiments that the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy would certainly agree to.

Mr. Speaker, the Drakes moved back to England in 1969. And until this month I think it's true they had never really seen the flag actually flying in the province of Saskatchewan. That all changed because of Gail, whom I've already introduced. They own the Hodgeville Skool Inn, which I think was the school, formerly the school. It's located in the very school building actually where Anthony and Joan used to teach. Gail did a little bit of research, and she thought it would be a great thing to invite the Drakes for a visit. She's arranged for a three-week tour of southwest Saskatchewan, and we're grateful that the tour included a visit to the Legislative Assembly today.

Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon we're going to convey in a more formal way our gratitude and recognition for the design by Mr. Drake. But let me say again on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan how pleased we are that they are back in Saskatchewan, how grateful we are to the family for hosting them. And I hope that they know that since 1969, when it first flew in the province of Saskatchewan, our flag still flies and

still stands for the hope and opportunity that was present, I'm sure, when they were here in the late 1960s. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome them on behalf of all members of the Assembly to this Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's an honour to join with the Premier to welcome this delegation and this group and to hear some of this story that's being shared here today with Saskatchewan people, someone who's contributed in a rich way to our province and has left a lasting and proud symbol all across the province that we all love. So it's my pleasure to welcome Mr. Anthony Drake; his wife, Joan; his son John; the Hapanowiczzes that are here today as well from Hodgeville; and certainly as well to welcome the hon. member who has served as minister and MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr. Huyghebaert, here today.

This contribution to our province is something, as I say, that's lasting to this day, and the story behind it is a good one.

I hope you enjoy your time here within the province. I wish you well with your travels and with your experiences as you move across the beautiful parts of south Saskatchewan. And I'm just so pleased that you're here to see this lasting symbol in our modern province, something that you've contributed back in 1968. Your many submissions are impressive, and it was chosen in fact, I believe, with over 4,000 submissions at that time. So it's my honour to join with the Premier and welcome this very fine couple and other leaders within our community and our province here today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to give a special welcome to a young lady who is part of the school group from Swift Current. Jorja Wilson joins us here today with her mom, Tammy. I am told Jorja is a remarkable young dancer, and she is also the niece of one of my senior ministry officials. Jorja, can you give us a wave? There we go. Please help me, all, in welcoming Jorja here to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a fine group of students from Parkland College in Yorkton. With them is instructor Linda Banga — Linda, have a wave — and coordinator Linda Heshka. Students with them today are Brianna Brass, Vernon Musqua, Leslie Strongquill, Desiree Danyluk, Haley Makelki, Tearra Neudorf, Vanessa Cote, Brian Derbowka, John McLeod, and Jasmine Pachal. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to help me welcome these fine students from Yorkton to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr.

Speaker. It's with great pleasure, through you and to all members, I'd like to welcome Ms. Nydia Pobran who is seated in the west gallery. Nydia, if you want to give us a wave. She's a good friend and someone who encouraged me to take an interest in politics at an early age. She's someone who has had an outstanding career in education in our province as a teacher, a principal, and an educational consultant.

Nydia and her late husband, Orest, were known as community builders in the town of Hafford. They started the annual Hafford Polkafest many, many years ago that continues on to this day. She now makes her home in Peachland, British Columbia and is here to . . . She witnessed the Speech from the Throne yesterday and is here to see her daughter Shelly, and Mike and family. So I'd ask all members to help me introduce Nydia Pobran and welcome her to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the House, the following people seated in the west gallery: Glen and Theresa Harrison — give a wave — Theresa's mother, Mary Woloshyn; and Theresa's sister, Donna Woloshyn.

These are guests and long-time personal friends of our new Sergeant-at-Arms and his family, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you, I would also like to welcome one of our guests in the west gallery. And she was just introduced by the member opposite, but I'd like to say hello to my friend, Donna Woloshyn, who, the Assembly should know, had a very long and distinguished career in education, particularly in literacy. Her work has been I think recognized throughout the province. So just on behalf of everyone here, let's welcome Donna to her Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce one of my long-term friends living in Regina Pasqua. He's a very good personality, very good volunteer, Murray Carswell. I would like to welcome him into his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition to improve PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] coverage for all Saskatchewan workers. The petitioners point out that post-traumatic stress disorder can severely impact the lives of Saskatchewan workers. And they're simply asking that all Saskatchewan workers, if they experience traumatic events on the job and receive a diagnosis after that of PTSD, that it be presumed that the traumatic events caused it

and that they be covered under Workers' Comp. 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 Saskatchewan government to make the necessary changes to ensure that if Saskatchewan workers are exposed to traumatic events on the job and are then diagnosed with PTSD, it is presumed to be caused by the worker's employment, and the worker will subsequently be covered under Workers' Compensation and receive the same benefits as others with work-related injuries.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Regina and Saskatoon. I so submit.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of funding heritage languages here in Saskatchewan. And we know and we're disappointed that after 25 years the Government of Saskatchewan is discontinuing all support for heritage language learning in Saskatchewan. Since 1991 heritage language schools have depended on this modest funding from the Ministry of Education to help sustain their programs. But as a result of the announcement by the Ministry of Education, many of these non-profit heritage language schools will be faced with a difficult decision of whether they can continue to operate.

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:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to reconsider this decision and restore funding for the heritage language education in Saskatchewan heritage language schools.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Keeping Saskatchewan Strong

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to thank the people of Saskatchewan for the opportunity they gave to us on April the 4th. Each one of us elected to this House are here because our constituents entrusted us to lead, to serve, and to help this province grow and prosper. It is now our

role to represent our constituents with integrity and humility. Both sides of the House have been given this great opportunity to serve the people of this great province, and we certainly do not take the task lightly.

Mr. Speaker, over the past eight years, we have seen the expanded diversification of our economy and of our resources. Saskatchewan is no longer the place to be from; it is a place to be. No longer is luggage the go-to graduation present, and our goal is to keep it that way.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the people of this province that each member on this side of the House will stand up for Saskatchewan's interests. We will create the space and freedom for growth, and we will continue to promote what Saskatchewan is doing all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the hard-working people of Saskatchewan who have grown this province, their government is now ready to get to work keeping Saskatchewan strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Role of the Official Opposition

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as we gather here on Treaty 4 territory to kick off this twenty-eighth Legislative Assembly, I want to welcome all members that have earned the trust to serve in this Assembly. It is an honour and a responsibility.

And I want to share that our team in the official opposition is ready to get down to work. Our team is a strong and diverse team of MLAs that will serve with distinction and purpose, collectively building a small but mighty official opposition. We are ready to do all we can for Saskatchewan people in the province that we all love.

Our caucus has also made some important history with the team that's been elected — 50 per cent women. It's so important to make sure that women's voices are heard here in this Assembly, and I am proud to be part of the first caucus with gender parity in this province's history. That's something we can all celebrate.

So, Mr. Speaker, although the results from the election weren't what we were hoping for, our team in the official opposition is committed to being a strong, effective opposition that works for and with all Saskatchewan people. We'll not only oppose, but we'll propose as well. And when government works in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan, they'll find a partner in us. When, however, they do not, our team will stand strong, hold the government to account, and stand up for what matters to Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Fort McMurray Fire

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just two weeks ago, we all watched in shock as we saw portions of the city of Fort McMurray being consumed by flames. And as we see and hear

on the news each day, the battle for Fort McMurray continues.

Mr. Speaker, we know well the effects of forest fires. It was only last summer when fires threatened some of our northern communities and our own citizens were faced with the impossible situation of having to leave everything to escape to safety.

Fort McMurray is a city made up of people from all across our great country and they have shown great strength in the midst of immense challenges. The evacuation led to an outpouring of support from across Canada where finances and supplies poured in to assist those in need. Besides financial resources, our government offered wildfire specialists and has support responding as needed.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to thank the emergency personnel, who in some cases literally watched their own homes burn as they worked to save their city and keep people safe. They are true heroes.

My constituency office became a drop-off location for donations where many have opened their hearts, reached out and helped over 100 families who were forced to evacuate. Hotels have given rooms. Stores donated needed supplies. Businesses stepped up, and Lakeland College has offered free accommodation for families.

Mr. Speaker, Lloydminster and all of Saskatchewan stands with the people of Fort Mac, and I ask that all members would join me in offering our support as they start the complicated process of rebuilding. Thank you.

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

Broadcaster Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in the House to recognize Vic Dubois of Saskatoon, a good friend of many of us here in the House and a very familiar voice in Saskatoon, now being recognized through his remarkable contributions to broadcasting in Saskatoon. Earlier this month, Vic was inducted into the Saskatchewan Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.

Vic has worked for many years as the general manager of Saskatoon Media Group limited, which runs 98 COOL FM, 92.9 The Bull, and CJWW radio stations, along with the Saskatoonhomepage.ca news site. Every day, thousands of Saskatoon area residents tune into the radio network that he helped build from one small station into a large network of news, music, and information.

But Vic's contributions to Saskatoon aren't limited to radio. He's always taken the time to give back to his community. Vic currently is a director with the Saskatoon Rotary Club and president of CJWW Denny Carr Secret Santa Foundation. Recognizing his outstanding volunteerism, Vic has previously received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal and the city of Saskatoon Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Vic

Dubois on this most recent and very well-deserved award, and in thanking him for his many years of leadership through business, volunteerism, and his continued presence on the airwaves of Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

Unveiling of the Legislative Building Dome

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to speak about the unveiling of the legislature dome. On Monday, May 16, the public gathered outside the legislature to watch the unveiling of the newly restored dome. Since undergoing its restoration project in 2013, the dome has been covered as repairs to its limestone, mortar, and copper roof took place.

The iconic dome is Saskatchewan's most recognizable landmark, and also one of its oldest. It is within the halls of this building that some of the most important historic events have occurred, including the introduction of legislation that has shaped the economic and social fabric of our province. Since its grand opening in 1912, the building has hosted kings and queens, heads of state, but most importantly it has welcomed thousands of Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons and many others, our government was proud to undertake a restoration project to bring the dome back into original shape. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the many men and women who made this restoration a reality. Now the dome will continue to stand tall into the future and withstand those Prairie winters. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Adoption of the Saskatchewan Flag

Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 22nd, 1969, the Saskatchewan flag was officially dedicated during a ceremony in this Chamber. The flag was chosen over 4,000 designs which were submitted in a contest. A committee worked to reduce this list from 4,000 down to 11 prizewinners. The committee made two further reductions before one flag received the majority of the committee votes.

That flag is the one we see here today, proudly flown atop this building and in countless other buildings in this province, Mr. Speaker. Anthony Drake, who is seated in the gallery, designed our provincial flag as part of the competition, leaving his mark on our province in a historic way. The flag has four symbolic elements: the green, representing the northern forests; the yellow, representing the southern wheat fields; our province's official flower, the western red lily; and our province's shield of arms. This basic design has grown into a symbol of provincial pride.

While debating the official adoption of the flag in 1969, the Hon. C.P. MacDonald said, and I quote:

It is the kind of flag I think does represent Saskatchewan. And I think that it will be accepted over a period of time and in the years ahead to be a flag that all people of

Saskatchewan can well be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our flag and the history of our province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from P.A. Carlton.

Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipient

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 26 I had the pleasure of attending the annual presentation of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medals presented by Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

The volunteer medal is a provincial expression of gratitude and thanks to those that go above and beyond in our communities. I congratulate all of this year's recipients and would like to offer a special congratulation to my constituent, Dale Ebert.

Mr. Speaker, Dale is an active member in our community. If there is a board or committee to sit on, Dale has sat on it. Over the years Dale has been heavily involved with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, acting as president, member, chairperson for many of the school division committees. And it doesn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. Other organizations Dale has been involved in include the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, victim services, the Lions Club, KIN Enterprises, the Wakaw curling club as an executive, and as an active member with the Knights of Columbus since 1961. Dale's passion for volunteering is evident, as his lengthy service list spans local, provincial, and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members of the House to join me in congratulating Dale and the other recipients of this year's Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Wildfire Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start by congratulating the Premier and his government on re-election, and welcome them back to this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks Saskatchewan people, along with all Canadians, have been watching recent events in Fort McMurray very closely. As always, Saskatchewan people have opened their hearts and their wallets for the Red Cross. I'd like to thank the Premier and the government for their donation to the Red Cross, as well as for their work and all they've done working with Premier Notley and fighting those fires on the Alberta side of the border.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the fire is near our border, putting our province at risk. Can the Premier update this House on what steps the government is taking to protect lives and property here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. And first, Mr. Speaker, if I may, I want to also congratulate him on his new role in this place as Leader of the Opposition. And through him if I may, Mr. Speaker, and through you to all the members opposite, congratulate them on their re-election.

Mr. Speaker, we have been obviously very engaged as a province, but certainly as a government, in terms of the terrible and horrific fires that have really devastated the Fort McMurray area. And, Mr. Speaker, our officials have been not only monitoring the situation as regards the Saskatchewan border and for a while, at least, the community of La Loche, which would have been nearest certainly to some of the original areas of the main fire, I would say. But, Mr. Speaker, we've also been reaching out to help, to assist, and the Leader of the Opposition has already acknowledged that.

Our officials in wildfire management are preparing and are prepared for every possible contingency. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, we are very well served — I know as the member would agree — by the amazing women and men in wildfire branch, but across the different ministries that are ready to respond to incidents like this.

I can tell the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP [New Democratic Party] if I may as well, that we have, after the review from the fires in our own province last year, we've made, I think, a number of improvements in terms of fire fighting policy, in terms of more resources for training on our side of the border, and we're going to continue to monitor the situation very carefully and be ready to respond as needed.

The Speaker: — I recognize Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you to the Premier for the update. It's certainly a very important matter to Saskatchewan people.

[14:00]

I know that firefighters on the ground and in the air are doing their very best to protect communities all across Saskatchewan. Bringing those firefighters and aircraft back, bringing them back early was the right thing to do, but we need more than one-off solutions to forest fire management.

One thing the government can do to help those firefighters and those on the front lines is to restore funding, funding that has been cut in five of the last six budgets by this government.

With almost all of Saskatchewan already rated at either high or extreme risk of wildfire, will this government restore the \$50 million that's been cut from wildfire management since 2009? Not just for this year, but so we can plan ahead and protect for next year and years to come.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the manner in which we budget for wildfire management in the province last year and referenced by the member opposite is very similar to what the previous NDP government did in Saskatchewan. And I hope the member would agree that though that same model was used

even last year, that the response from the province was certainly adequate to the task. Obviously there are always lessons to be learned, but I want to say that the resources, the women and men of the wildfire branch and all those who responded on behalf of the province and their agencies last year did an exemplary job. And I think the review post the fire indicated that there would be some consensus around that.

However, the question is a good one. And I can tell the hon. member that, as a result of improvements we've made because of last year's event and because of consultation with those who were fighting the fire, those who responded, and those municipal leaders, we are . . . Government Relations will expand the civil response, civil service response team — that's the CSRT that was deployed.

The Environment ministry has thinned and removed vegetation in 15 locations to reduce wildfire hazards. We have eliminated a 20-kilometre buffer zone that has been requested by members opposite and community leaders, hired eight additional firefighting crews in northern communities, reviewed the process of evacuation roles between the province and local authorities, improved training capacity, purchased new equipment. We're upgrading weather stations, Mr. Speaker. We want to be ready for any event, not just this year as the Leader of the Opposition has said, but for years to come.

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

Tabling of Budget

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's just a couple days after the government shone a little bit of light on a portion of the dome. So it would be nice if the Premier and that government would shine just a little bit more light on their budget, a budget that's been hidden from Saskatchewan people.

While the Premier throws out words like transformational change, the people running our kids' classrooms are desperately trying to get details and the supports they need to do their jobs. School boards are left in the dark. Saskatchewan teachers and educational assistants don't know if they'll have jobs next year, and parents don't know just how much more those classrooms will grow for their kids.

Does the Premier acknowledge the damage he's causing by delaying this budget till into June?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very important to correct for the record that the budget will not have to wait until the end of June. The budget will be tabled on the 1st of June. And in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, the money continues to flow as it has on occasions in the past history of the province where the budget has come after the actual fiscal year-end.

We make sure that there are resources flowing and appropriately provided to third parties who are providing those resources, Mr. Speaker. We will be tabling the budget on the 1st of June and it'll be consistent with what we committed to in the election campaign. It'll be consistent with, in a general sense,

certainly with the third-quarter report which was released just prior to the provincial election, and it'll be consistent with our plan to work to keep the province strong. That means focusing on the economy, the number one priority for Saskatchewan people.

It will also mean keeping the province's finances strong. I'm happy to report for members of the House that Saskatchewan today enjoys a AAA credit rating, in part because of the management that we've been able to provide and good fortune we've had as a government. And it's our intent to ensure the finances of Saskatchewan are strong and that high-quality public services are delivered to Saskatchewan people.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, one of the sectors that lost the most jobs, tragically, is Education. StatsCan reported there were 5,200 fewer jobs year over year — 5,200 jobs lost.

Despite the rhetoric, conditions in the classroom have simply not been a priority for this government. Schools have been making do with less and teachers are doing all they can to minimize the impacts on our kids, but they are at a tipping point.

Will the minister stop putting the government's financial problems on the backs of our kids and will he commit to ensuring that class sizes stop climbing so that our kids can get the attention, the help, and the education that they deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question and want to congratulate her on her appointment to her role as critic for Education and look forward to working with her.

I would like to say to her and to the members opposite that this is a government that believes strongly in the education of the students of our province, and we have in the past supplied resources for that purpose as we'll continue to do that. In fact, Mr. Speaker, under our government the average student size has declined rather than gone up.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've had this type of question before, and I can tell you again, we have increased operating funding by 31 per cent. We've increased capital spending by four times what it was under the NDP.

We've increased child care spaces by 53 per cent. We've increased pre-K [pre-kindergarten] spaces by 104 per cent. We've increased funding for early childhood intervention funding by 40 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we have made a strong commitment to education. We value the students in our province and will continue to ensure that they are funded well.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his response

and I do look forward to working collaboratively where we can to improve education in this province.

However in the discussions that I've been having over the last few weeks and over the last few years, there are many Saskatchewan classrooms that are already overcrowded, and teachers are telling me they can't give the students the one-on-one attention that they need.

With class sizes climbing — and they are climbing — and uncertainty growing, how much longer do schools have to wait for answers? Classrooms will only stay productive places of learning if there is a commitment to invest in our kids today.

Now with so-called transformational change and after eight years of uncertainty, will the minister finally provide a funding model that is adequate, equitable, transparent, and predictable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite raised the issue of the funding formula and the funding model. In response to requests from the school divisions, we undertook a review of the funding model. We engaged Dan Perrins, former deputy to Premier Calvert. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Perrins has travelled around the province. He is in the final stages of doing his work so that we will have a consistent funding model that we believe will satisfy and answer the needs of the divisions across the province.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you as well that we have seen increases in our funding to education each and every year that we've formed government. We have had operating increases in our province since November of 2007 by some 31 per cent. Total funding for pre-K in our province is now nearly \$2 billion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Crisis Services for Prince Albert

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, Sask Party cuts don't end in the classroom. In exactly two weeks the mobile crisis unit in Prince Albert will be forced to cut services during daytime hours. Mr. Speaker, the crisis unit offers essential services like suicide intervention, mental health support, child abuse intervention, and they provide victim counselling in response to unexpected and traumatic events.

In 2015 this government cut \$100,000 of funding from the crisis unit. Mr. Speaker, those cuts mean cuts to services. To the Social Services minister: what is the government's expectation for these cuts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question and welcome her to the House.

Mr. Speaker, the changes that have been made to the Prince Albert mobile crisis unit referenced their support that they provided to the gambling line funding, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, less than 2 per cent of the calls that were received from that line were received by the Prince Albert mobile crisis unit, Mr. Speaker. In fact Prince Albert on average received seven calls a month, whereas Saskatoon received 13 and Regina just over 33.

Mr. Speaker, it made more sense to consolidate that out of the more busier unit, out of Regina where it's about \$242 per call, whereas in Prince Albert it was well over \$1,000 just to answer the call, Mr. Speaker. And as well consolidating the line to one service provider in Regina, that will allow for the introduction of online and texting components in 2016 which will improve the services for everybody across the province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, this government commissioned a mental health plan almost two years ago but has failed to take any actions. In Prince Albert for four long years we have been missing a local representative willing to stand up for the needs of our community. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm here now and I am ready to fight for my community.

In the last year, the demand for mobile crisis services has grown in Prince Albert and, instead of supporting this important work, this government is cutting. Prince Albert is clearly not a priority for this government, and neither is mental health.

When will this government stop ignoring the people of Prince Albert? And when will the minister finally get serious about offering the mental health services that the people of Saskatchewan need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this government has certainly been very involved in investing in Prince Albert and area since this government formed in 2007, Mr. Speaker. A brand new long-term care facility, a brand new Carlton school, Mr. Speaker, in that community.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of mental health we have, yes, provided for the work of a commissioner to look at the mental health and addictions system for this province, Mr. Speaker, but the work has actually begun, Mr. Speaker. In fact we have invested in police and crisis teams starting in Regina and Saskatoon. We've invested in specialized dementia units in this budget, Mr. Speaker. We have provided funding for a hot-spotting program, piloting that in both Regina and Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in fact we have seen a significant number, for example, of psychiatrists practising in Saskatchewan, about a 22 per cent increase in psychiatrists just in the last eight years, Mr. Speaker. So investments have been made on the mental health and addictions side of government. More work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, but I think the past action of this government shows that this is the party that's going to get the work done.

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

Global Transportation Hub

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier and the minister responsible have spent months refusing to answer questions on the ongoing and ever-growing GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal that's wasted millions of dollars, so journalists and Saskatchewan people have resorted to freedom of information requests. But those asking fair questions have been hit with fees that are so massive that a leading expert said that they're clearly intended to deny all access to information.

This outrageous stonewalling is absolutely unacceptable. In the spirit of a new session, will the Premier turn over a new leaf, ensure these basic questions receive fair treatment, and make sure that Saskatchewan's freedom of information Act is respected?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition will know that the decisions with respect to FOI [freedom of information] requests are all dealt with by the appropriate officials in the appropriate ministries, including the determination of an assessment of fees, Mr. Speaker. There's a tremendous amount of fees that go into doing some of these FOI requests, especially, Mr. Speaker, when the requests are significant. And the amount of money that was quoted, Mr. Speaker, with respect to this particular request I think is indicative of the size of the request that was made, Mr. Speaker.

Now, they may not be happy with the amount of the fees that were quoted, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Information and Privacy Commissioner has a role to play in reviewing that assessment. And I would just quote, Mr. Speaker, from the commissioner's report back in 2005 where he said "... the fee regime should promote and encourage applicants to be reasonable and to cooperate with government institutions in defining and clarifying their access requests." So when these requests, Mr. Speaker, are very, very broad, when they include access to thousands and thousands of documents, Mr. Speaker, that require review by officials within the government, Mr. Speaker, it's wholly appropriate and within the legislation, Mr. Speaker, for the government to recover those fees.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Are you telling me that the Premier of Saskatchewan is actually defending, is actually defending, Mr. Speaker, those outrageous fees that are nothing more than a cover-up of that government's scandal, Mr. Speaker? Is the Premier defending and standing with that outrageously obscene answer from the Justice minister? Stand up and provide some answers.

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, the fee schedule that's been

used to calculate the fees required to comply with that access request were actually the same as were in place with the NDP from 1993, Mr. Speaker, and they haven't been changed. And as I've said, Mr. Speaker, it's indicative, the amount is indicative of the size of the request: thousands and thousands of documents which will need to be accessed, which will need to be reviewed and vetted for personal information before they're disclosed, Mr. Speaker.

And I will tell the member opposite — and he should know this — that our fee structure is virtually identical to almost every other province in this country, Mr. Speaker, so we stand by it. If there's a decision that people want to make to have that fee request reviewed, Mr. Speaker, then that's certainly available to them through the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition, and I would remind him to please direct his questions towards the Chair.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that's outrageous answers from the minister. The Premier can try to pretend like there's nothing to see here, but what we're talking about is a scandal that ultimately saw a Crown corporation pay two businessmen three times the estimated value of land. One of these men allegedly rents land to the minister responsible and they allegedly donate to the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. When the businessmen actually flipped the land to the GTH, they made \$11 million.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier really expect the people of Saskatchewan to believe that this is just a coincidence? And if that's his position, why is he hiding the facts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is so much wrong with the preamble to the Leader of the Opposition's question. I want to say to the House and to the Leader of the Opposition that this entire matter has been turned over to the Provincial Auditor for her complete review, including minutes from cabinet, cabinet documents, anything the Provincial Auditor would need to conduct a review and then report back very publicly to the people of Saskatchewan.

Over and above that, when there were concerns about the individuals involved in the transaction side of the issue, the minister of his own volition went to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner wrote, 3 February 2016: "I can state unequivocally that you, the minister, are not in breach of *The Members' Conflict of Interest Act*."

Mr. Speaker, the opposition tried to tell the story just the way they've told it now throughout a very long election campaign. Mr. Speaker, they're trying to do the same thing again. I would encourage him and all members opposite to let the Provincial Auditor do their work. We're going to respect those findings and we await them.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear

that the Premier wants to talk about anything but his GTH land scandal and the budget. In fact in a sneaky and distractive move, he's now even saying that he wants to have a supposed public discussion about selling off SaskTel, just weeks after we've had a provincial election. He's pushing this at the same time he's unwilling to have a public discussion about our finances, our budget, or his GTH land scandal, a scandal where appraisers, community members, and former landowners, including a group of nuns, all know this government's line just doesn't make sense.

So either the government doesn't know the difference between developed and undeveloped land or they're misleading Saskatchewan people. Which is it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're going to have a, I guess, a very sneaky public consultation on transformational change that will take a year and involve all Saskatchewan stakeholders.

And then the reference to SaskTel is interesting. The government came forward and let the media and all the public know that we've asked for a risk analysis to SaskTel as a result of a takeover, and so I guess we're going to have another very, somehow a sneaky but very public discussion involving all the stakeholders of the province of Saskatchewan.

And I guess the trifecta is, the trifecta here today is that we're going to have a very public Provincial Auditor's report into this entire matter. We're going to respect the findings, and the report will be released, Mr. Speaker. The report will be released to the public, and we'll respect the findings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while we're talking about who might have something to hide in this House, I think the Leader of the Opposition should perhaps explain to the rest of the members of the Assembly why or who among his caucus colleagues have signed onto the Leap Manifesto. That's the NDP document that would literally destroy Saskatchewan's economy if it was implemented. It's against oil. It's against modern agriculture. It's against mining.

His Finance critic signed onto the Leap Manifesto and now the Leader of the Opposition, in appointing someone to renew the party, Nicole White, a former candidate, has managed to find another grim leaper to do that work because she signed the Leap Manifesto too, proving, Mr. Speaker, that despite the election, you can't teach an old dogma new tricks.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Who signed on? Not a single one of these MLAs signed on, and you know that, and you had the answers. You know, the arrogance and spin from that Premier is outrageous. The fact though that he's actually defending that minister is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. That minister should no longer be a minister. He should have been canned by that Premier a long time ago, a minister who's presided over scandal after scandal after scandal: smart meters, the carbon capture debacle, GTH land scandal — all that have wasted millions of dollars, wasting dollars.

The fact that this Premier stands by that minister speaks to the culture of his government, Mr. Speaker. Why won't that minister . . . Why won't that Premier can that minister and come clean with Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the most important issue in the province today is the economy. Now we had it publicly reported that his Finance critic, the Finance critic he appointed at least voted, voted for the Leap Manifesto. We note there's a Nicole White who signed onto the Leap Manifesto. That's the Chair of his renewal committee. If that's the case, he should just stand up and condemn the federal NDP Leap Manifesto as it exists today because it runs contrary to everything that's important to the province of Saskatchewan.

And as for the minister, as for the minister, let me just say this: these issues, the ones he just rattled off, were all raised ad nauseam and regularly in this House, as they should be, by members opposite. And then there was an intervening election, and in that election, Mr. Speaker, the member that he's attacking got 70 per cent of the vote of his electors. And there is this day in the Legislative Assembly 50 members on this side and 10 on the other. I think the people of this province have weighed in on not just the issue of appropriate management of the province's finances and files, but also they weighed in on which party has the ability to lead this economy through challenges and indeed keep the province strong, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker: — Order. Order on both sides. Members of the Assembly, pursuant to rule 44, it is your duty at this time to elect a member to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole. I now ask the Clerk to initiate the proceedings.

Clerk: — Members of the Assembly, pursuant to the procedures specified under rule 43(1) and rule 46(4), the following member has declared his intention to stand as a candidate for election as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole Assembly: Mr. Glen Hart, the Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that Mr. Glen Hart, the Hon. Member of the Assembly for Last Mountain-Touchwood, has been elected by acclamation as your Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole. The House will now proceed to Orders of the Day . . . I recognize the member.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to say that I am certainly honoured that the members of this Assembly have placed their trust in me to fulfil another term as Deputy Speaker and to serve them. It is certainly an honour to fulfil that role. And, Mr. Speaker, I think I'd like to make a few comments.

As I said, I thank all the members for placing their trust in me,

but I think I may just make a few comments about our branches of government and the role that each branch plays. The Legislative Assembly is only one branch of the three branches of government that we have that provide the overall government for the people of this province. We have the Executive Council headed by the Premier and Cabinet, and then we have the judiciary, Mr. Speaker. And within the Executive Council, of course the Premier is head of that. The judiciary, we have the Chief Justice.

But as far as the legislative branch, Mr. Speaker, it's providing the officers, led by of course yourself, who are tasked with the responsibility of preserving the integrity of the Legislative Assembly and everything that it stands for. That means making sure that each member has the opportunity to fill the role that they were elected to do and so on. And that is very, very important.

And sometimes the roles, the lines dividing these various branches can get blurred a bit. And, Mr. Speaker, I know you have in the past attended the conferences of presiding officers, and that's something that is discussed and is a concern to all legislatures across Canada. And we have to be very clear that we don't allow those divisions or those divides between the various branches to become too blurred because it doesn't serve the people of the province well. And I think we need to be very conscious about that, and I certainly, I know I will be conscious of that as also you will, Mr. Speaker.

So with those brief comments, Mr. Speaker, I look forward again to serving the members of this Assembly and to the best of my ability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to introduce the motion regarding membership of committees of this Assembly.

The Speaker: — The House Leader has asked leave for discussion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

MOTIONS

Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move by leave:

That the member for Batoche be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of Committees of this Assembly.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That the member for Batoche be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of Committees of this Assembly.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to introduce a motion regarding sessional order.

The Speaker: — The House Leader has asked for leave to introduce the special order. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant leave?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[14:30]

Legislature Sitting Days

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the first session of the twenty-eighth legislature shall be in three periods of sitting, with the following conditions and a revised completion day:

1. The first session shall adjourn at the time of the daily adjournment on Thursday, June 30th, 2016;
2. The sitting days to June 30th, 2016 shall be considered the spring 2016 sessional period;
3. The rules of the parliamentary calendar for the procedures to dispose of any remaining budgetary estimates, budget-related bills, and the final Appropriation bill for the fiscal year 2016-17 budget shall be enforced on June 30th, 2016;
4. Part 3 of this order shall be applied provided the cumulative total for debate on the estimates for the 2016-17 fiscal year is no less than 75 hours;
5. The first session shall convene for a fall 2016 sessional period on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 for 25 sitting days, concluding at the time of the daily adjournment on Wednesday, November 30th, 2016, at which time the first session shall adjourn;
6. Government bills that are not budget related and are introduced during the spring 2016 sessional period shall be considered as specified bills in accordance with rule 34 and shall be subject to the conditions set out in rules 35 and 36 for disposal on the last sitting day of the fall 2016 sessional period;
7. The time spent in consideration of any government bill not concluded during the spring 2016 sessional period shall be carried forward to the fall 2016 sessional period of sittings;
8. The first session shall reconvene on Monday, March 6, 2017 for the spring 2017 sessional period, and the rules of the regular spring period of the parliamentary calendar for the consideration and conditions of disposal of the budgetary estimates, budget related

bills, and the final appropriation bill shall apply; and further, notwithstanding rule 4(4), the completion day of the first session of the twenty-eighth legislature shall be the 29th sitting day after the budget motion for the 2017-18 fiscal period is moved;

9. Any government bill not concluded under part 6 of this order shall continue to be considered a specified bill, and the time spent in consideration of the bill during the spring 2016 sessional period and the fall 2016 sessional period shall be carried forward to the spring 2017 sessional period;
10. Any government bill introduced during the fall of 2016 sessional period shall be considered a specified bill in accordance with rules 34, 35, and 36 and the procedures to complete consideration of the said bill shall be the day prior to the completion day and set out by part 8 of this order; and further

That sessional periods of this order shall not be affected if the Assembly is reconvened at the request of the government or any other time outside the sitting periods established by this order.

I so shall move.

The Speaker: — It is moved by the House Leader, the motion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly that the members will take this as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the first time in this Assembly, humbled that I have an opportunity to represent the constituents of Saskatoon Westview.

Mr. Speaker, today I have an abundance of thank yours that I want to give, and I always think it's a good idea to have your volunteers at the top of that list. First on that list would be my wife of 32 years, Karen Buckingham. Karen has always been my best friend and my biggest supporter. Mr. Speaker, Karen and I have raised three wonderful children, but really at times she has raised those children mostly on her own. I spent time working away from this province on the road due to the lack of

opportunities in this province at that time.

Mr. Speaker, Karen and I have raised three children who now have went on to start successful lives of their own. Our oldest daughter, Deanna, who I am so very proud of, has Down syndrome and yet works full time and is always excited about getting to work. Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that having someone in your home with special needs teaches you things that you otherwise might have never learned. Her naturally optimistic personality is a daily reminder to appreciate the simplest things in life.

Mr. Speaker, our second oldest, Corey, is married to Jade. They have two daughters, Bentley and Hayden. Corey, at 28 years old, is a corporal with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. And, Mr. Speaker, our youngest daughter is Kayla, who is married to Lyndon Block, and they have one daughter, Ava. Kayla is 26 and has successfully received both a certified financial planner and chartered investment manager designations. As proud as I am of their successful careers, I am most proud of my children's greatest accomplishments, my three granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to extend a special thank you to my father, Ervin Buckingham, who is 95 years old and still lives on his own. We have seen this strength and tenacity all through his life. Something he taught us is to always give more to society than you take from it.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of the four boys he raised, I think a couple of the most important characteristics he taught us were to have a good moral compass and a strong work ethic. He also taught us the importance of always being a good person and a good neighbour. My father always taught us how to give a person a helping hand when they are in need.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give thanks to a friend and now colleague, the member for Biggar-Sask Valley. We became friends while I was a councillor with the village of Borden. That friendship has grown over the years as I became mayor and then with his help and guidance, a candidate with the Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give thanks to my campaign team. Without them I am certain that we would not have had an opportunity to represent the constituents of Saskatoon Westview. An integral part of that team, Mr. Speaker, was my campaign manager, Rod Buckingham, who's also my brother. Rod was someone I could trust and helped me build a team that in my mind was second to none. I should also point out that Rod is one of those enviable snowbirds, however he took off most of his winter to help us campaign and build a strong team. I also need to say a thank you to Rod's wife, Marilyn, who spent most of her winter without her husband in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, Rod worked tirelessly with the Saskatchewan Party executive of Saskatoon Westview to build a team in the months leading up to the election. The constituency association executive was critical to providing the building blocks to a successful team.

The members of my executive team were president Kim Groff, vice-president Tim Nolin, treasurer Usman Chaudhry, and

secretary Cornelius Unger, with some help in those duties from Kalle Curson. And I also had a membership Chair, Steven Davies. To the rest of the team of about 60 people that helped us, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mr. Speaker, my election day Chair responsible for getting the vote out was Cameron Scott. Although Cam was not on the team very long before the election, he rose to the occasion like few others could. Thanks, Cam, for having the tenacity to bring it home.

I would also like to thank the Saskatchewan Party team who worked so hard with my team and I, both before and during the last election.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that was a lot of thank yous, and there really are many more to thank that brought me here today. And normally, Mr. Speaker, I would not be long-winded whatsoever, and normally I would be able to wrap up what I needed to say in a couple of minutes. However it is not every day that the Premier of the province of Saskatchewan, and I might say the most popular Premier in Canada, asks you to move the Speech from the Throne. I am truly honoured to have been given this privilege.

Mr. Speaker, when we think of where Saskatchewan is today compared to where it was eight years ago, we need to remember who it was that got us to where we are. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of the original eight Sask Party founders. We need to appreciate the vision they had for this wonderful province, and we need to constantly remind ourselves to never become complacent.

Mr. Speaker, the theme for the Saskatchewan Party government is to keep Saskatchewan strong, and I think that's the message that we need to keep working hard toward every day. Keeping Saskatchewan strong secures a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

The six core growth activities that the Government of Saskatchewan can undertake to foster economic growth and address the challenges of growth have been and will always be to keep investing in the infrastructure required for growth; by training and developing a skilled workforce; to keep ensuring the ongoing competitiveness of Saskatchewan's economy; increased trade, investment, and exports through international engagement; by advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource strengths, particularly through innovation to build the next economy; and by ensuring fiscal responsibility through balanced budgets, lower debt, and smaller, more effective government.

Mr. Speaker, nothing makes me more proud of our Premier than when he says we can always do better. What a humble remark from a leader who has provided us with such a remarkable vision for the future. Our Premier and the Saskatchewan Party government have seen optimism like never before. Saskatchewan has been a have province for every year since the Saskatchewan Party formed government. Let us not forget that Saskatchewan under an NDP government, Mr. Speaker, received equalization payments for 15 of the last 16 years that they were in government.

Mr. Speaker, not that many years ago Saskatchewan was closing schools at an unbelievable rate. Under the government of the NDP, they closed 176 schools and undermined one of the most important building blocks of a successful province.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007 under the Saskatchewan Party government, we have built 40 brand new or replacement schools and have done 25 major school renovations. As we sit here debating today, work is being done on a brand new, joint-use school in Saskatoon Westview. Schools are one of the building blocks of our province's infrastructure and my constituents are seeing this first-hand. Even last week, I attended a meeting about the new school in Hampton Village where you could sense the excitement.

Mr. Speaker, under the previous NDP government, they raised taxes 21 times — quite unbelievable when you consider that that's more than once per year while they were in government. Mr. Speaker, under our Premier and the rest of the Saskatchewan Party government, they reduced property and income tax by record amounts, saving taxpayers billions since 2007. Mr. Speaker, this contrasts to when the NDP were in government where they cut municipal revenue sharing by 500 million. As a previous councillor and mayor, I can tell you that is not how you build strong communities.

Mr. Speaker, this government since 2007 has more than doubled municipal revenue sharing to municipalities from 127 million, when our government was first elected, to 271 million this year. That money was invested in communities right across this province. As a former mayor, my community and I felt the direct benefits of the provincial government putting more money into the hands of the municipalities that needed it.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, another building block of a successful province is job growth, and under the NDP they had the worst job creation record in Canada, behind every other province. It is no surprise that with those numbers, Mr. Speaker, that more than 56,000 people moved out than moved in. Mr. Speaker, when you look at the population and how it has grown by over 132,000 people since 2007, it is not a coincidence that our job creation has increased by almost 70,000 within that time frame. That is about one job per hour since 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on and on about the past and how the NDP weakened our province by closing hospitals, care homes, and losing doctors and nurses. And that list could go on and on and on. But, Mr. Speaker, what I really want to talk about is the future of our province and how we will position ourselves with fiscal prudence and sound investments.

Starting this year and over the next three years, this government will fix more highways through a \$70 million surge in highway repair and maintenance. We will invest 2.7 billion in highways and transportation capital over the next four years. This government will continue to invest in many other important infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and the Regina bypass by using traditional funding models and P3 [public-private partnership]. This will be a record \$3.6 billion investment in important infrastructure by the ministries and Crowns.

Mr. Speaker, I spent many years going back and forth to Alberta like so many others to bring home a paycheque. I am very thankful that Alberta afforded us that opportunity, but I am excited that with the 68,000 jobs that have been created in our province since 2007, we and our children have an opportunity to stay and prosper right here in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan has a diversified economy that helps us adjust to changing conditions and has positioned us very well for the future.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I ran as a candidate in the last election was for a very simple reason: to make sure that there are opportunities now and in the future for all the generations to come. I am proud and humbled to represent Saskatoon Westview, a constituency with such diversity. People from all over the world now call Saskatoon Westview their home and I am honoured to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, this government will work hard to keep Saskatchewan strong. Our Premier and our Saskatchewan Party government have always worked hard to keep their promises. That's why with the Speech from the Throne, read yesterday, we are once again keeping the promises we made during the campaign. This way in the midst of a challenging time in the natural resources sector, we are making sure that we are acting responsibly with a plan to provide high-quality but efficient services, keep spending in check, and keep investing in infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, as I walk up the steps to the legislature that our first premier, Walter Scott, helped create, I can only imagine the vision he had for our province. I am confident that he would be proud of our Premier and the MLAs on both sides of this Assembly that are the elected representatives of this twenty-eighth legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move the following motion, seconded by the member from Estevan:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of this present session.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon Westview and seconded by the member from Estevan:

That a humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon

Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank my Lord and Saviour. Without him, I would not be here today. I am so humbled to have the opportunity to serve the constituents of Estevan during this twenty-eighth sitting of the legislature. Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure you know, none of us got here all on our own, so I'd like to take this occasion to thank some of the people that helped me along the way that have made this possible.

I've been very blessed to have the best family in the world. They have always been there for me and supported me in achieving my goals. My partner Bart who has been by my side every step of the way, over the past couple of years he has worked hard to get the nomination and then to move on to win the election. He never complained as he had to take over some of the household chores which I guess won't be changing any time soon. I'm pretty sure he's going to have to carry on with that. On top of having to be the person who put up all the highway signs or had to move furniture in and out of all of the offices we were moving to during this process, I thank him for not complaining and being there for whatever I asked of him. Our journey is just beginning.

To my parents, Stan and Jolene Wicks, who have given me a strong foundation that has helped shape me into the person I am today. During the nomination process my father was very instrumental in helping me sell memberships. There were times when I just wanted to stay home and put my feet up, but my dad would show up and he would tell me where he had been, who he had visited with, and give me the stack of memberships that he had sold on my behalf. So with that extra motivation, it's what I needed to keep the job going and manage to win the nomination — so thankful for my parents.

To my sister, Lynda Chamney, who has been the biggest cheerleader a girl could ask for, not sure what I would do without her. She's always the first one with words of encouragement when they are needed. She's there with an ear to listen, and most importantly, she always has a home-cooked meal ready at a moment's notice. Thank you, Lynda.

And to my three wonderful children, Miranda, Mercedes, and Wyatt Morstad — they've all grown to be brilliant young individuals who have made me so proud to be their mother. My daughters are both schoolteachers and my son is a farmer. There were times as they were growing up that I would be busy at air

cadets or attending a city council meeting and they would be left to fend for themselves. But they never complained and always supported my activities as I supported theirs. I thank all three of them for supporting me in my endeavours and always helping when asked.

Mr. Speaker, to the constituency and campaign teams that worked so hard on my behalf to ensure we had a successful campaign. Special thanks to those who were there day in and day out: Carmella Mack, Jerry Fichteman, Glen Coles, Theo Bryson, Gale Hilstrom, and Rosalie Story. There were so many other individuals who helped out in so many ways: door knocking, putting up signs, taking down signs, manning the office, or whatever task there was to be done. I cannot name you all, but please know your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and as I mentioned earlier, I did not get here by myself. I needed help and lots of it. So thank you to all who helped in any way.

And, Mr. Speaker, lastly the most important group of all, my constituents. I have been blessed to be born and raised in the constituency of Estevan — the sunshine capital, the energy capital, and even though it's not an official title, I like to call it the volunteer capital. Thank you for having the confidence in me to be your representative for the Estevan constituency. I will do everything I can to ensure I represent you as you would expect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about my constituency a little bit. Estevan area is known for four types of industry: oil, mining, power generation, and agriculture. While currently there are some struggles happening around the energy section that no doubt have a trickle-down effect on the economy of the Estevan constituency as a whole, the people of this constituency are resilient.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for keeping the plight of Saskatchewan's oil and gas workers at top of mind, not only for this province but nationally as well. As the global downturn hit the economy, the Premier was quick to stand up for our province, our workers, and the sector as a whole. As we are all aware, when changes were made to the employment insurance program, it overlooked some of the hardest hit areas, including southern Saskatchewan. Thanks to the tenacity of our Premier, EI [employment insurance] benefits have now been extended and the constituency of Estevan is especially thankful for this.

It makes me wonder why our opposition would support something like the *Leap Manifesto*. By embracing the *Leap Manifesto*, the NDP is calling for nothing less than the shutdown of our province's energy sector. Myself and our government is proud to stand up for our energy industry and the thousands of workers it supports.

We still have lots of positive stuff happening around the Estevan area. Where should I start? The coal industry is a vital part of our province's electricity generation. Thanks in large part to the innovative solutions being developed at Boundary dam's carbon capture sequestration plant, coal can continue to be a major part of Saskatchewan's power generation capacity on an ongoing basis. This technology is attracting attention from around the world as a working solution to help meet

climate targets. Without the solution being developed at Boundary dam, new federal regulations would require a decommissioning of these plants and the loss of thousands of jobs.

Agriculture is also a huge part of Estevan constituency. These men and women are the backbone of our economy and our communities. I might add that since 2008, crop insurance premiums have decreased by 4 per cent while at the same time increasing coverage levels by 43 per cent — as compared to when the NDP was in power, premiums doubled and coverage decreased.

Mr. Speaker, Estevan had the opportunity to host the Western Canada Cup earlier this month. The facility these games were played in would not have been possible without the 5.1 million in funding from the provincial government that went towards building Affinity Place. The facility is more than a hockey rink. It's a gathering place for people in the Estevan constituency. It has been used for fundraising dinners, concerts of many different venues, as well as hosting events like the Western Canada Cup. It houses our library and our arts council. This facility is truly a building for all people and would not have been possible without the help of the Saskatchewan government, so thank you.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Saskatchewan government for working with the Sun Country Health Region to place a CT [computerized tomography] machine in St. Joseph's Hospital.

In conjunction with funding from the community and private donors, this project became a reality. With the placement of this machine, it has not only helped with wait times but has truly helped people of southeast Saskatchewan. Now instead of having to drive into Regina or Saskatoon for the day or sometimes even an overnight trip, they are just a hop, skip, and a jump away from the CT machine right there in their own backyard. This is helping them save travel time as well as saving on gas and maintenance and repairs of their vehicles. Without this outside-the-box idea that was presented to the ministry, this project would not have moved forward. So I thank both the people who brought the idea forward and the co-operation of the ministry to work with the region.

[15:00]

And, Mr. Speaker, in response to the Throne Speech, I'm absolutely delighted to see that the matters we will be working on in the twenty-eighth session of the legislature will be material that will truly help this province continue to move forward in such a meaningful and positive manner. Near and dear to my heart is keeping our young people in Saskatchewan. Not only did this government have the foresight to bring in the graduate retention program a few years ago, but now it plans on improving on the program that is already in place. Students will now be able to use a portion of their graduate retention monies to go towards the down payment of a new home.

I was born and raised in Saskatchewan and chose to raise my family here. Now my children have chosen to take advantage of the graduate retention program and stay in Saskatchewan. Hopefully now they will be able to purchase a new home with

some of the help in this program and start families right here in Saskatchewan.

I'm hoping that gone are the days under the NDP government that you would buy your children luggage for graduation and wish them the best of luck to whichever province it was they decided to move to. Since the graduate retention program came into place, 58,000 graduates have taken advantage of it.

[Applause]

Ms. Carr: — Thank you. That is 58,000 people staying in this beautiful province and 58,000 people who are keeping Saskatchewan strong and helping us move forward together.

Mr. Speaker, another very positive thing I see coming out of this Throne Speech today is the fact that this government is committed to continuing to put money into roads and highways of this province. An additional \$70 million over the next three years will help with repairs and maintenance. This is not a small sum of money that is being dedicated to our roads and highways, but because of the sheer number of roads and highways, it will be spread very thin throughout the province. So we will be focusing on the most vulnerable of roads. It will take time, but we are committed and will continue and will eventually catch up.

And let's not forget about the 2.7 billion that is being committed over the next four years for highways and transportation infrastructure. This is over and above the Regina bypass. This commitment is so important for the future of this amazing province that we live in. As we have grown over the past eight years and will continue to grow into the future, this infrastructure will be necessary to keep the people of our province safe.

And, Mr. Speaker, the last thing I would like to touch on with regards to the Throne Speech today is the initiative that will be put in place to try and help seniors who are making less than \$70,000 a year be able to defer the education portion of their property taxes. These are the people who have built this fantastic province we all live in. It was their hard work and dedication that has made it a place we all call home. If in some small way we can help them live in their homes a little longer or a lot longer than they would have been able to, then we are doing the right thing with this initiative. Having our seniors age in their homes is the best thing for both them and their families. It is proven that they will live longer and healthier lives in home.

The reason I am here in this seat today is because the constituents of Estevan have put their faith in me, that I will serve our constituency with all of the zeal, passion, and earnest that I have. And that is my goal, while ensuring I also take into consideration the needs of the province of Saskatchewan as a whole. In the short time I've had to spend in this remarkable building, I have been amazed by the knowledge, commitment, and kindness of the people who work here. I look forward to the next four years and hope to make my constituency and my province proud.

Mr. Speaker, I would be honoured to second the motion for the Speech from the Throne, and God bless.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it is indeed an honour to be able to rise to my feet today to begin with my comments on the Speech from the Throne and our reply to such. The Speech from the Throne falls short in many, many ways and so, as such, I will bring a motion at the end of my comments to amend it to properly reflect the reality facing Saskatchewan families today.

But before I begin with comments on the Speech from the Throne, I do have some opening comments that I would like to make, Mr. Speaker. And initially, first of all I want to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 territory and indeed the table runner that sits in front of us at the Clerks' Table constantly reminds us of that fact. Treaty 4 was signed in 1874. My home is in Treaty 6 territory in Saskatoon, which was signed in 1876. And those documents and those agreements with the First Nations that live here and lived here at the time and the settlers that were coming in are the basis for the fact that my family has been able to live here in Saskatchewan and succeed as we have.

My people were the settler people. On my father's side, my grandfather homesteaded in 1909, and on my mother's side, my grandfather and his dad came as he was a medical doctor who moved to Saskatchewan to be part of the frontier development and delivered most of the babies in the area at the time along with the help of the midwives. But these are the hardy people that settled here in Saskatchewan as a result of the signing of the treaties, and indeed I feel very grateful for that. We've made our home here and we've been living in Saskatchewan ever since. I got raised on the farm that my grandfather homesteaded at, and moved to Saskatoon in '79 with a view to going to university. But I'm very proud of the roots that my family and my settler family established here, and the values that come along with that. And I've spoken about that in the past here in the Assembly.

It's truly an honour to be re-elected to represent the citizens of Saskatoon Nutana and my constituents, and I'm always humbled by the responsibility that that carries with it in order to properly represent and to bring forward the issues that are important to my constituents. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we all signed the rolls here a couple of days ago and to do that is a very humbling experience as well. I was very humbled to be able to sign the rolls a second time as a re-elected member and incumbent for Saskatoon Nutana, and I don't think that feeling will ever get old. I mean it's an important symbolic gesture that we all make, and there are not very many people in Saskatchewan who have had the opportunity to do that. So it is something that I take very seriously, and every day when we walk into this grand building I think we're all reminded of that. So again I am very thankful and humbled to be able to be here and make these comments and represent my constituents.

And on that note I would like to say a few thanks before I carry on with my comments on the Speech from the Throne. First of all and foremost, I want to thank my family. I have mentioned my grandparents and certainly my parents. Dad is now 89 years old and mom's 86 and they're still living in their own home, with a little help from the health care system but also and

particularly from my sister and my two brothers who do the yeoman's work in making sure that mom and dad are looked after and that medical appointments are attended to. And as they age gracefully in their home, I am so thankful for their health and insights and also for the support of my two brothers and my sister who live closer than I do. So it's difficult for me to get to see them as much as I'd like to, Mr. Speaker.

And my dad is still my go-to guy. When it comes to farming issues, he has an incredible sense of farming in Saskatchewan, and certainly my two brothers who have both just recently retired from farming. We kept the home quarter, which is a thing I think that means a lot to all the members of my family. But my dad has an uncanny sense of picking out where this government has shortfalls and I really look forward to his comments, and he's always anxious to have those discussions as well. So I'm very thankful for that and I'm blessed to have parents who were engaged in the political process, who knew the importance of the right to vote and the importance of being involved in their community. So I've learned so much from them and I'm thankful for that.

Again thankful to my brothers and sisters, particularly my sister Maureen who is a huge support to me as well and to my kids. I always forget about this part and I never have a Kleenex handy. But my kids are always there for me, and again I think they are inquiring minds who have a very, very interesting perspective on what their generation faces in this society.

And quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, you know my dad said a while ago, I think I'm one of the lucky generation because we never had to worry about what was going to happen in the future as far as what our climate would look like, what our world was going to look like. And he says, I feel sorry for the future generations. And I know for a fact that my two sons are very, very aware of the changing world we live in and feeling the burden of it, which I think is really too bad. But I think they'll take it on with the challenge that the young people bring and the enthusiasm and conviction that they bring to dealing with issues that are important to them and their friends and their generation.

Moving on though, I would like to now talk a little bit about my constituents. I've often said I think Nutana's one of the best ridings in the province. I'm very proud to have lived there for over 25 years now, and it is indeed such an honour to be able to represent the folks that live in Nutana. I call it a triple-A riding because it's full of artists and academics and activists, Mr. Speaker, and I really want to be able to represent them as well as I can here in the Assembly.

It's home to many cultures. It's home to many religions. It's very diverse, and I would like to think it's very inclusive. It's the home of the famous Broadway Avenue and the Fringe Festival. And it's also home of the Open Door Society. And I think that really reflects many of the changes that we've seen in our culture here in Saskatchewan and particularly in Saskatoon, the many new cultures coming to settle and make roots and raise their families in Saskatchewan. And Saskatoon Nutana is certainly no exception to that.

I would like to have a big thank you and a vote of appreciation for my campaign team who worked very, very, very hard during the election, in particular my campaign manager, Michelle

Beveridge who was solid as a rock and a total support for everything I needed to do. And she made sure that our team ran like clockwork, was a well-oiled machine, and with Michelle at the helm I was very appreciative of that.

I would also like to thank Lee for the voter contact work that he did, Beth for her election day work, and Bonnie for helping out in general, especially when Beth had to leave our team suddenly to have a baby a week before, a little bit earlier than we expected, during the campaign. So thanks to Bonnie for stepping in and filling in. Thanks to my business manager, Fahmy Bekhit, and of course my volunteer fundraisers, Lorraine Salt and Pat Atkinson. And also I'd like to thank Pat for her continual support and mentorship as I embark upon my career as a politician. She's a great source of support.

I'd also like to thank the many, many volunteers and the many donors who helped to make the campaign a success.

And you know, I would also like to thank my opponents. Jamie Brandrick represented the Sask Party very well. Robin Schneider was the Liberal candidate, and Jaime Fairley was the candidate for the Greens. Again congratulations to all of them for stepping up and putting their name on the ballot. That's no small step, and I certainly respect their work that they did and the conviction of their beliefs to put their name forward on a ballot for election.

I really want to thank my constituency association who are always there over the years, and for sure my president, Kerry Schaefer; vice-president Jane Calder; our treasurer, Tim Hutchinson; Lorraine Salt, our secretary; Holly Ann, for showing up at meetings on a regular basis; and of course Lee as well. Lee Todd, my CA [constituency assistant], has now become an integral part of our team.

And finally I would like to thank my caucus team and our caucus staff. I can't be prouder of the group of folks that we have here, and I'm really looking forward to working with all of them as we move along in this twenty-eighth Legislative Assembly.

So we had an election in April, and the people have spoken, Mr. Speaker. And as you can see, we are now forming the loyal opposition. And that is our task: to be the best loyal opposition we can possibly be, and I look forward to that challenge.

I often like to sort of put a context around what that role means, and I'd like to quote from a book called O'Brien and Bosc's *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*. And what they describe the role of the opposition is this:

The role of the opposition is key to our system of parliamentary democracy. Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier put it succinctly when he said: "... it is indeed essential for the country that the shades of opinion which are represented on both sides of this House should be placed as far as possible on a footing of equality and that we should have a strong opposition to voice the views of those who do not think with the majority."

And I think that's something we need to take very, very seriously here on this side of the House that we have to propose

when it's appropriate, oppose when it's appropriate, and to shine . . . I often tell people our job is to shine a light, a critical light on the activities and the decisions of this government. And that is something I think that we will continue to do effectively. And certainly with our new team members, I look forward to doing it with aplomb and with grace. So this is something we will continue to work on, and I really am appreciative of the team that we have put together.

[15:15]

As I said, our job is to hold the government to account and by all intents and purposes and, by the looks of it, Mr. Speaker, we're going to be very, very busy. We have a government that failed to introduce any Throne Speech at all in 2015. There was no budget before the election. We know that they're hiding from the facts. They're hiding from what happened in the GTH land deal. And this is something that all needs to be brought forward here in the House and thoroughly examined with a view to understanding and making sure the people of Saskatchewan understand what is going on.

Now we had the Throne Speech read yesterday. In my view there's not much in here and in fact it's kind of tired and old. It makes more reference to things in the past than any forward-looking views. And indeed I think one of the pundits that have commented on it, as always, is our political reporter from the *Leader-Post*, Mr. Murray Mandryk. And there's a couple of things that he said about the speech that I have to agree with 100 per cent.

First of all he said this: "Mostly, it was a speech outlining decade-old positive stats even as newer Statistics Canada numbers are telling us a very different story." And then he goes on to say:

But with the current economic realities facing Saskatchewan, there is a lot to do here, too. And there was little in Tuesday's throne speech to buttress Wall's own rhetoric about improving the province's finances and the economy.

And I can't — that's the end of the quote — I can't agree with Mr. Mandryk any more with those statements. And I think this is something that, as our job is, is to shine a light on that.

This was a very underwhelming Throne Speech. It was something like maybe the ceremony the other night when we were supposed to see the new dome. It was a little bit underwhelming, and I think this speech is also the same thing. I think this government is good at over-promising and under-delivering, Mr. Speaker, and this is consistent with other throne speeches that we have heard, despite the fact that we didn't have one in 2015.

But if you look at what's important about this Throne Speech, it's about what's not there. There's no mention of increasing child poverty. There's no mention of more and more seniors in the food bank lines. There's no mention at all of increasing numbers of children in crisis due to mental health and cancer issues. No mention of the struggles that many families in Saskatchewan are facing today.

And then what do they do, Mr. Speaker, right after the speech is introduced? They do a little diversion tactic. They start talking about SaskTel. They don't want to talk about what's happening with the finances of the government or the real numbers in the economy right now. So they're just throwing these red herrings out right, left, and centre.

I think it's important for us as the opposition to talk about what the real financial picture is here in Saskatchewan today. This is a government that's desperate for cash despite record revenues over the last many years.

What are they doing? Well what we see in this speech, they're selling off profitable Crowns. They started with ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan]. It was bringing in 12 to \$15 million a year into the GRF [General Revenue Fund] for the benefit of the Saskatchewan people, and they needed cash so they sold it off.

Now what do we see in this speech? Again a profitable Crown, SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], and they're privatizing these liquor stores that have brought in countless millions of dollars into the coffers of the GRF to provide programming and help people who are dealing with issues related to alcohol consumption, mental health issues — all those things that are so desperately short of funding. And they just sell it off because they want the quick cash.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, we've talked about this over and over again. We see countless small internal privatizations within the Crowns. We see shrinking of the public service and of highways, for example. What do we see? A lot of expensive consultants. We know that they're paying more, but they're actually paving less. That's the theme that we're seeing over and over in the Highways department, and I suggest that we are seeing it in other ministries as well.

Let's take a look at the real picture here. At the end of this year, 2,500 jobs lost in the resource sector. That's the projection. In the resource sector alone, there's a projection of 2,500 jobs being lost since the peak in 2014. And what happened? What we have is the Premier's hard line with the Prime Minister caused delays in proper employment insurance benefits for the people of Estevan, particularly hard hit by these job losses. And there was also no special funding that came forward because of his hard-line position with the Prime Minister of Canada. So this is not a progressive kind of activity that we see going on, on the part of this government.

Since the election, since the election, Mr. Speaker, 130 jobs lost at Evraz, 500 jobs lost at Cameco, and 100 jobs lost in Sears. Overall we know that over 9,400 jobs have been lost in Saskatchewan since the peak, and this is during times of record revenue. What's the answer from this government, the solution from this government? Home baking businesses. Wow, that's really broad thinking, Mr. Speaker. We have those kinds of ideas coming through in a backdrop of picking winners and losers. This government does it over and over again, despite the Premier promising not to do that.

Who are the winners and losers we've seen so far? *WolfCop*. We've been through that already. We know that Assiniboia Farmland made a whole lot of money on a deal that the Minister

of Agriculture could have shut down but chose not to until after the deal was done. And now we have good old SkipTheDishes. I've had small business owners calling me saying, what's going on, what's going on with this government when only certain people are being entitled to that kind of support and assistance? It's not fair, and this government is picking winners and losers despite what the Premier has to say.

We know as well the budget coming up is going to be full of bad news and bad choices. From 2007 to 2013 we have seen some positive things: record revenues, record investment, high resource prices, good crops, high prices in cattle and grain, and land prices going up. What do we get, Mr. Speaker? Another day older and deeper in debt. In 2006 Crown debt was \$11 billion. In record revenue years, it was down. In 2009 it went down to 9 billion, but in 2016 Crown debt is projected to be \$13.5 billion. Now that's the projection that we currently have, and we know indeed it could be far worse than that. So we are back further in debt than we ever were. And that's not something that you would expect from a government that has received record revenues over the past decade. It's simply unacceptable.

We also know that the GDP [gross domestic product] is slowing down, and we know that that's going to have a serious impact on our debt-to-GDP ratio. So these are some of the things that we're actually facing and that weren't talked about in the Throne Speech.

Would you like to hear some more of the real picture, Mr. Speaker? Here we go. In 2015 Saskatchewan GDP shrunk by 1.4 per cent. We know that construction is down by 19 per cent, manufacturing is down by 2.8 per cent. There's a 49 per cent increase in unemployed people in Saskatchewan. EI rate is up 2 per cent in one year, and I know solutions are more than just home baking businesses, Mr. Speaker. Home baking is really moving it forward. Capital investment, Mr. Speaker, is down 18 per cent. And this something that's really, really important, Mr. Speaker, if I can clear my voice through the din that's going on.

In the Throne Speech, they point out that Crescent Point's investment this year is \$800 million. What they don't point out is that last year it was actually \$1.2 billion. So it's actually a 50 per cent decrease from their 2014 year's investment here in Saskatchewan. So what is the point of pointing out these investments when we know that investments are decreasing and capital investment alone is down 18 per cent?

Another thing to talk about, Mr. Speaker, that we don't hear this government talking about is that in four years of seven years, including this year and next year, we know that there was a deficit in four of those seven years. When they had record revenues, we are running deficits in this province. It doesn't make any sense. And if we go forward to next year, depending on what happens, we're possibly looking at five years of deficit in the eight most recent years. What kind of financial management are we looking at here, Mr. Speaker?

I want to quote from the . . . Sorry. I just want to clarify where those numbers are coming from. I have the auditor's report from April 2013, and they point out that in 2010, as the actual deficit, despite what they recorded or reported as a surplus, there was a deficit of \$409 million in Crown debt. Fast forward

to 2011, guess what, Mr. Speaker? They called it a surplus, but the auditor points out it was actually a deficit of \$13 million. Go forward to 2012, Mr. Speaker, and guess what? They projected a 352 million . . . in fact they didn't project it, they reported a \$352 million surplus. But really it was a \$105 million deficit.

We know the deficit . . . Oh, I'm going to go back to my notes here. I don't want to get this wrong. Here, let's fast forward to this particular year right now, the last budget that was tabled by this government. This year they started out with the \$106.8 million surplus. Now they had to revise that, Mr. Speaker. What were the numbers in mid-year? In mid-year they had to revise it to a deficit of \$262.2 million.

Now what happened in third quarter? Let's go back again. In the third quarter, they had to increase the projected deficit to 470.2 million. This government was out \$534 million in their budget estimates last year. God knows what we're going to get this time around, Mr. Speaker. And we do know that third quarter report . . . Actually the Premier himself has hinted that it might even be a higher deficit than what was actually presented in the third quarter report. So they can't manage, Mr. Speaker. They can't even get the estimates right. And then they're reflecting that there are actually surpluses when they're deficits. Like, you've got to wonder what the heck is going on.

Now I want to talk a little bit about other parts of the Speech from the Throne that I think are really important to the people of Saskatchewan and certainly to the people that I represent. You know, we have to talk, not only about the jobs that we create and the economy that we need to sustain. Those are very important pieces. We have to put that in context. We have to talk about that in context with the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and the land that we live on.

And, Mr. Speaker, I really have to point out that this government is really changing its tune. I'm going to quote to you from the 2008 Throne Speech. What did they say in 2008? Here's what was said in 2008:

In a world that is starving for safe, secure and reliable sources of environmentally sustainable energy, Saskatchewan must begin creating just such an ecosystem of innovation.

We must have the ability to conduct research into better ways of generating solar, wind and nuclear power.

My government has a vision for Saskatchewan leading in the research and production of cellulosic ethanol from grass, straw and forest waste products.

We must take current energy production and re-imagine it with an urgency heretofore not seen.

This will require a trained workforce.

This will require a cutting-edge scientific and technical infrastructure at our universities.

This will require vision and leadership.

I couldn't agree more, Mr. Speaker. But let's go on to 2009.

What happened in the 2009 Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker? I'm going to quote from that. Here we go. The reference there was to the United Nations climate change conference, and what was said was this:

On this international stage, Saskatchewan will present its unique and practical plan to ensure carbon offsets or penalties imposed on heavy greenhouse gas emitters will stay in the province.

This money will be used to fund continuing research and development of emissions-reduction technologies.

Mr. Speaker, where has that gone? Absolutely nowhere. It's disappeared completely off their radar and it's disappeared completely out of their throne speeches. This is a government that has gone down a rabbit hole, Mr. Speaker, and I don't know if it can find its way out again. There was strong talk about doing the right thing in 2008, 2009, and now we see complete avoidance.

Where is the transformational change that they talked about in 2008 and 2009? It seems to be limited now to health and education, but we need a government that has a much broader vision than that. This avoidance by this government is so insulting to so many people in this province, and I think they're going to be called to account not only by my constituents. I know I'm going to hear about it from my constituents, but I would expect a lot of these MLAs are going to be hearing about that from their constituents as well. It's disrespectful of people's ideas and people's desire for transformational change on that front.

Other people are talking about this as well. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to a report that just came out from the Conference Board of Canada. I need to find it though. Here it is. In April, just last month, there was a news release that came out from the Conference Board of Canada. I want to read the first two paragraphs for the record, just to be sure that all the new MLAs know about this. On April 21st in 2016, this was a news release from the Conference Board of Canada:

[15:30]

Saskatchewan's heavy reliance on fossil fuels and its resource-driven economy give the province a "D-" grade overall and a last place finish among all provinces and international peers on The Conference Board of Canada's How Canada Performs: Environment report card.

Released on the eve of Earth Day, this is the first report card that compares the environmental performance of Canada and 15 peer countries.

"The resource boom made Saskatchewan an economic growth leader among the provinces up until recently. But that economic growth came with a hefty environmental price tag. Saskatchewan gets 'D' or 'D-' grades on all but 2 of the 10 indicators used to assess the province's environmental performance," said Louis Thériault, Vice-President, Public Policy.

He goes on to say:

These results show that Saskatchewan and Canada need to encourage more sustainable consumption. Protecting the environment from damage is not a problem for tomorrow but a challenge for today.

I end the quote there but, Mr. Speaker, that's certainly what I'm hearing from my children and their generation of 20-somethings. They want to see action taken today.

I just want to quote a little bit more about how we failed miserably in this report card. In climate change, they acknowledge this:

Primary industries make up a large share of Saskatchewan's economy, resulting in high energy intensity and GHG emissions, and "D-" grades on both of these indicators.

This is what's really shameful, and I'm going to continue to quote here:

At nearly 70 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per capita, the province has a GHG emission rate that is six times as high as Quebec's, the top-ranked province on GHG emissions, and over three times the national average.

Saskatchewan also relies heavily on fossil fuels for generating electricity, and earns a D-minus on low-emitting electricity production.

But the report doesn't stop there, Mr. Speaker. It goes on to say, on a per capita basis, the province does poorly on all four indicators in the category of air pollution. D grade on sulphur oxides emissions, D-minus grade on nitrogen oxides, volatile compounds, and particulate matter.

This is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker. This is important. Did we hear anything from this government on any kind of transformational change relating to these serious situations that we are presented with as the people of Saskatchewan? Nothing.

And let's look at waste, Mr. Speaker. What's happening on waste? Here we go:

Saskatchewan is one of the worst-ranked provinces when it comes to waste generation; only Alberta ranks lower. Saskatchewan produces over 880 kilograms of waste per capita and scores a "D" grade.

Mr. Speaker, this is not something we can be proud of. And what do we hear this government saying about this? Absolutely nothing, other than the minister's dismissing it as irrelevant. That's shameful, Mr. Speaker, and it's unacceptable. And it's our job as the opposition, the loyal opposition, to continue to demand that this government takes the action that it needs to take.

What else can we talk about on this? There's a couple positive things I have to say are in the Throne Speech. They're talking about continuing with the net metering program. I think that's a great idea, but let's be a little brave here and step out a little bit and maybe expand it. Countries all over the world, other provinces are working on things like feed-in tariffs. Countries

like China and India and France and Germany and Ontario, they are all looking at that. Why are we not looking into that?

What about the First Nations Power Authority? Great idea. I give a thumbs up on that. I think it's a wonderful move and it really helps develop and diversify the economy in the ways that we believe are important. But let's look at what's happening with the First Nations Power Authority. That's 40 megawatts that they're going to add to the power grid. Mr. Speaker, that's less than 1 per cent of the power that is currently generated in this province. Now they have indicated that they would like to . . . Okay, I guess I've got to move on. They have indicated that they want to get us up to 50 per cent of renewables by 2030, but at this rate they're barely going to hit 40 per cent. So that's not good enough.

I wish I had more time, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to mention agriculture. Barely a mention, only to brag about trying to take credit for the success of our producers who have worked very hard in this province to make the success that they have created. And my hat's off to the producers, to the grain farmers and the cattle producers and everyone else that's making Saskatchewan a great supplier of the world's food supply. Interesting to see how this government likes to take credit for that.

First Nations. Again what's missing is there's no mention of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This is an important piece that I think the Speech from the Throne should really reflect, but nothing there.

So I will move to my closing at this point, Mr. Speaker. First of all and foremost, I am very, very, very proud to be from Saskatchewan. I have strong roots here and I know I have a future here, as do my children. We are innovative and community minded. We're creative and vibrant. We're resourceful and inclusive, and our government needs to reflect that.

But this Throne Speech does not live up to the promise of the people who live here and who work here and who raise families here. We need to protect our economy and our jobs while engaging in transformational change, but not just in health and education. It's not easy, but to flat out refuse and stick your head in the sand is not the way to go. This Throne Speech lacks vision and does nothing to move Saskatchewan into the future. Rather, it is backward looking at best.

We need to make Saskatchewan and Canada and the world a better place. I agree. We need to look after our workers and we need to look after the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on. So I'd like to close with a quote from John Kennedy, and this was from . . . well 53 years ago, 1963, and this was the American University speech. And he was talking about world peace, but I think it really applies to what we see here today. And this is a quote from John F. Kennedy. He says:

For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

So, Mr. Speaker, on that note, I'm adamant that this Speech from the Throne fails us all, and so I would like to move the

following motion:

That the motion be amended by adding the following:

and that this Assembly does not support the government's refusal to properly address the issues in health care and education, adequately protect Saskatchewan jobs, and ensure transparency and accountability to Saskatchewan people.

I so move.

The Speaker: — We have a motion from Saskatoon Nutana, seconded by the member from Athabasca. The question before the Assembly is the proposed amendments. And first off, will the members take the amendments as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Okay. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the amendments? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place as the member for Athabasca and to second the amendment proposed by my colleague and dear friend, the member from Saskatoon Nutana. Mr. Speaker, I want to do my presentation in three or four particular stages as I begin to propose what I think is really important from the northern Saskatchewan perspective.

I first of all want to thank the many people that supported me in this past election campaign. There was a lot of teamwork, a lot of connection, and there was a lot of support in many of the communities that we travelled, Mr. Speaker. And one of the challenges that we certainly faced was, obviously a challenge faced throughout Saskatchewan, is really getting the vote out, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize my team, the people that worked very hard, in particular my campaign manager, Darwin Roy, who's a young guy that really wants to learn a lot about how politics works. And I certainly foresee a future for him and many people his age.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we look back and we certainly reflect some of the kindness that was shown to us during the campaign, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay a special tribute to the community of La Loche, Mr. Speaker. La Loche was one of the communities that we spent quite a bit of time in. And, Mr. Speaker, this particular community has been going through a lot of challenges, a lot of hurt, and certainly a lot of thought as we certainly want to recognize some of the risks and some of the opportunities that the community faces as they build forward.

I think it's important to say, Mr. Speaker, that La Loche really epitomizes what northern Saskatchewan people are all about. Through a lot of tragic events and some very, very tough consequences, Mr. Speaker, they are resilient people, Mr. Speaker. They have suffered through years of changes to their life, Mr. Speaker. They have been removed from the land. They have suffered through many other indignities such as not having proper housing, not having proper water and sewer, and certainly not being part of the economic fabric attached to the land and certainly surrounding their particular community.

So I think La Loche really epitomizes the resilience of all people of the North, and of course that's a tribute to all people of Saskatchewan. So I wanted to say that at the outset, that over time we'll be spending a lot of time focusing on the issues that have occurred in our northern communities. La Loche is one of the communities that certainly was one of the areas that received a lot of national attention. And we are certainly going to be spending quite a bit of time talking about the issues that not only plague La Loche, Mr. Speaker, but plague many northern Saskatchewan communities and many communities throughout the province. And we'll certainly have this opportunity in the session to do so, but I wanted to point out that the La Loche people, the Dene people, that you're never far from our thoughts and prayers. And that as we move forward and rebuild, Mr. Speaker, that there is a great amount of strength and honour sent your way from many people that understand the challenges you face. And that certainly goes for our caucus on this side of the Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're going to be, as I mentioned, bringing up a lot of issues surrounding the particular challenges the north face, faces overall, Mr. Speaker. But I want to spend a bit of time, a bit of time on the actual, the Throne Speech, in which we're beginning to see a lot of hurt, a lot of hurt, Mr. Speaker, that I think people in Saskatchewan anticipate. They'll be hurt in the classroom. They'll be hurt in the health centres. They'll be hurt in the ER [emergency room] rooms. And some of the power bills that we're going to be paying, insurance, property taxes. There'll even be a high cost to the taxpayers out there.

And, Mr. Speaker, and then you'll combine with the fact that there is a lack of job creation by the Saskatchewan Party. People will soon realize what a failure that the Saskatchewan Party government has become, Mr. Speaker, despite given record revenues, a booming economy, and growing population, Mr. Speaker. And at best of times, they could not get the job done, Mr. Speaker. They could not get the job done. And we will explain to the people of Saskatchewan exactly how they somehow messed up that opportunity.

Now in saying thanks to the many voters, Mr. Speaker, that have supported us over time and certainly supported me as a candidate, that I'm willing to say this to them. That I really, truly am thankful for the support that was shown to me during our campaign. To the help that we got from the two constituency assistants that worked very hard — Darlene Bernard and Vye Bouvier — these two ladies worked very, very hard, and at times they were part of a very small team that surrounded me and Darwin Roy and my wife, Beckie. But we somehow managed to capture the imagination of the people of Athabasca and we certainly want to thank them for their kind support.

I want to also recognize the new MLAs that are here today, certainly on our side of the Assembly, and the new ones on the opposite side of the Assembly, that it takes a great amount of work and it certainly takes a lot of commitment to try and make a difference for the people that you represent in our province overall. And I pray that your journey here and your experience here is rewarding and satisfying. And I certainly want you know that in spite of us being of different political stripes that well wishes are always important to share. And I want to take this opportunity to do that.

But that being said, Mr. Speaker, that being said, we're all entitled to make mistakes. And I have made many and I will continue making more, Mr. Speaker. And we just have to simply survive those mistakes and continue moving forward.

But I want to talk a bit about the throne from the speech, Mr. Speaker. You know when things are getting absolutely ridiculous when the Throne Speech says that over the next three years, they're going to spend \$70 million on highways, Mr. Speaker. I think in our last budget when we were in government, Mr. Speaker, that's what we spent on improving community access roads. I think it was 65.5 million. These guys are bragging about spending \$70 million over the next three years, Mr. Speaker. So we decided to calculate . . . We decided, okay, four years, and we decided to calculate how many kilometres a year throughout the entire province of Saskatchewan that the Sask Party that's so broke . . . They're so broke that they're highlighting the fact that they're going to be paving 25 kilometres per year for four years. That's their highlight of their Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker. The Premier said, we are spending \$70 million over the next four years on Saskatchewan highways; we're paving those. Well, Mr. Speaker, through the entire province, 25 kilometres of highways for the next four years is what they highlighted in their Throne Speech.

So you can say goodbye to northern highway improvements. You can kiss the P.A. bridge goodbye, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, for all the economies that thrive in our certain regions of our province that need the proper infrastructure, well you can kiss those goodbye too, Mr. Speaker. That's their vision.

[15:45]

Now what I'm going to tell the people of Saskatchewan, a couple of other points that's really, really important are some of the cuts that are happening already, Mr. Speaker. We are hearing in northern Saskatchewan, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Pinehouse, Ile-a-la-Crosse, that this government is now cutting what they call the winter works program.

Let me explain what the winter works program is all about, Mr. Speaker. It's when they hire people that are on assistance or eligible for EI, Mr. Speaker, that they put them to work maintaining our recreation facilities, whether they're curling rinks, outdoor rinks, or skating rinks or ski trails, whatever the people of that particular community want maintained for the use of our kids, our children, and our youth and certainly adults as well. And this government's already cutting in that particular area, Mr. Speaker. And this is the kind of cold-hearted cuts that we're going to be expecting.

And as I mentioned before, it's going to be felt in the classroom. It's going to be felt in our hospitals. It's going to be felt in our ER rooms. Utility rates are going to increase, Mr. Speaker. So the list is going to go on and on as to where this government's going to try and squeeze every dime out of regions and people that can ill afford those increases. And families are going to be paying more and more and more, Mr. Speaker.

Now what I saw happening, Mr. Speaker, prior to the last election, the Premier didn't have the courage, the Premier didn't

have the courage to share the financial picture with the people of Saskatchewan. He looked next door and saw Prentice in Alberta saying, well I'm going to let the people of Alberta know what their budget looks like. And what happened to Prentice, Mr. Speaker? Prentice went down in flames. And I think our Premier saw that coming. Our Premier saw that coming, when you have a \$700 million loan last year alone, plus they went 4 or 500 more million dollars in debt.

Now we're at 1.2 billion. Now what's it looking like recently, Mr. Speaker? Well I saw that our Premier didn't have the courage to tell the people of Saskatchewan what our financial situation is like. But, Mr. Speaker, it's coming. It's coming. And when the people of Saskatchewan find out, when the people of Saskatchewan find out how they've been hoodwinked by the Saskatchewan Party government, I think they're going to get very angry, Mr. Speaker. They're going to get very angry.

And there's one thing that's really important as well, Mr. Speaker. We talk about the sale of the Crowns. They talk about P3s. We talk about the waste, Mr. Speaker. They brag about their highway improvements. And the people of Saskatchewan pay very close attention to what this particular government is doing. We know, we know, Mr. Speaker, that they've got some major troubles. We know they've got some major financial issues, and we are going to be watching very carefully where this particular government cuts.

Now one of the things the Premier said is that we're going to hold the line on taxes — no tax increase. Well to the taxpayers I say this, that not only are they going to be selling our Crowns, our Crown corporations . . . Because these Crown corporations generate profit. And the profit they generate from public liquor stores or the profit they generate from, well at one time from land titles branch, and they've since sold that. And now they're eyeing up SaskTel, and now they're going to be eyeing up SaskPower, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that the taxpayers should know is this, that they're holding the line on your taxes. That's what they're saying this year. But if you start incorporating the forgone revenues that the Crowns generate in future years, then guess what? Those revenues are gone forever and then we'll have to go back to the taxpayers. That's what the Premier's not telling anyone.

The other example is the P3s. They brag about the schools that they've built, Mr. Speaker. The reality is, the schools that you built are owned by private corporations. And guess what? You pay the private corporations not only money to build them, which is fair, but you pay them a higher interest rate, and then they also get a maintenance contract. So you don't own the schools; the people of Saskatchewan don't own those P3 schools. The people of Saskatchewan owe these companies for these P3 schools. So guess what? Those cost money down the road.

And now, Mr. Speaker, you look at the waste. Whether it's the smart meter debacle or whether it's that silly lean exercise in health care, Mr. Speaker, whether it's a GTH land deal — look at those wastes.

So if you combine poor management of the finances, you sell off your profit-making Crowns, you waste a whole bunch of money, you keep pushing your P3 model, well, Mr. Speaker,

that's a recipe for decline in revenues. And then you combine all that with the fact that this Premier has alluded to it already, and I hope he doesn't because I want the people of Saskatchewan to have their opportunity at him one more time, but he's alluded already that he's ready to head out of Dodge, Mr. Speaker. He's ready to head out of Dodge because he sees the problems are coming down the pike, and he's a fair-weather Premier. But they want to head out of Dodge as quick as they can, Mr. Speaker.

So I tell the people of Saskatchewan this: be very careful and watch over the next coming days because you're going to see a government that has lived way beyond its means. It did not take the proper steps to diversify the economy, and it drained the rainy day fund, Mr. Speaker. During the best years of Saskatchewan, they have undelivered.

And that's why the North, the North felt very clear about what they thought of their government over time, that this particular government has not delivered anything to them. And the North got sick and tired of poor highways, of overcrowded housing, of poor infrastructure, and a lack of opportunity for our young people, and a lack of access to their lands. And that's why I say to you today, in the absence of good government, the North is going to rise again. The North is starting to organize, and the North has a plan that many people are working towards. And I say to the Saskatchewan Party, stay tuned, stay tuned because the North's not going to continue accepting the indignity that you have treated northern people with, and we are going to make a difference in our own lives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think what's really, really important overall is that people need to see the Saskatchewan Party for what it is. It came in at the right time, Mr. Speaker. It blew all the revenues it possibly could, and now the tough times are coming around the corner, Mr. Speaker, and half of them will head out of Dodge over the next two or three years, Mr. Speaker.

And you will see that the New Democrats are prepared once again to clean up their mess and rebuild our economy, rebuild our province, and rebuild our communities one step at a time, one step at a time, Mr. Speaker, something that they have no record in achieving. And I'll tell you why, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you why. This is the first opportunity that the Saskatchewan Party has had, the first opportunity to clean up a mess. They have enjoyed record revenue. They have enjoyed a booming economy. They have enjoyed, Mr. Speaker, a growing population. They inherited that. They never done anything to deserve that; they simply inherited that.

And now when the time comes for the tough times, Mr. Speaker, first thing the Premier does, says I'm heading out of Dodge. First thing he does, Mr. Speaker. The second thing they'll do is they'll decry our financial state to justify selling off the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. And they'll continue ignoring certain specific areas that are important to our economy such as job creation. They will continue gouging homeowners and families through things like increased utility bills, whether it's power bills. You watch. Those bills will be going up. If they don't tax you, Mr. Speaker, they're going to get you some other way because of their incompetence and mismanagement and lack of foresight on how to strengthen our Saskatchewan province and

our people, Mr. Speaker, in many, many areas.

So I say again today, Mr. Speaker, the election result was not what we expected, but the fight and determination on this side will continue because sooner or later the people of Saskatchewan are going to see exactly what we see from this end, that that is an incompetent government, Mr. Speaker, that has wasted so much money and so many opportunities pursuing their ideology and trying to get rid of our Crowns, going to war with our working people, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to see evidence of their true colours come budget time, Mr. Speaker.

And I look at with great amusement the current Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. The current Minister of Finance, he said we're borrowing \$700 million, \$700 million we're borrowing is what he said last year. But it's not debt. It's operational costs. That's what he said. It's operational dollars. Well I tried to borrow \$700 off my colleague, my current leader, and I said it's for entertainment debt. Well guess what? He wanted his 700 bucks back, so I didn't take it. Debt is debt is debt, and that's what I keep telling a Tory, that debt is debt is debt. No matter how you colour it, debt is debt, Mr. Speaker. And for them to turn around and try and hoodwink the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I think that's very unfair. And I think the people of Saskatchewan are going to quickly realize that this Saskatchewan Party government has hoodwinked us for the last time. And we're going to see, we're going to see a change, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue fighting on this side of the Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the New Democrats really, truly believe that there's great opportunity in empowering and working with First Nations and Métis people. We think that they're one of the key ingredients to making a successful economy last, Mr. Speaker.

We also think that green energy is an important opportunity, Mr. Speaker. A water management strategy, an aggressive water management strategy is required, Mr. Speaker, for agriculture, for the many mining companies that use water, Mr. Speaker. And we've got to engage the agricultural community, the farm families, Mr. Speaker. Where we see the Saskatchewan Party in tough times, when they had the greatest agricultural transportation crisis in the history of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, 99.99 per cent of them sat on their hands over there, Mr. Speaker. Not a word about the transportation crisis, and to this day none of them have spoken up, Mr. Speaker.

And then we hear some of the new MLAs talk about 16 years of NDP rule. Well, Mr. Speaker, for the record, the 16 years that the NDP ruled this province, it took us 14 of those 16 years to clean up a Tory mess. And that is the record, and the history will reflect that, Mr. Speaker. So once again, once again we sit here, and from the northern perspective, as we see no support for improving our highways, we see no new housing strategies. I understand La Loche might get 55 houses over three years, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, La Loche needs 200 houses.

And the people of the North are saying this to a lot of companies. They're saying, whether it's a forestry company or a mining company or a rare earth company, that we like to see development. But all we see happening right now is you guys come in to develop our resources, and then you send the royalties to Regina and Regina doesn't give us anything back.

They give us nothing back, but they take the resources. The government does.

So the mining companies and the companies that want to invest in the North, they know this. They pay their corporate fees, and they employ their people which is supported. But, Mr. Speaker, this government just takes all the taxes and the opportunities in the North and puts nothing back.

The First Nations and the Métis people know that in northern Saskatchewan. And the one message they have, Mr. Speaker, the one message that they have, whether it's La Loche, whether it's Pinehouse, whether it's Pelican Narrows, or whether it's Fond-du-Lac or Black Lake, that I think it's time that the North is going to get organized. They're going to work together. They're going to build a new plan for northern Saskatchewan in the absence of a considerate, caring government. And that's exactly what they've gotten from this government and from this Premier. They have gotten zero acknowledgement of the challenges that the people of the North have faced, and many other sectors and areas of the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, the fight has not stopped. The fight has not stopped on this side. It won't stop until we get action by this government to address these long-standing issues.

The people of the North have one simple message to this government: we are not going to accept less anymore from this government. And if you don't have the fortitude and the foresight to begin engaging First Nations and Métis people and the non-Aboriginal community that call the North their home — they're part of our communities — if you don't have the foresight and the fortitude to deal with these people in a fair, respectful manner, then we'll figure out how best to govern ourselves, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly this government has failed miserably on all those fronts.

And I think the people of Saskatchewan are going to see first-hand how the North has been treated, and then they'll see how they've been treated, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that this is going to be the opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan to really, really begin to see what the Saskatchewan Party's really about.

So I think overall, Mr. Speaker, to the taxpayers that are worried about their taxes going up, the Sask Party's going to raise your taxes but they're going to call it utility rates. The Sask Party's going to raise your taxes but they're going to call it the P3 modelling deal. The Sask Party's going to raise your taxes by selling off the Crowns and foregoing revenues. So no matter how you look at it — whether you call it taxes or increased utility rates or foregone revenues or expensive P3 models or waste, waste, waste, as the member from Kindersley is often known in this Assembly for — well, Mr. Speaker, no matter how you cut it, the Sask Party couldn't manage in the best of times. Stay tuned because the worst of times is coming around the corner, and you're going to see the worst of the Saskatchewan Party and the conservative ilk that they represent, Mr. Speaker.

[16:00]

So once again I think what's really important is that on this side

of the House, on this side of the House, we got some new members, Mr. Speaker. And I was very inspired to hear two of the members from Prince Albert and Regina speak up. There's another one going to speak fairly soon. And I'm inspired, Mr. Speaker, because these are fighters. They're going to fight for what is right in Saskatchewan.

And what is right in Saskatchewan is that we take all people's issues into consideration because this fight is about economic and social justice. It's not about ideology and opportunity as shown by the Sask Party. And watch, learn, and listen, people, because the Saskatchewan Party are going to show their true colours, Mr. Speaker. They've got choices to make, they have choices to make, and those choices are going to be coming fairly clear over the next couple of days.

And I encourage our people in the health care sector, I encourage the people in our education system, I encourage our people of the North to brace yourselves, Mr. Speaker, because these are the people that are going to come at you, and they're going to show their true colours. And I think, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are not going to appreciate that as much as they've not appreciated being hoodwinked.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out in my closing comments that quite frankly as you look at how the Premier skirted the issue around the finances of the province — the waste, the expensive P3s, the list goes on — those bills are now coming due. Those bills are now coming due. And, Mr. Speaker, the bittersweet point that I would point out in the direction that the people of Saskatchewan chose — and I always respect the decision that the voters have chosen, Mr. Speaker — and I sense that they will soon find out that their trust and confidence was misplaced, that their trust and confidence was misplaced. So I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan will be as patient next time.

And that's why I think the Premier is certainly assessing the situation of the land, and I think he's made the suggestion that he's going to heading out of Dodge. And I'm really sorry, Mr. Speaker, to see that primarily because he should be here when the times are tough, not be here just when the times are opportune for him to put on yet another announcement and to look good. Mr. Speaker, we in the Saskatchewan New Democrats want to be good, and that's the biggest difference.

So on that note, I move that . . . I want to second the amendment proposed by my colleague and my friend, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, and I hereby again second the motion. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota.

Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations on your election. I support the Speech from the Throne and support the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Westview and seconded by the member for Estevan.

You get asked in this line of work whether this is what you always wanted to be. Did you always want to be a politician? In my case, it's hard to say. When I was at ballet school in Toronto at 10 and in Winnipeg at 13, I dreamed of setting Stan Kenton

to choreographic wonder. Or it was acting. When I was in musicals under the directorship of the wonderful Bob Hinitt in Saskatoon when I was young, or in plays in high school as *Antigone* or *Gigi* or a character called the richest girl in the world or as the third witch in *Macbeth* at university, yes, an actress I was sure was what I wanted to be.

But then after university, well, the law, I wasn't so sure that was my destiny, although I did make the mistake of not pursuing what I was truly interested in, legally speaking, in my heart, which was defence law. I chose a marine and insurance firm instead, but then came legal journalist and editor in London, Milan, and Frankfurt, columnist, broadcaster. Certainly the idea of being an investigative British broadsheet-type journalist or a foreign correspondent had always held great appeal. I loved teaching German at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. But slowly the pendulum to politics started to shift more formally: school board trustee candidate, MLA.

The funny thing is not too long ago I found a little postscript in a diary entry from when I was around 14. It was from New Year's Eve. In this case it was a bit like a resolution for the years to come and it said, I want to leave a public mark. And that continued through the years. I would write, I want to leave a public mark. And here I am in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, this beautiful building with its freshly clad copper dome, this proud institution, honoured to be here with all of you.

My mother, Sigrid Eyre, came here with my grandfather when she was about eight, and she remembers him telling her that is the Speaker's Chair. And the next time she came was to accompany me last spring when I was first introduced in this House, and of course again on Monday when I was sworn in.

This legislature, as we know, was built between 1908 and 1912, roughly over the years my grandparents were born, all here in Saskatchewan, following their respective settlements in the Ituna, Tullymet, and Pelly areas by their parents, except for my maternal grandfather, Fred Klaus, who immigrated from Germany between the world wars in 1929. He landed in Halifax and took the train across the country to Odessa where he spent two years until the drought started to hit. So he decided to head northeast until, it's been said, he hit green in the parkland area around Pelly. He cleared land north of town himself and went on to marry my grandmother, Ingeborg Raabel, the daughter of Norwegian settlers. And the young people moved into a homestead, then built a house together near Maybridge.

This is where my mother and her brother Jon grew up and where I visited for several weeks every summer when I was young, which I count among my happiest memories. As my mother puts it, my grandfather farmed spring, summer, and fall and then read all winter, books he ordered from the Book of the Month Club or which he bought at sales or in a second-hand shop right here in Regina — wonderful histories and now rare editions of novels, which we still have. He was mayor of Pelly in the late 1960s, early '70s, and he and my grandmother were influential in founding the Pelly museum which so tragically burned to the ground last summer.

My Norwegian granny, his wife, was the most resourceful, busy person I have ever met. She could easily have been a teacher or

a nurse. She was very clever at math, but she gave up school without resentment after grade 11 to help her mother at home and to help bring up her eight siblings. I will always remember her with a pail attached to an extemporized belt of some leftover quilting material hanging from her waist as she picked berries from one of her three gardens. She knitted, quilted, thought nothing of baking for 12, and I always think it's that generation that were the natural recyclers. No sour cream or milk container, let alone potato water, ever went to waste if my grandmother had anything to do with it.

My other grandmother, Kay Eyre, born Jaworski, was equally resourceful. Born to Ukrainian-Polish émigré parents, she faced some degree of ethnic discrimination when she was young, which always stayed with her. She married, at 16, my grandfather Tom Eyre who taught in a teacherage around Ituna. Together, among other ventures, they would run a café in Red Deer, Alberta where she always said she worked the hardest she ever did, getting up early in the morning for example to bake bread and homemade pies.

When my grandfather went overseas to serve as a spotter in Lancaster Bombers in World War II, she took hairdressing training in Saskatoon, and my father, Wayne, the youngest of three boys, was one of very few children at that time who was enrolled in day nursery at three so that she could work. And work she did. So much so that she would get what she called antsy on Sundays when she had a day off. She worked in her own hairdressing salon in the basement of the Senator hotel in Saskatoon until the day that she had a heart attack at age 82. Needless to say her ladies, as she called them, had all been getting a bit older and attracting new customers had come to be a bit of a challenge.

I often think of my two grandmothers. They were a source of inspiration to me. I remember my Norwegian granny telling me that when she started school she could barely speak a word of English as they spoke only Norwegian at home, and yet she learned. Everyone picked it up, she said. That's what you did.

My other granny, the hairdresser, once told me that her own personal principle was that you should clean floors, anything, before ever accepting any variation of what she called relief. When her mother told her she couldn't attend a chautauqua that was coming to town, which she had so wanted to when she was a little girl, she decided then and there that she would never from that day forward attend a chautauqua or any kind of fair ever. And she didn't. That generation, the original recyclers and mighty tough guys, and some of that spirit I think we shouldn't dismiss out of hand — the self-reliance, determination, individuality. It is what formed us.

But of course the greatest formers of character are one's parents, and mine are no exception. There's so much to say about the three of us, but when I look back, what I remember most is the fun and the laughing and the talk, the endless talk, from mornings during summer holidays when my mother and I would get so carried away talking, we'd finally realize we actually had to be somewhere, until evening when my parents and I would often talk into the darkness.

When we went on car trips, I would often sit on my mother's lap in the front. Those were the days before car seats — retro

parenting, as comedian Craig Ferguson once called it. And she would read poetry: Auden, Eliot, Lawrence, Thomas. Or we would play one of my dad's jazz cassettes, of course, in those days.

A lot of people like jazz or say they do, but my father is a true expert and a pretty tough critic. He went on a jazz tour at 18 across the US [United States] on a Greyhound bus and saw many of the greats. Music from his old LPs [long-playing record] always filled our house: Julian Adderley, whom I would have been named after had I been a boy, Miles Davis, Maynard Ferguson, Dave Brubeck, Duke Ellington.

Both my parents were true products of a liberal arts education, which is why I've always believed so much in the importance of it: both English — and in my mother's case, English and history — majors, both high school teachers. My father also taught English at the U of S and went on to be a writer, editor. My mother was a lecturer in agriculture on campus for many years.

They can both remember a line like that of Marvell's or Donne's or Browning's. Or I just have to say to my mother, what was going on in France around 1569? And she will start to tell me, really tell me. It drives me crazy. All my life I've always felt I needed to self-improve because of them. Read more history. Read more poetry. Read more philosophy. And of course we always talked about politics.

When I was really little, we'd put up an orange sign, but then my parents saw the light. I remember my mother taking me to a pretty rowdy Pierre Trudeau rally just to experience it in Convocation Hall at the U of S, and later to see Brian Mulroney speak at the Midtown mall.

I grew up during those polarizing Reagan-Thatcher years so there was always lots of talk about William Buckley and the *National Review*, lots of talk. I remember one hot discussion about whether a younger Hillary Clinton should wear a crucifix as a fashion statement, or whether freedom of speech should extend to David Duke, or whether in Canada, the West should just separate when it seemed we would never really belong to the Canadian contract.

I did a big interview when I edited *The Sheaf* on campus with renowned feminist Germaine Greer, who had come to speak. And although my parents didn't agree with everything she said, I was pretty taken with a few of her points. And it was formative, as we were to say how many times, formative for all three of us. Talk, different perspectives, they're always formative. And I've never understood why as a society we don't do more real talking, why so often we tend to shut down or subvert the real exchange of ideas.

As the iconic Margaret Laurence writes, "What's the matter with us, that we can't talk? How can anyone know unless they say? How come we feel it's indecent?"

Another Canadian, Pierre Berton, once said that people were always telling him, you can't say that, and you can't say that. "Why not?" he asked.

And I've always challenged myself and tried to challenge others

by asking that simple question. You can always do it elegantly. You can always do it with wit.

At any rate, my parents encouraged me always to stand my ground, stand up for myself, argue from the thesis, avoid cliché, never let my French get rusty, and never make a grammatical mistake.

Speaking of politics, I did run for academic VP [vice-president] of the USSU [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union] on campus against a fellow who, I recall, had the residence vote wrapped up as he had lived in residence for something like 12 years. I lost. It was an early blow. I came second. I remember the act of handing out campaign flyers to students as they descended the Arts escalator — a strange experience foreshadowing of so many more to come. Meanwhile the only ones who got my attempt at copying Kim Campbell's law gown off-the-shoulder pose were students in Law. I won that college.

[16:15]

I can't leave off the personal before acknowledging my husband, Richard, and my darling 11-year-old son, Max. He puts everything into perspective. He is so full of ideas and projects and elaborate plans. Right now he tells me he'll either be a chemist or a comedy script writer. And his utter *carpe diem* approach to life is a constant source of joy and inspiration to me. I couldn't be prouder of him. And he's into politics, so the chain continues. I've always liked Truman Capote's line, "There is no one love, only a chain of love. And with children, that chain goes on."

When I decided to run in the brand new constituency of Stonebridge-Dakota, we had lived in Stonebridge for just over a year. From our house on Whalley Crescent, you could see all the way to the "Saskatoon Shines" sign on Highway 11. That was in 2011. There was more dirt than houses. No more. The Stonebridge neighbourhood has expanded, as we all know, into one of the most booming areas in Saskatoon. It includes residential, of course, but also substantial retail development. A brand new joint-use school is opening there next fall, which really completes the community.

And Highway 16 is being twinned to Clavet, thus radically improving on an important commercial commuter connector. The constituency of Stonebridge-Dakota is a dynamic mix of urban and rural. It includes the RMs [rural municipality] of southern and eastern Corman Park, Blucher, Dundurn, and the southern part of the RM of Aberdeen, as well as the Willows and a portion of Briarwood in the city.

Some of my favourite spots in the constituency, along with Stonebridge itself of course, which is home, include some amazing vistas. The high rises of land for example, south of Aberdeen with the views of the city — at night they're absolutely beautiful. Or driving north toward Dundurn from the Indi Road with the Blackstrap Valley spreading out to the right. Or the views out of back windows of homes in southeast Briarwood, Beechmont View, for example, that overlook as I understand it the old road to Regina. Pure prairie beauty.

As far as the nomination and campaign go, it's been a process of almost two years. Along the way I have met and worked with

some amazingly committed people, many of whom I now count as friends. So many to mention in so many varied, important roles, some as mentors and others givers of excellent advice: Harold Lane, Jim Kerby, Brent Banda, Kevin Hill, Senator David Tkachuk, Garry Benning, the Huckles, Mark Brayford, Garry Derenoski, the Minister of Education.

And of course my wonderful volunteer Chairs during the campaign, Robin Dunlop and her husband Marlo, and my all-around amazing aficionado Carrie Zdunich, who is now my CA. There were so many volunteers who helped out in and from the campaign office, answering phones, phone banking, door knocking, from my great stalwart Doug Renwick — we covered a lot of road — and Tony Lalonde to Betty Anne Stevenson, Arlaine Moe, Audrey Crosson, Joan Grozell, Trevor Hannay, Murray Helmer, Ian Rowswell, Robin Mowat, and the Kvellos. And that's not everyone. I hope I didn't leave out a single person from volunteer to donor when I sent out 350 or so personal thank yous a few weeks ago. But Carrie put the list together, so I doubt it.

I am proud to represent beautiful Stonebridge-Dakota and to serve with this government under Premier Brad Wall who, as I said repeatedly during the recent campaign, has given Saskatchewan such a can-do pride of place in this country. And so begins a new chapter, a new adventure, so many new challenges, and I am so excited. I've made a list, being me, of all the issues I hope to address during these next four years, and I will never forget what people at the door said they were actually voting for me for, which is to uphold and stand up for common sense. And I will do that to the best of my ability. I hope only to honourably and decisively leave my public mark. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a privilege to enter into the debate with respect to the Throne Speech. Firstly, I'd like to congratulate all members of the Assembly on both sides of the House, the returning members and the new members, for their successful election campaigns that they experienced on April 4th.

And I also want to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election as Speaker to the Assembly and to thank you for your future rulings as I believe your presence will continue to contribute to our democratic process that we believe in with integrity and fairness. So congratulations. I welcome your leadership in the Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to thank the member from Cannington for his years of service as Speaker of the Saskatchewan legislature, and thank him for his mentorship and his leadership.

Now as is customary, I wish to humbly thank the constituents of Saskatchewan Rivers for once again re-electing me and believing in me for a third mandate. Their trust has encouraged me to do my best. We've had many Saskatchewan people involved in the various political parties putting their names forth as candidates, and I thank them all for their contributions to our democracy in this great province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge my campaign team who worked so hard to be successful. There was Marcus, the two Lindas, Cora, Norm, and Brigitt, along with all the other countless volunteers who gave of their time, what time they could. I offer my gratitude for their encouragement and the chance to serve once again in this House.

A big thank you to my husband and our four grown adult children for their ongoing support and love. Even the grandchildren were working with our team of supporters out there with Grandma, knocking on doors. They are in a big part why I continue to serve in this province, keeping Saskatchewan strong for our future generations. I believe the public responded to our past history and this platform that we have implemented, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I've reflected on the past election and the previous elections before that. We spent every moment we could on the farm gates of our riding in this province, making our case for a renewed mandate to serve once again in keeping Saskatchewan strong.

We concluded we did benefit from good fortune and planning in our first term, so we also approached it as a job interview on our second election in 2011, and we did so again in 2016 with an attitude of humility and servitude. So I say, Mr. Speaker, to the people of my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers and to the people of this great province, thank you. We are going to work hard to earn your trust once more.

Mr. Speaker, throne speeches are important to each one of us members. They are one of the two times annually when every Member of the Legislative Assembly stands up to thank their loved ones and their constituents. We discuss the issues of importance to them and their respective ridings. This is where we make decisions and laws to make sure we benefit the citizens, the people of Saskatchewan.

With respect to the substance of the Throne Speech, the best thing was the debate by the people of this province. They chose our platform, our vision, and our unwavering sight to continue to keep our economic growth strong. I quote from the Speech from the Throne:

These important infrastructure investments by ministries and Crowns will total \$3.6 billion this year — a record investment that will help meet the needs of a growing province, facilitate our growth plan and create jobs and opportunities that will keep Saskatchewan strong.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that volunteers were created to help humanity. They do the good work with the resources they have, with the best of their abilities, and with generosity. The Saskatchewan spirit lies in the souls of those generous acts of volunteerism that strengthen our communities. They work with joy, they work with enthusiasm, and they work without benefit of payment for service of others. Our greatest strength in our province is our people, the people in our communities we call home.

Just recently I was honoured to help present 10 citizens of Saskatchewan the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for this very work. Ms. Jeannette Eddolls was the recipient of this award.

She also lives in the constituency that I represent. I was very, very humbled to listen to the bios of these generous people who live in our communities. These are very rewarding and selfless acts that drove home to me our countless volunteers who work hard and invest in our province and our economy. Our rich history of the province demonstrates the willingness of the people to shape their communities into welcoming places to live, to raise their families, and to work.

The specifics of the Throne Speech address these visions and goals that our province and our government has, Mr. Speaker: communities like Big River where our government invested a 94 per cent increase in revenue sharing to ensure that their community benefits and keeps Saskatchewan strong, or Candle Lake, who received 115 per cent increase since we formed government in 2007.

As a Human Services Committee member, I'm eager to discuss the organ transplant and donor issue with respect to the Throne Speech. We will listen, and then we will make recommendations on how to increase the donor rate in our province that will enable our friends, our neighbours, and our families to have a better quality of life. How many of us have signed our own donor cards in a selfless act to help someone in need? It's something to think about and ponder, Mr. Speaker.

Standing up for others' interests, especially Saskatchewan's interests, has always been the Saskatchewan way, and our government will continue to attract new investment while fulfilling its commitments to helping seniors and children through important improvements to health care, long-term care homes, and the graduate retention program.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004 our party presented an economic paper for the province called *The Promise of Saskatchewan*. It was a paper promising new policies, the development of a platform proposed by the people of Saskatchewan offering promises to grow Saskatchewan. This came from a broad and sweeping review of all party in the province beyond the membership of the party. One financial business writer wrote our plan was pragmatic and visionary, ambitious and achievable. I believe the Throne Speech demonstrates our history as well as our visionary future. I will always prefer the challenges of growth to the challenges of decline. Saying that, Mr. Speaker, I vote in favour of the Throne Speech and oppose the amendment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I start off, I would also like to congratulate all of the people that won their respective elections. Also I'd give a note of gratitude to anybody that put their name forward to run during the election. There is a lot of great people, and there was only 51 that could be elected. We appreciate the efforts of all of them and congratulations to the ones that were successful here for the reasons that they put in the work. And I too would like to congratulate you on electing as Speaker of the House. We know you will uphold the tradition in fine style and we look forward to this term.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, thinking back and going back to thank some of the people that were helpful in my re-election in Moose Jaw North . . . And like everywhere else, you don't do this alone. You do it with your family. You do it with a lot of volunteers and a lot of help. And I would like to thank Christopher Thresher and Ron Hardy who headed up my campaign and did an admirable job of organizing and knowing the community in some respects and knowing the procedures in the other. So the two of them worked very well together and led to a lot of good work that went very well in every aspect.

We also had a number of volunteers in door knocking that went out and did a lot of work with the volunteers of door knocking, for putting up signs. Our sign campaign people were very diligent in getting the signs, the frames erected for the bigger signs, having the position. And within hours of the call of the election, these people were out and had the signs in place.

And it was unfortunate that early on in the campaign there was some vandalism of the signs that really kind of took a lot of wind out of a lot of people with the disgusting effort. But our sign people were very quickly to get up, and the only thing we had to hold them back a little to get the press a little opportunity to take pictures and make a news story out of it. And what looked like it could be something that was very negative in our campaign ended up being front page news and leading the newscasts every hour on the hour the next day. And although nobody was committed or got charged for doing the vandalism, Facebook and social media were not that kind to those kind of people. And words that I won't repeat in the House, but it really kind of showed the people that did the vandalism the true spirit of what is meant with the election campaign. If you go against . . . You may not agree with something, but at least you have to respect the process. And I think that really showed up.

I'd also like to thank the member for Lumsden-Morse and the member from Wakamow for our three constituencies to work together with a common campaign headquarters. It showed a unity between us and worked well with volunteers, with signage, with visibility and profile in the community.

And like everybody else, you really have to have your family behind you to work on this. And I can't say enough about my family. My son took some time off work to help with the election campaign. My two daughters who live in Moose Jaw were very diligent in helping out as far as putting up signs, to helping door knock, to doing meals and getting food prepared. And I tell the story about us, my wife and I, out campaigning and door knocking for hours, days on end. And one night we returned home about . . . It was well after dark, only to find out that our house was broken into and our fridge was filled with food. So we knew the kids were there. And it was certainly a nice touch to have and to have a little bit of a laugh about it.

You know, I can't say enough about my wife, my partner for life, and the dedication she had to the cause of the campaign and to the election, somebody that I would have never guessed in knowing her as well as I do that she would be as outgoing and be as committed to the door knocking and campaigning as she was. But she certainly was with me step by step all the way, and I can't thank her enough and speak highly enough about the effort that she put into it.

I know one particular day we worked all day and started with an interview on the local radio station and then you know, during the day, I felt I was a little bit kind of hungry. And she was going in one way and I was going the other. We met up and I says, you know, we should stop and have something to eat. And here it was 4:30 in the afternoon. We hadn't stopped for lunch. And I think that's the same with most of the people around here, that you just get caught up doing what you really believe in and what is right, and you just continue on.

And other than that, there are 4,424 other people in Moose Jaw North that I'd like to thank because of their commitment to the Saskatchewan Party, their support in me, and their confidence in me for the third time. And coming from an election in 2007 where we won by a majority of 33 votes, to go the route we did and to have the support and the understanding of the people of Moose Jaw North, thank you, thank you so much for the confidence and your reaffirmation of the Saskatchewan Party and me as your representative there.

In the last two terms when we look at Moose Jaw, the previous 16 years Moose Jaw really hadn't done much. Their claim to fame by the former member who I took his place was that Moose Jaw had the nicest looking Liquor Board store in Saskatchewan, and he's probably right. But that's not much of an achievement in 16 years of being representative of the area.

So Moose Jaw really had nowhere to go but up. And we did a lot of things. The Mosaic Place is a big entertainment centre, have attracted a lot of concerts as well as being home to the Moose Jaw Warriors. We have Yara Place, which is an indoor track that again came after we had formed government. And our biggest achievement of course was the new Moose Jaw Hospital that was opened up last October. With it is an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] that added to the services that can be provided through the hospital in Moose Jaw. And we appreciate the efforts that we've put into it, and the community come around to raise their share of the funding for the hospital. There's a few start-up problems for sure, as getting things organized, but I'm confident that those are being worked on and moving forward, and we have a very fine facility to look after Moose Jaw and the Five Hills Health Region.

As we look at what we've achieved as a government, looking forward and even looking backward, but looking forward, it really affirms the reason that I got into politics in the first place. And I remember thinking that Saskatchewan, being Saskatchewan, could be so much more than we were — a have-not province with almost half of the agricultural land, with mining, with uranium, with potash, with forestry. And to be a have-not province was just not right. That was kind of the inspiration that got me involved in politics the first time.

Looking back at the last two terms that I served, I believe that I was entirely right, that Saskatchewan is much more than it was under the former government, and doing well. And as we look at things, the province has moved forward so much. I wish my mom and dad were alive today to see the province they loved and worked very hard through those farming years, the pioneer years, and existing in this province and always hoping for more and better. And we've reached that. And there's more to do and there's much more, but as the Premier says, our best days are still ahead of us. And I truly believe that and I think the people

on this side of the House believe that as well and we'll work toward those ends.

The strong and diversity of our economy continues to attract new investment and new ways of life in this province. We look at our manufacturing industry that has boomed over the last few years. And being the Legislative Secretary for manufacturing, I've visited dozens of them and seen what they have. I've looked at the challenges they face, and bringing them back and trying to work toward answers and toward better ways to get them for their investment and attract more people, more investment, and improve the economy and move forward.

You know, the people of Saskatchewan like Saskatchewan. The people of Canada like Saskatchewan. The people of the world like Saskatchewan because we have what they want. The strength of the people that live in here and work in here and continue to see the promise of a future is remarkable when you think for the province that we love and is now being led by a Premier that understands the challenges and continues to be somebody that's humbly carrying, moving forward, and doing the things that make Saskatchewan great.

I took exception when the member from Saskatoon Nutana was talking about the Saskatchewan Party government: they're overpromised and underdelivered. And I thought, you know, how can you say that after the past eight years of real growth and real prosperity in this province, especially when under their party there was 156 schools that were closed and 52 hospitals were closed? And here's a government that is building schools and building hospitals and expanding our economic activity to make this a better place.

Under the NDP, our major export was our people. There was major out-migration. And another big thing they did was with their legislation against the potash industry that caused a company like K+S to actually move out of the country. Well they're back. They're building north of Moose Jaw. Next year they'll be on stream as the newest potash mine in Saskatchewan, and likely the CEO [chief executive officer] of K+S says, we're not leaving this time. So it's good to have that kind of mentality, that kind of thinking that will move our province forward.

People like the idea of lower taxes for individuals, for families, for homeowners, and for businesses. And that's what this party has done. That's what this government has done as far as putting people first and making a better place for people to live here. Our government believes in young people and has made every effort they can to keep them in the province, to keep them going to school or to start in careers of their own, to raising their families, and creating jobs and ultimately growing our economy.

The program, the graduation retention is one of the best programs across the country for youth retention, and it really works, Mr. Speaker. There are 58,000 people, young people that have taken advantage of that. And in this Throne Speech it's gone one step further, that they can now use part of that now to . . . the graduation retention has been improved to allow them to use up to \$10,000 toward purchasing their new home. Isn't that a great opportunity when the price of housing . . . because the economy has improved. And now here's an

opportunity for young people to actually start their own home, and the Government of Saskatchewan will help them do that.

I think the people like the idea that the revenue-sharing increase for municipalities has more than doubled. In Moose Jaw, we went from \$2.8 million to \$7.1 million. But right now there's a lot of controversy in Moose Jaw about the replacement of the water mains. And I know that \$4.3 million that they now get from the government that they never got before is certainly a welcome asset to helping the city move forward and replace some of the water mains and the other things that the municipality is responsible for.

We have record investment in infrastructure, improvements in education. We've built schools. We're building schools, 18 more schools. We've renovated dozens of schools, and in Moose Jaw, we've got schools that have been renovated and upgraded.

Our health care system with this government has improved the waiting list from the worst in the country to the best, the fastest in the country. And we're not finished yet; we still want to do more. We want to improve the wait times even more, bring them down. And part of the Throne Speech talks about the CT scanning program that will increase the number of scans that can be taken by using the private sector, as it did with the MRI, and will make our wait times even less.

We look at highways, the record highway investment that this government has made and will continue to do so, the record investment in new highways with the highways 2020 plan which will invest \$2.7 billion over the next four years. With better highways we can increase our economic development because we'll have . . . As a landlocked province, we have to rely on transportation to get our products and services to our manufacturing units and to our markets. That's why we need highways. We need improved highways, and we've constantly kept improving the highways of Saskatchewan. We'll continue to do so, which will be safer, which will be more efficient, and it will create jobs. And because it's creating jobs in the sector of resource development and agriculture, that's all-new creation of jobs, growing the economy of Saskatchewan and increasing as we grow stronger. So we will continue to have a strong and diversified economy in agriculture, in manufacturing, in mining, and research.

The new tax incentive, the patent box tax incentive, is a great idea. Why wouldn't we do this? It's a great incentive for people to patent ideas. So it's not only encouraging people that do the manufacturing and the processing now, but it also encourages people to invest in Saskatchewan so that their patents can be processed in a timely manner with the tax incentive.

[16:45]

And that takes us to the home-based food processing to sell directly to the consumers and retailers. Again, what a great concept. It's the Saskatchewan way to have these kinds of processing done by people that start little manufacturers and processing of food. And I think of Emmy Barr, the Queen of Caramel, which many of you have met either in the legislature a couple of years when she was here, or just because of the product. Now here's a little entrepreneur that has to have a

commercial kitchen to do her product. Why would that be necessary? Yes, there has to be regulations and inspections and that. But here's a little entrepreneur with an idea that can grow and blossom.

And I mention K+S, and I know K+S didn't start as a multi-million dollar corporation at one time. Somewhere it started as a small idea and grew accordingly. That's what we would expect from some of the food producers, and that's why we have put this home-based food producing, allowing them to produce food products in their homes and sold it accordingly to markets directly from their home.

We've reduced the red tape. We've opened and expanded new markets. And another thing that Saskatchewan is doing very well — our Premier is leading us in this — is working within Canada to promote Saskatchewan, to lower interprovincial trade barriers, not only in Canada but around the world.

My son-in-law is an exporter and does a lot of marketing in peas, split peas to India and to Pakistan. And without those trade missions that the Premier has led, we wouldn't have those kinds of markets. So it's something that we have to look at. And it's something that's good to see in the Speech from the Throne, that this kind of investment will continue, this kind of energy will continue as we move forward.

Investment into skills training, like the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, I can't say enough. I know there's more to be done. We've taken some great steps in developing it into a Saskatchewan Polytechnic, to develop that workforce that is so much needed here in Saskatchewan.

We have moved a long way in health as far as waiting times, the number of doctors, the number of nurses that we've acquired, the MRI expansion, and now the CT scanning. The innovation remote technology to deliver better health care in northern Saskatchewan, the pilot project seems to be working well. And with the commitment to provide an additional \$500,000 to remote communities in northern Saskatchewan, I think that's very powerful. It's good to see it continuing and improving.

Mr. Speaker, I've gone along for some time, and there's certainly much more to say about the seniors' care, about the tripling of the seniors' income plan that we've done, the replacement of 500 long-term beds. In the Speech from the Throne, our government will redirect health regional savings from administrative reductions. And those administrative reduction savings will go to improve seniors' care by hiring more registered nurses, more licensed practical nurses, and care aids in long-term care facilities. I think that's an important part. And as we go one step further, we will assist seniors in remaining in their homes, to allow them to defer their education portion of their property tax. And that's important, again to keep seniors in their homes as long as they can.

As I reach the end of my remarks . . . And one more thing that I think is very important is the end-of-life care that is an issue, and can become very personal and very important to those who are in their final stages of life, but not only just for them but for their family and the loved ones that get so emotionally involved with care and compassion. And that's such a critical time of life

and it's such an important time to be calm and to have that assurance that you can be around those ones that you love and to take care of them.

So it's time that we've extended that eligibility to 28 weeks of leave, and it's perhaps overdue. And I'm most grateful that this government has thought of the plan to move forward on that very item.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne is very powerful. It's very strong. It will move the province forward and continue Saskatchewan to be a leader in most aspects of our economic development and our place in Canada. And, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I will not support the amendment but, Mr. Speaker, I will support the motion on the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Parent: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate you on getting elected as the Speaker. I would also like to congratulate Deputy Speaker from Last Mountain-Touchwood constituency, and thank you to my colleagues for their gracious welcome and remarks.

It is a great privilege to be here today to represent my constituency and to provide some opening remarks in this Chamber. I am truly humbled and honoured to be appearing here among my colleagues who have made a positive impact in our great province, especially the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe it's been only a month since I was re-elected. Mr. Speaker, with this title comes great responsibility, and I will work hard to fulfill this role and serve all of the constituents, not only the ones that voted for me but everyone in Saskatoon Meewasin, and as well all the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I have so many people to thank for helping me along this path to get re-elected. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first and for the most important people in my campaign, and that is my family. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my wife, Sheila, who door knocked with me every evening after she got off work. In my opinion, she worked harder than anyone, as she worked at her job from 7 a.m. until 4 every day and then came to my campaign office to door knock with me for three to four hours.

Mr. Speaker, next I want to thank my daughter Shanaya, who came to the campaign office daily with my now 10-month-old grandson Nash, who always puts a smile on my face, and I can always get him to smile. Mr. Speaker, my daughter's fiancé also came every day after work, Kyle Klassen, and we all went out door knocking. If it was nice enough for Nash to be out riding in his wagon, he would come with us. Otherwise three of us would go out.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the people who helped me out in our campaign office. Brent Penner was our campaign manager and did a wonderful job making sure that daily things were done. Gwen Joa, who was there every day with her beautiful dog Annie. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, we ate like kings as Gwen cooked us nightly meals after we were done

door knocking. And, Mr. Speaker, usually during a writ I lose 5 to 10 pounds from poor eating and lots of walking. Mr. Speaker, this writ I gained 5 to 10 pounds even though I door knocked all the time.

Mr. Speaker, I have lots of others to thank who were in the office doing all the chores that are required during a campaign. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Jill Joa, Barb Martin, Gary Thiesen, Susan McDonald, who were in the office almost every day, also in the office helping Barb Martin and Elaine Petersen.

Mr. Speaker, next I would like to thank all the people who came out and door knocked with me during this campaign. All the people who came from other constituencies and helped out was very appreciated. And from my constituency, Tim Steuart, Maddie Merta, Tim Merta, Barry Jones, Carl Friske, the member from Biggar-Saskatchewan Valley, Senator David Tkachuk, Kevin Waugh, Tim Thoen, Chad Poitras, Randy Donauer, Lauren Donauer, Pam Donauer.

Mr. Speaker, next I would like to thank the lawn sign dynamic duo of Ed Hudson and Jack Wilson who were out no matter what the weather was like putting up lawn signs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our e-day team who spent the better part of the day being my runners, for instance Zachariah Merta and Joshua Merta. And of course, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the scrutineers that I had that worked for me that day: Wendy Richards, Rick Ellson, Murray Blanch, Bryan Sly, Cody Wheler, Sheree Sawatsky, Les Bitz, Margarita Wiggins, Cherene Assman, Brian Assman, Randy Donauer, Lauren Donauer, Barry Jones, Rosane Jones, Lisa Rogalski, James Richardson, Barb Tymchak, Tim Merta, Sharmaine Merta, Ty Hamil, Barb Martin, Tim Thoen, Ed Hudson, and Jack Hudson.

Mr. Speaker, keeping Saskatchewan strong is very important to this party. Keeping the province's finances strong, keeping Saskatchewan's position in Canada strong by always standing up for Saskatchewan's interests, Mr. Speaker, keeping promises.

Mr. Speaker, starting this year and over the next three years, government will fix more highways through a 70 million surge in highway repair and maintenance. This is part of a new highways 2020 plan to invest 2.7 billion in highways and transportation capital over the next four years. Mr. Speaker, government will continue to move forward on many other important infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, the Regina bypass, using both traditional funding models and P3s. These important infrastructure investments by ministers and Crowns will total 3.6 billion this year, a record investment.

Keeping our economy strong, Mr. Speaker. From January 1st, 2006 to January 1st, 2016, Saskatchewan grew by 150,000 people, or 15 per cent, the strongest sustained period of growth since the earliest days of the province. Compared to January 1st, '96 to January 1st, 2006, Saskatchewan population dropped by nearly 24,000 people as thousands left the province to pursue opportunities elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, government will consult with industry on the establishment of a new growth tax incentive. Mr. Speaker, the new patent box tax incentive is

designed to create jobs and investment through an advantageous tax rate for the commercialization and patents of intellectual property right here in our province.

Mr. Speaker, this session government will be introducing legislative amendments to remove the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority from the Crown corporations ownership Act. This change will be part of a campaign commitment to convert 40 government-owned liquor stores to private stores, adding 12 new private liquor stores and create a level playing field for liquor retailers in the province and provide more choice, more convenience, more competitive pricing for Saskatchewan consumers.

Mr. Speaker, a better quality of life. Over the past eight years, a growing economy has enabled government to reduce surgical wait-lists to the point that in 2015 Saskatchewan had the shortest wait times in Canada. Again, this is a complete reversal of the previous decade which saw Saskatchewan with the longest surgical wait times in Canada. The dramatic turnaround from the longest to the shortest surgical wait times has been due to, in part, government's decision to allow private surgeries within the public-funded system. Mr. Speaker, government will expand this innovative approach to launch a remote technology pilot project to deliver better health care to Pelican Narrows in northern Saskatchewan. Our government will fulfill its commitment to provide an additional 500,000 a year to expand this innovative technology to remote areas.

Mr. Speaker, standing up for Saskatchewan. It is troubling that today there are some in the country who would, given opportunity, would shut down major parts of Saskatchewan's economy and put thousands of hard-working Saskatchewan people out of work, all in the name of some misguided dogma that has no basis in reality. Our government . . . Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I support the Throne Speech.

The Speaker: — It now being 5 p.m., this Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	9
Wotherspoon	10
Tell	10
Ottenbreit	10
Cheveldayoff	10
Steinley	10
Sproule	10
Fiaz	10

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Chartier	10
Forbes	11

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Keeping Saskatchewan Strong	
Bradshaw	11
Role of the Official Opposition	
Wotherspoon	11
Fort McMurray Fire	
Young	11
Broadcaster Inducted Into Hall of Fame	
Forbes	12
Unveiling of the Legislative Building Dome	
Fiaz	12
Adoption of the Saskatchewan Flag	
Marit	12
Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipient	
Hargrave	13

QUESTION PERIOD

Wildfire Management	
Wotherspoon	13
Wall	13
Tabling of Budget	
Wotherspoon	14
Wall	14
Funding for Education	
Beck	14
Morgan	14
Crisis Services for Prince Albert	
Rancourt	15
Duncan	15
Global Transportation Hub	
Wotherspoon	16
Wyant	16
Wall	16

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

Clerk	17
Hart	17

MOTIONS

Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees	
Cheveldayoff	18
Legislature Sitting Days	
Cheveldayoff	18

SPECIAL ORDER

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Buckingham	19
Carr	21
Sproule	23
Belanger	28
Eyre	32
Wilson	34
Michelson	35
Parent	38

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. Jennifer Campeau
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Herb Cox
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Mark Docherty
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister Responsible for Immigration,
Jobs, Skills and Training
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris
Deputy Premier
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Scott Moe
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds