



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

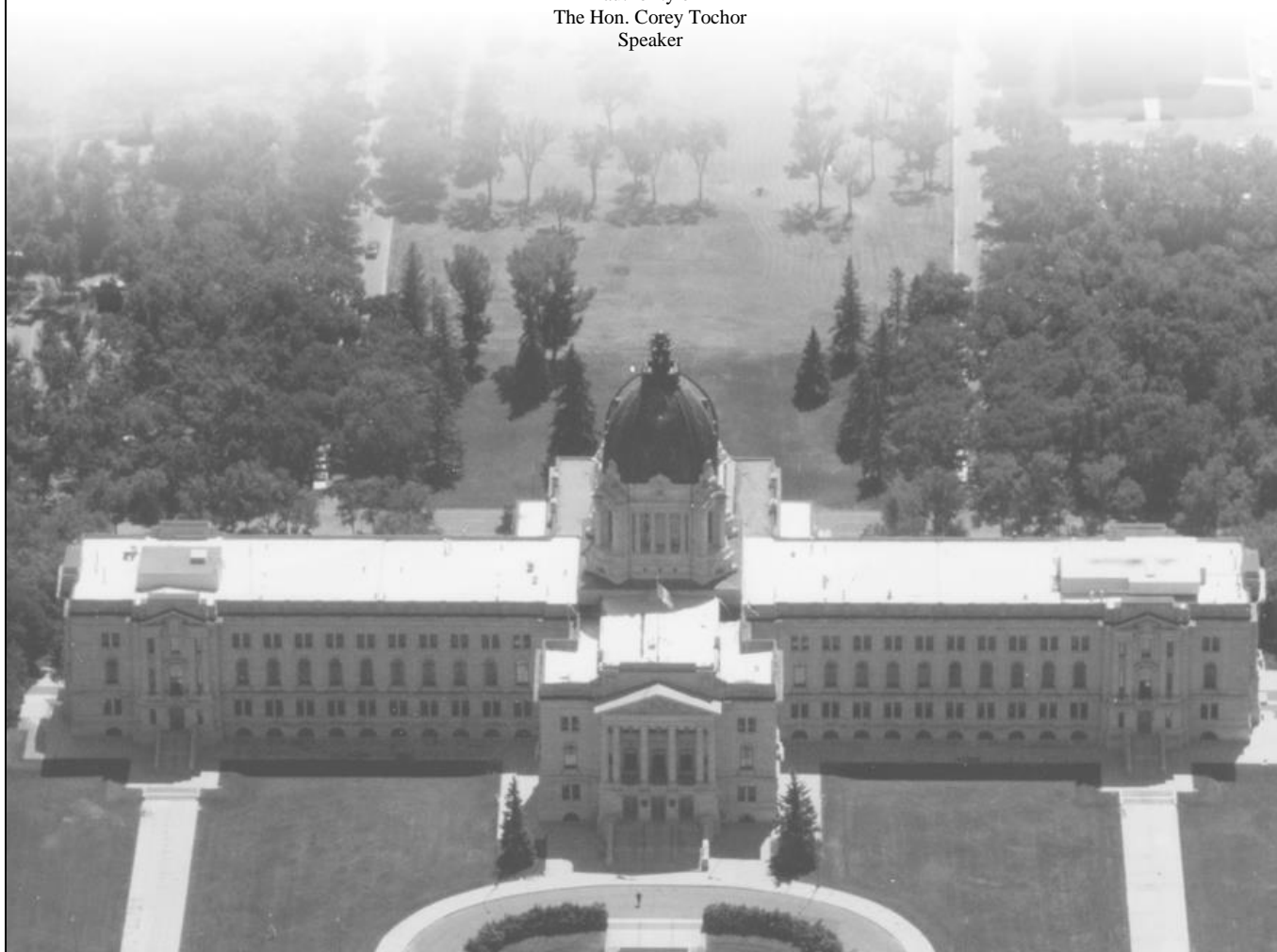
of the

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

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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure and my honour as my new role as minister responsible for Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations, I'm pleased to introduce five special guests in the Legislative Assembly today. Please welcome these visitors seated in your gallery, and I'll ask them to stand and be recognized as I call their names.

First, His Excellency Andriy Shevchenko is the ambassador of Ukraine to Canada. Olya Grod is executive director of Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Lesia Spolsky is development director, Ukrainian Canadian Congress. And of course from Yorkton, Mary Ann Trischuk, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council. They are accompanied by Chelsey Vargo-Wilson, protocol officer; and Helen Akulova, senior international officer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency has a busy schedule during his time here in Saskatchewan. He and our guests from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress are meeting with representatives of our government; with members of the Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations advisory committee, or SURAC as it is more commonly known; and with leaders of Saskatchewan's Ukrainian community and with representatives of academic and research institutions. His Excellency's visit comes during what is a special anniversary year for Canada-Ukraine and Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations.

I'll note first that 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, or UCC, and that Ambassador Shevchenko has already joined the UCC president, Paul Grod, at various stops across Canada and to celebrate that important anniversary of the organization.

This year also marks the 125th anniversary of the first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada and Saskatchewan; 125 years, Mr. Speaker, of rich Canadian-Ukrainian culture and tradition contributing to our national and provincial mosaic. Settlers from Ukraine helped build our province, and today more than 13 per cent of Saskatchewan residents trace all or part of their ancestry to Ukraine, according to the last census. Ukraine is currently the fifth top source of immigration to our province.

It is to celebrate that strong historic and current connection of Saskatchewan with Ukraine that Premier Brad Wall last January declared 2016 as the Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainians. Our province's Ukrainian community will be showcasing that designation at existing and special community events throughout the year. Both the Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainians and the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement were profiled at the Vesna Festival in Saskatoon in May and at Regina's Mosaic festival this past weekend. I understand that special Year of Saskatchewan Ukrainian festival celebrations will be taking place on August 13th at Victoria Park in Regina and on August 27th at the annual Ukrainian Day in the Park at Kiwanis Park in Saskatoon.

Of course the big event this year for our province's and our nation's Ukrainian community will be the XXV Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians. It takes place on 29th of September to October 2nd right here in Regina. The theme is Engage, Inspire, Empower, and I'm sure the congress will be all of that and more for the hundreds of delegates who visit the province.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan and its government are committed to building the long-standing relationship we have with the country of Ukraine. Our province has a number of city-twinning arrangements and academic exchange agreements with Ukraine, and in 2009 we revitalized SURAC to provide recommendations on such arrangements and on various program initiatives such as the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program.

Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted that these special guests will join with us today, and I would ask that all members of this Assembly join with me in welcoming His Excellency Andriy Shevchenko and the representatives of the UCC to Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd like to introduce to the Assembly a great group of grade 4 students from Yorkdale Central School, 43 in fact. They're in the west gallery. With them is teachers Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Hicks, and Mrs. Newsham. Outside in the bus is Pat Rawlick. He never seems to come in. Chaperones are Mrs. Burkall, Mr. Andrew, Mr. Ross, Mrs. Presty, and Mrs. Hrushka, along with a good friend of mine, deputy fire chief and their good friend, Greg Litvanyi and his daughter, Maddie. So I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my distinct honour to join with the member opposite, the minister opposite to welcome the delegation that's here today from Ukraine, but also Ukrainian Canadians here in Canada that are enriching our province day in and day out. To His Excellency Andriy Shevchenko, welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Thank you for your presence. It matters. To Paul Grod, Olya Grod, Lesia Spolsky, Mary Ann Trischuk, and Gerald Luciuk, welcome as well to the Assembly. Thank you for all of your contributions to our province. Thank you as well for continuing to build this very strong and important relationship between Saskatchewan, Canada, and Ukraine.

We have a strong and long history, 125 years of Ukrainian Canadians building our fine province and our country, and we've built a very strong and important relationship with Ukraine itself. In our province, Ukrainian Canadians have left their mark on our province and continue to shape and define our future. For example, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, which is now celebrating its 75th anniversary, is relevant and purposeful and engaged in very important aspects of our province in that relationship with Ukraine.

And you know, and names like Romanow and Tchorzewski and Hnatyshyn and Krawetz loom large in our political landscape and in our province's history. And those contributions, although they're very important, are only a fraction of the contributions of Ukrainian Canadians to our province as a whole.

It's a rich history and a bright future between Ukraine and Saskatchewan and Canada. The relationship is important, and I think it's important to note that this isn't just a one-way relationship, Mr. Speaker. People from across Saskatchewan stand side by side the people of Ukraine in their struggle to assert their sovereignty in the face of Russian aggression.

Saskatchewan people will never accept the illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory, and I'm proud of the 200 brave men and women of the Canadian Forces who are serving alongside our NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] allies and providing training to support Ukraine in its efforts to maintain sovereignty, security, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in welcoming this delegation to the Assembly here today to thank them for their enriching contributions, and in showing solidarity with Ukrainian people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you it's my pleasure to introduce a special guest to the Legislative Assembly today. Seated in your gallery is Tim Tokaryk, and Tim is the curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. I think he's up there in the corner.

He's been working with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for 32 years and he has made many important contributions to the fossil record of Saskatchewan and the field of paleontology. Tim came up with the idea of establishing a provincial fossil. He then developed a list of the seven fossil candidates for the public to choose from — there's maybe a couple in this room — and you may not know this, but Tim actually excavated many of the fossils himself, including Scotty, the ultimate winner of the provincial fossil campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in welcoming Tim to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to join the minister in welcoming Tim to his Legislative Assembly. He does some great work at the Royal

Saskatchewan Museum and we really appreciate it. So on behalf of the opposition as well, thank you so much for your work and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, I'd also like to introduce another individual who is seated at your gallery. Nigel Detbrenner-Rempel is here. He is a member of the NDP [New Democratic Party] campus club at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and I understand he's working for the summer for St. Thomas More, going across the province doing some outreach work for them. So he's a great leader in his community and I'm looking forward to seeing what he does in his career as his career progresses. So I'd ask that the members opposite, all the members join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery are 14 grade 8 students from the Ituna School. They are accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Cindy Yanko; chaperones Alison Boczulak and Shawna Zrymiak; along with their bus driver, Wesley Kanciruk.

Mr. Speaker, they're here to observe the proceedings this morning. And later on this morning I will be meeting with them, and I'm sure that they will have quite a number of questions. I would ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize Regina Pasqua MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly].

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to . . . To you, through you, and to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce my constituent, Mr. Zia Khan. Mr. Zia Khan, can you please raise your hand? Mr. Zia Khan started his import and export business in Regina in 2013. He's currently having his office from Regina, Dubai, and from Karachi. Zia Khan is having four daughters and one son, two daughters going to McMaster University. And right beside him, Zia Khan's partner, Afzul Siddiqui. Afzul Siddiqui is president of PCCA, Pakistan Canadian Cultural Association of Regina. I would like to say all the members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming them in their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would like to introduce Kimberly Petrychyn, my constituency assistant from Regina Pasqua. Kimberly has recently completed her Business Administration degree with a major in human resources at the University of Regina. She is currently training for the marathon in November this year in Las Vegas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all the members of the Assembly to join with me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition to improve PTSD

[post-traumatic stress disorder] coverage for Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that PTSD can severely impact the lives of Saskatchewan workers. And the gist of the petition is calling on the government to ensure that all workers have access to prompt treatment if they experience a traumatic event and then get a diagnosis of PTSD on the job. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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 today is signed by citizens from Moose Jaw and Maidstone. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition to the Assembly from individuals from Saskatoon. It's regarding the surface rights legislation that is an old and outdated piece of legislation. It remains largely unchanged despite amendments over the years. It is in desperate need of modernization to reflect the current challenges that farmers and ranchers are facing today.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the government of Saskatchewan to introduce legislation that would modernize *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*, classify land valued as industrial rather than agricultural when oil and gas development takes place, removing pipelines and flow lines from the surface rights Act, and establish a new maximum in compensation to be paid for damages.

Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of funding heritage languages here in Saskatchewan. And we know 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. As a result of the announcement by the Ministry of Education, many of these non-profit heritage language schools will be faced with the difficult decision of whether they can continue to operate.

[10:15]

In addition to providing language and cultural classes, these

schools offer a welcoming environment and crucial support for newcomers who are searching for a way to feel at home in their new surroundings here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Tax Freedom Day

Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June 1 was a significant day for the people of Saskatchewan. We introduced the 2016-17 provincial budget that did not raise or introduce any new taxes. We know that Saskatchewan people work hard and that the taxpayer dollars of this province belong to the people, not the government, which is why for the past 10 years Saskatchewan has been a national leader for growth, investment, and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, June 1 was also significant for another reason. It was tax freedom day for our province. Tax freedom day is an economic measure put forward by the Fraser Institute that tracks and ranks how much provincial residents pay in taxes. It's simple: the earlier tax freedom day arrives, the lower your cumulative tax bill becomes. Mr. Speaker, this compares to the national average tax freedom day, which is June 7. But more importantly, in 2005 when the NDP was in power, tax freedom day in Saskatchewan was June 29, a full four weeks longer.

In dollars saved, Mr. Speaker, our government has provided \$6 billion in tax relief since we formed government. Unlike the NDP, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to advocate to put more money back where it belongs, into the pockets of the hard-working people of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to rise and recognize the accomplishments of the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program, or SCYAP as they celebrated the end of their urban canvas project and saw another talented group of artists graduate. I, along with my colleagues

from Saskatoon Sutherland, Fairview, and Northwest, helped mark this important occasion at the Snelgrove Gallery at the University of Saskatchewan this past May 20th.

SCYAP was founded in June 2001 by Darrell Lechman to create an art- and culture-based environment where youth could gain employment while working on personal development and build skill sets, artistic as well as life skills, that would allow them to thrive in our community and help them to live happy, healthy, and productive lives. Through initiatives such as the recently completed eight-month-long urban canvas project, SCYAP allows its participants to explore their own personal experiences and life struggles through the means of artistic expression. The student art show was recently on display at the Gordon Snelgrove Art Gallery.

SCYAP is proud that over 70 per cent of the program participants are of Aboriginal ancestry, and many grow to become strong contributors in the indigenous art community. Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to join me in recognizing the talented participants from the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program as well as Darrell Lechman, the staff and volunteers at SCYAP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

First Steps Wellness Centre Opens Cerebral Palsy Program

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was honoured to attend, along with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and the members from Cannington and Regina Pasqua, the First Steps Wellness Centre's cerebral palsy children's program grand opening.

The First Steps Spinal Cord Injury Wellness Centre is a non-profit organization that first opened in 2010 to improve function, independence, and quality of life for those who suffered a spinal cord injury. They provide activity and exercise-based rehabilitation, and since opening they have expanded their services to those with neuromuscular conditions such as MS [multiple sclerosis] and cerebral palsy.

Mr. Speaker, the new CP [cerebral palsy] children's program is based on the TheraSuit method, which uses a system of elastic rubber bands to help align the patient's body as close to normal as possible. This is just a great example of how First Steps is using innovative tools and techniques to help people of all ages and abilities improve their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, our government, through Casino Regina, is proud to be a platinum sponsor of this new and exciting program. We are proud to contribute to creating a strong, vibrant community, and First Steps is helping us do exactly that.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Owen Carlson, the man who had a vision for First Steps, and his whole team for all that they do for their clients, and congratulating them on this new and exciting program they're about to start on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Douglas Park.

Mosaic Festival Demonstrates Diversity

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend I had the pleasure to attend the Mosaic festival here in Regina. As always, it was a great festival that demonstrated the depth and breadth of our Queen City's diversity. Along with a few of my colleagues in the official opposition, I had the chance to tend the bar at the India pavilion, serving up beers and mango lassis to the huge crowd that turned out to enjoy the festival.

Since 1978, this fantastic festival has been a highlight on the calendar of all Regina, and this year's offering didn't disappoint. Thousands of people tour the pavilions each and every year to check out the dinner, dance, and dress of the cultural groups that call Regina home. This year 17 different pavilions celebrated the mosaic of cultures that helps our province realize the true potential of its motto "from many peoples, strength."

This year's festival featured pavilions representing Austrians, Hungarians, Brazilians, Caribbeans, Chinese, francophones, Germans, Greeks, Indians, Irish, Romanians, Italians, two different Ukrainian pavilions, Filipinos, Punjabis, and Scots. I ask all members to join me in thanking the army of volunteers who give so much of their time to make Mosaic a success, the sponsors who helped cover off the costs associated with an event that takes place across so many venues, along with the dancers, musicians, cooks, and costume makers who shared their heritage and culture with so many during the festival.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar-Sask Valley.

Great Plains College Warman Region Graduation

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Great Plains College Warman region graduates. On May 26th, I had the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony in Warman.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Plains College is a multi-location regional college with campuses in Swift Current, Kindersley, and Warman, and additional program offerings in Biggar, Maple Creek, Rosetown, and on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. This year more than 100 Warman region students graduated from seven programs, including administrative assistant, adult basic education, boom truck crane and hoist business, early childhood education, heavy equipment operator, and youth care worker.

Mr. Speaker, most of the graduates attended classes at the Warman campus, but four students graduated from the ABE [adult basic education] program offered at Dakota Whitecap First Nation, and four students graduated from the adult basic education program offered in the town of Biggar in my constituency.

I would like to extend special congratulations to my friend and constituent Reno Poitras, who is also Zane's father, on his graduation from the ABE program offered in Biggar. Graduation marks a new stage in the lives of students and the

beginning of the careers they have worked so hard for. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the new graduates from the Great Plains College Warman region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Newcomer Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday I had the pleasure of attending the first ever Newcomer Entrepreneur of the Year Awards hosted by the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority and Square One, Saskatchewan's business resource centre.

This event was a great opportunity to celebrate those who have come to Saskatchewan and embraced our strong entrepreneurial spirit. In 2015 Stats Canada reported that over 21 per cent of small- and medium-sized businesses were owned by entrepreneurs born outside of Canada, with Saskatchewan having the largest amount of newcomer entrepreneurs in the country.

Mr. Speaker, in the Start-up category, the winner was Colors of India. In the Growth category, the winner was Baydo Development Corp. Odd Couple took home the award in the Under 39 category, and Manila Cleaning Services won in the Connect category.

I felt very honoured, Mr. Speaker, to present the NEYA [Newcomer Entrepreneur of the Year Award] Spirit award to Wajid and Maysoon Toma with First Impressions Hair Design.

Mr. Speaker, immigrants to the province can face significant financial and language barriers when starting a new business, so it is important that we recognize the hard work and dedication of each and every newcomer entrepreneur. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the winners for the Newcomer Entrepreneur of the Year Awards as well as Square One for putting on such a wonderful event. Thank you.

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

Fraser Institute Mining Survey

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Fraser Institute's annual survey of mining companies was released, and once again Saskatchewan was ranked as the most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment in Canada and the second most attractive destination worldwide.

This ranking looked at many factors from 109 jurisdictions across the world, including geological attractiveness and the extent to which government policies affected investment. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has witnessed almost 30 billion in total potash and uranium capital investment since 2007, and in 2015 Saskatchewan had the second highest mineral value production in Canada at \$8.5 billion. As a result, the mining industry has generated over 30,000 direct and indirect jobs in our province. Mr. Speaker, this government has worked hard to offer competitive resource royalty structures, reliable and transparent

policies, as well as an overall wealth of resources for the companies that do choose to work here.

This report is one more example of how Saskatchewan is continuing to be the best place to live as well as invest in, with strong, diversified economy that is able to compete worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members to join me in congratulating the hard-working men and women in our mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, 9,000 fewer jobs than a year ago. People of Saskatchewan are facing lower and lower wages. More and more families are falling into bankruptcy. And the Sask Party is actually making things worse on many fronts. They don't seem to understand that their cuts, their scandals, and their mismanagement all have consequences for real people across Saskatchewan.

It's the people of Saskatchewan who are left to pay the price for this government's mismanagement. Instead of concern and compassion and meaningful action, in this House all we get from that side of the House is arrogant dismissals, error-plagued lines from the ministers, and petty attacks against our critics — wrong answer after wrong answer.

Mr. Speaker, I can count to 51 and to 10 as well as the next guy, but the Sask Party's majority does not remove their duty to govern responsibly. Will the Premier commit to working with his cabinet and caucus to fix this troubling culture and unacceptable approach of his government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I don't quite understand the Leader of the Opposition's question. I disagree with much of the premise of the question; I would say that.

Mr. Speaker, before, during, and since the election, we've worked very hard to present to Saskatchewan people our plan for growth, for continued economic strength in the province of Saskatchewan. We campaigned on improving it with things like the patent box and, in this particular year, the largest infrastructure investment in the history of the province, which is also part of the short- and the long-term economic plan we have for the province.

We've also worked hard and diligently already, even though the election was just the 4th of April. Mr. Speaker, it's very important, notwithstanding how many members are in the government, that the government works to do the things that it said it would do in the campaign, that it would keep its promises, that it would work hard to serve the people of this province, and we've done that over the last number of years, over eight years. I think that was in part, perhaps, recognized on the 4th of April. I think that's fair to say. And it's also the expectation of Saskatchewan people going forward, and we're going to work hard to meet that expectation and to earn the

mandate we received in that election campaign.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm genuinely reaching out to that Premier to take some responsibility for the troubling culture of that government in his cabinet, not only for their scandals and their mismanagement, but also for his ministers. The reality being faced by the people of Saskatchewan is not the rosy picture the Premier regales us with most days. There's cuts in health care. There's challenges in education. There's impacts for the poor all across this province, and no plan to diversify and to strengthen our economy.

Yet day after day as serious questions are being posed by critics, whether they're about children in care, whether they're about corrections, whether they're about cuts to the most vulnerable or in education, instead of stepping up and answering, minister after minister stands in this legislature, gets their facts wrong. In fact, if you think of the Education minister, instead of answering questions, he launches petty political attacks on this very strong Education critic on this side of the House who's painting the reality and addressing the concerns of education across this province. Meanwhile, students, as it relates to education, are facing the cuts. When will this Premier stop failing students, denying reality, and starting making our kids' classrooms a priority?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition will ask questions in this House in question period and the government will answer those questions. And sometimes the answer will be about the record of the government, and often the answer will also talk a little bit about what our plans are for the future. Those are the exchanges that I've witnessed in this early session of the Legislative Assembly.

I've witnessed some other things though, Mr. Speaker. I've witnessed a number of critics on that side of the House fundamentally get their facts wrong and have to be corrected the next day when the minister rises into place. I think the new member for Lakeview has had an experience with this, Mr. Speaker.

I think the Leader of the Opposition himself has had some challenges with this, Mr. Speaker, up to and including here I think just in the last number of days when he would mischaracterize the bypass for, I don't know, the umpteenth time, mischaracterize the fact that it's Saskatchewan companies that are involved in that bypass, basically dismiss Broda Group which is a lead contractor. And in the end . . .

An Hon. Member: — You know that's not true.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well he says it's not true. In the election campaign they actually put out a press release singling out Broda as not really a Saskatchewan company because maybe they have Alberta investment, although they've been headquartered in this province for 50-plus years and are currently located in Prince Albert.

So I would invite my hon. member to be a bit more circumspect in terms of his criticisms in the House. I'm sure members on both sides of the House make mistakes from time to time. But, Mr. Speaker, what we have seen from members opposite since this session began is a string of mischaracterizations in terms of government policy and attacks not just on the government, but on businesses in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Education minister to clarify something he said to the media. I asked him to explain if the 33 per cent increase in education he takes credit for is in any part actually a shuffling of existing dollars, rather than new money. Instead of answering the question, all the minister offered was rhetoric that ignored, diminished, and defied the reality that schools across this province are facing.

Mr. Speaker, parents deserve answers. They deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent. They deserve clarity about how the government calculates their numbers, and they deserve adequate funding for schools instead of spin lines for the government. So I'll ask the minister again: does his 33 per cent actually represent an overall increase to schools or is he just shuffling budget lines?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would say this to the member opposite and I would say this to the Leader of the Opposition. If they start out asking a question that has a wrong or an erroneous preamble that leads to misconception on the part of the public, I will stand in this House and I will correct it each and every time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition accuses us of having a culture of not wanting to be co-operative or helpful. Mr. Speaker, we have two things in this House right now. I have reached out to the members opposite and I have said, do you wish to have a private or a separate briefing regarding the bill going forward on teachers' superannuation? They've accepted that offer. That was an offer that was made without them asking.

That member opposite has also asked for a briefing and information regarding the task force and the work that Dan Perrins is doing. I contacted Dan Perrins directly and said, you can meet with that member and say whatever you want, whatever information's there, and you don't need to wait for estimates. You're welcome to the information. We have nothing to hide, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister and his staff for those briefings. But once again we have no direct answers and a denial of the reality of the effects that this government's budget is having on schools across the province.

Mr. Speaker, since last week's budget, school boards have been struggling with bad news. The Saskatoon Public School Division is short \$160 per student. Teachers will be cut and class sizes will grow. Mr. Speaker, the Prairie South School Division is making cuts too, eliminating educational positions. Several trustees in the division spoke out about these cuts. And it's not fearmongering. These are the facts. One trustee said, "I think in this day and age of students coming to school with a lot of different challenges the last thing we need is eliminating positions in our schools." Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more. When will this minister finally admit that his government's budget is failing our kids?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite asks questions about what the effect was with education property tax included or not included. Mr. Speaker, during the election, the members opposite ran on a platform of an increase to education of 1.1 per cent, right out of their costing platform, a paltry \$27 million increase, Mr. Speaker, something totally unacceptable and not workable.

Since that time, the members opposite have said we need a 6 per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, they come out with numbers each and every day, something totally different. But let's be accurate. Let's talk about what the numbers actually are. In 2000 and 2008, provincial funding to school divisions, exclusive of property tax, exclusive of capital, was \$694 million. 2016-17, that number, exclusive once again of property tax, exclusive of capital, had increased to \$1.2 billion. So if you want to talk about what the percentages are, 73 per cent. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, education property tax had been reduced by 8.3 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's the commitment from this side of the House.

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

Expansion of Private Medical Diagnostic Services

Ms. Chartier: — Yesterday the Health minister brought forward his private CT [computerized tomography] scan bill. The Sask Party ran on private CT scans, so this was not unexpected. But what they did not run on was opening up a back door to more for-profit, user-pay procedures in health care.

The bill goes far beyond CT scans and allows cabinet to write whatever definition for medical imaging it likes. So if the Sask Party decides they want people to pay personally for necessary X-rays or ultrasounds, nuclear medicine, or scope procedures, they don't have to come to the House and debate it in public. All they need is an order in council and a stroke of a pen, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: why is this government opening up a back door to more private-pay health care? And if this was their intention all along, why weren't they honest with Saskatchewan people about it during the election?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, we've gone through a process as a government of talking with the public about allowing for additional options for people to have access to MRI [magnetic resonance imaging].

Mr. Speaker, we introduced the bill. We put a bill before this House and the bill has passed, Mr. Speaker, and that bill has now been in place and in effect for a couple of months now. We did openly campaign to say that we would extend this to CT, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is in stark contrast to the members opposite who actually allowed for the same arrangements for workers' compensation and other organizations like the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Mr. Speaker. And was there a debate in this House on that? Absolutely not. Was there a debate in the public on that? Absolutely not. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they had allowed organizations like workers' comp and the Saskatchewan Roughriders to do this for years before anybody even knew that it was happening under the social democrat NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've been very open and transparent in terms of looking at different options to allow for additional capacity, unlike the members opposite who didn't even pass a law, didn't pass a regulation. Mr. Speaker, they wrote a letter, sent it to those organizations, and nobody knew the wiser.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, Canadians across the country are proud of their health care system. It ensures that everyone, rich or poor, has equal access to health care based on their health card, not their credit card. It is a public system that started right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, they received a mandate for private CT scans — nothing more, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people did not give the Premier and cabinet power to privatize all aspects of health care in closed-door cabinet meetings with zero debate, zero oversight, zero accountability.

Here in Saskatchewan, people expect changes to medicare to be debated in their Legislative Assembly, and very big changes here that are happening, Mr. Speaker. How can the minister justify this massive overreach of his mandate? Will he amend the bill to limit its scope to MRI and CT scans only?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, we have not only had a conversation with the public going back a couple of years ago about looking at different options for allowing what people had the ability to do each and every day. They just didn't have the ability to do it inside the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite are so opposed to that, I would encourage the member to write a private bill that would bar health care providers from looking at a scan that was paid for out of province, Mr. Speaker. They looked at that as a party, but they decided not to do it. So we thought, Mr. Speaker, as a way that we can find a benefit for the public system for what people are already doing each and every day in this province,

whether it's in Calgary or Minot or the Mayo Clinic or in other places, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, we decided that we're going to expand on that. We're going to look at other innovations to ensure that we do have a sustainable health care system for many generations to come, Mr. Speaker. But we're having that open debate, that public debate — unlike the members opposite who thought, you know what, this is actually a good idea for some people though, but only for some people, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell the members opposite, I know that I campaigned very hard for 27 days in the last campaign, and I never met a constituent of mine that is any less worthy than a Saskatchewan Roughrider or a member of workers' compensation, Mr. Speaker, and that shouldn't be afforded the same opportunities.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, that is one of the more ridiculous answers we've heard in this House. Will he admit . . . The question was about making sure that CT only, in his bill, is what he campaigned on, Mr. Speaker.

There are more concerns with the expansion of private diagnostic clinics. The government has a clear responsibility to make sure that these clinics follow the rules, and they are providing safe and high-quality care for patients. Based on this government's track record and learning from the lessons of other provinces, this is certainly a concerning element. Auditors have highlighted issues with inspections in facilities that weren't up to par. And this is our health care system that really sick people rely on, Mr. Speaker.

There are also concerns about inappropriate use of diagnostics. We have opened up the door for more physicians to own clinics. Physicians, the ones who can prescribe these tests. How does the government plan on managing this conflict of interest? How will they ensure that these clinics are safe for patients? Will they keep track of the data or will they just expect CIHI [Canadian Institute of Health Information] to get this information for us? Will they add funding for inspections or is it just yet another thing they will pawn off on underfunded health regions? To the minister: what's the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I guess I don't understand the premise of the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have had for some time now publicly funded scans being delivered in community, Mr. Speaker, by organizations. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that there has been a problem in terms of ensuring that they were done in a safe manner, in an effective manner, Mr. Speaker. In fact what we've seen, Mr. Speaker, is a lot of the load being taken off of the hospitals, Mr. Speaker, and people having a more appropriate scan done in a more appropriate place.

Yes, we have to ensure that appropriate scans are being requisitioned by physicians, Mr. Speaker. We have to work with our physician community. And we are working with the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] on a program called

Choosing Wisely to ensure that only scans that are actually necessary, Mr. Speaker . . . And in the case of these bills, a physician will still have to requisition that the scan be procured, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't understand the position of the member opposite when . . . If it was good enough for a football player, if it was good enough for workers' compensation, but it's not good enough for my constituents and it's not good enough for hers, I don't understand that.

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

Children in Provincial Care

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Social Services thanked me for reading out her whole quote, the full quote that showed she had her facts wrong until a reporter corrected her. In that spirit, I hope she will help me to clarify a few more facts.

First, the minister said she was not aware of any rural parenting programs that were cut. Mr. Speaker, these important programs were cut by the Sask Party last year in Archerwill and Lestock.

Next, Mr. Speaker, the minister is in the record saying that no kids have been placed in hotels in 2016. Well in fact, during just the first four months of this year, hotels were used to hold children at least five times. Mr. Speaker, does the minister not care enough to know the facts when speaking about her important file, or does she just not care enough to use them?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — So again the member opposite is going back to an interview that was done prior to the election, so a few months ago now. And the question was whether or not I was aware of children being . . . or hotel usage since the beginning of this year. And I said, to my knowledge, I was not.

The ministry does not alert me if they take children into care very temporarily. If they take them in late at night or if it's a large sibling group, they don't leave them in the corner of the office, Mr. Speaker. They'll use a hotel for those few hours till the morning where they can find an appropriate placement. There was indeed, and the officials clarified that there was four incidents.

[10:45]

They don't alert my office when that happens. It's when they have accelerated number of times that they're using a hotel, and the hotel usage is for a number of days. That is concerning, Mr. Speaker, and that did happen in the fall of 2015. The public knew about that, Mr. Speaker, and it was happening in Regina and then in P.A. [Prince Albert] because we had a shortage of placements. We have since expanded the number of spaces for children here in Regina, and it is a file that we will continue to work on, Mr. Speaker.

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

Employment Numbers in Correctional Facilities

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to move on to clarify some facts from another minister who had her numbers wrong about P.A. jobs. Mr. Speaker, just the other day, on June 7th in this House, the Minister of Corrections and Policing bragged about the jobs that would be created by the Prince Albert Correctional Centre expansion. She said, "We've added 200 new jobs in Prince Albert for the newly opened, I guess it's Prince Albert Correctional Centre."

Now, Mr. Speaker, this doesn't match the minister's press release and announcements in October. Then the number is closer to 100, Mr. Speaker. Which job numbers can the people of Prince Albert trust — the minister's announcement in October or the answer she gave in the House just two days ago? Mr. Speaker, if the minister is unsure of the answer, rather than guess, can she please tell us that and come back with the true figure once she gets the facts straight?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I used the number of 200 new jobs in the Prince Albert area, that of course included Pinegrove Correctional Centre, and this is from 2013, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud of our record. I'm proud of the amount of money — \$60 million spent on opening 380 bed spaces in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We'll stand by our record rather than the members opposite.

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

Economics and Environmental Assessment

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I prefaced my question to the Environment minister saying we don't hear much from him except when it comes to zebra and quagga mussels. I then proceeded to ask him about other things like the tech fund, conservation, watershed planning, and climate change. Even with all those options and the preface, Mr. Speaker, how did the minister reply? By once again talking even more about zebra and quagga mussels. It would actually be funny if he weren't the one responsible for protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the earth our farmers rely on to grow our food. So, Mr. Speaker, let me try again.

People are worried about the impacts and the economics of the proposed Yancoale potash mine. The minister soon will need to make a decision about this project that will impact thousands of jobs, as well as the water sources of a lot of people's drinking water. Environment and Economy should work together on something to ensure sustainable prosperity, and that isn't something we've seen from this government.

So, to the minister, can the people of Saskatchewan even trust this government to make this important choice?

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

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks for the question opposite. And Yancoale, yes they are proposing a new

solution potash mine that's going to be located near Southey here in the province. And they're currently going through, Mr. Speaker, a very rigorous provincial environmental assessment process which is ongoing at this time.

And in answer to the question, we did hear from the local committee in that area that wanted more time to have a look at the assessment, and we granted that time. We increased it by 50 per cent, from 30 days to 45 days, to allow them more time to assess what was going on. And that's not something that is done on a regular basis, but we did it in this case. Yes, and June 6 was the last day for that assessment for the consultation process, and that's closed by now. But the environmental assessment process is science-based and it includes a lot of factors including technical information, public input, and the decision will be made in the future after we do our diligent and rigorous assessment, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Urban Parks

Ms. Sproule: — We got some terrible news yesterday, Mr. Speaker. The Meewasin Valley Authority announced that the interpretive centre will shut down on July 1st and three full-time jobs will be lost. The lack of funding by this government has forced the Meewasin Valley Authority into the precarious situation they are in now. And it's not just Meewasin that's facing cuts and clawbacks, Mr. Speaker. Five other urban parks will have their funding cut because of this government's mismanagement of nearly a decade of record revenues.

And even Wascana Park, the park that this Legislative Building that we sit in today is a part of, is at risk of funding cuts as well. Bernadette McIntyre, the CEO [chief executive officer] of Wascana Centre Authority, said Wascana would be affected if provincial funding was cut.

So to the minister: what does he have to say to the Wascana Centre Authority and the thousands of people, including myself, who enjoy this park?

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, we take the Meewasin situation seriously. This is a budget that we put together that controls spending. Mr. Speaker, we had difficult choices that we had to make this budget time, and Meewasin and Wascana are currently, they're currently under review, Mr. Speaker. *The Meewasin Valley Authority Act* requires statutory funding and it needs to be reviewed every five years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to complete the reviews in terms of financial assessments. We're going to continue to engage and dialogue with our partners, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to read into the record that since 2011-12, Meewasin's statutory and supplementary funding has remained stable at \$909,000, Mr. Speaker. So that's been every single year including this budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Wascana Centre Authority, their budget has been stable this whole time, Mr. Speaker, 2011 as well up to 2012. Mr. Speaker, I challenge the members opposite to actually look at their platform document, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us would be interested where the increases to Meewasin, Wascana Centre Authority, and all the urban parks are in their document, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Consultation on Provincial Lands Act

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, back in 2013, the Agriculture minister set out to change *The Provincial Lands Act*. He held consultation meetings and got an earful from folks who weren't keen on how vague and how far-reaching his plan would be.

Well, Mr. Speaker, fast forward to May of this year and the government is again plowing ahead with these changes, except this time they are only allowing three weeks of consultations and the final deadline was last Friday. This just doesn't make sense because we won't be seeing this legislation until the fall. So to the Agriculture minister: what is your rush? Why are you plowing ahead without meaningful consultation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for her question. The time has come for modernization of this Act. This Act is a 1930 Act and has not been updated since 1978. Language in the Act is not representative of the language used today and is inappropriate, frankly, Mr. Speaker. We conducted fulsome consultations in 2013 and ended up not proceeding at that time. We refreshed . . . The consultations that were held this time were a refresh of those consultations held in 2013. All of the parties were re-engaged and we're very pleased with the responses from them.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 28 — *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016* be introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I

recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 29 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les juges de paix*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 28, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY (BUDGET DEBATE)

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Ms. Sproule.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure and an opportunity to stand in the Assembly and to respond once again to a budget, a budget that certainly has a lot of concern, a lot of risk for Saskatchewan people. You know, over the past few days I've listened to speeches on both sides of the Assembly, value some of the points made on both sides. But I really do appreciate the, I guess, the smarts and the strength and the compassion and the reality that I heard from members of the official opposition in sharing their perspective and their connection to their respective riding and to our province as a whole with the budget that's been brought forward.

As I've said before, as the official opposition, we accept the reality, the electoral reality. We accept what voters have said, and we accept the, in this case, a relatively small opposition that we are. That being said, that doesn't diminish our commitment to serve all of the people of this province whether they voted for us or not, and the entire province of Saskatchewan. And as an official opposition, we're out there listening. We'll be building those relationships and be ready to stand up and to serve the best interests of Saskatchewan people any day of the week whether it relates to a matter in downtown Saskatoon or whether it's in Preeceville or the Far North or the southwest or anywhere in between, Mr. Speaker. That's our task. That's our commitment, and that's our pledge to Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, as was noted by the Finance critic last week, there was no reason for this budget to be hidden from Saskatchewan people, to be withheld before the election, you know. And it's become pretty clear, Mr. Speaker, that that Sask Party has a lot to hide, a lot to hide, Mr. Speaker. It's clear in this budget that . . . It makes clear a record, a record of mounting mismanagement, Mr. Speaker, and mismanagement that the Sask Party government is passing on to Saskatchewan people by way of cost. It's their mismanagement. It's their waste. It's their debacles, but they're asking Saskatchewan people to pay the price, Mr. Speaker, and that's not right.

And it demonstrates concerning values of this large, heavy-handed government majority, values that are increasingly and actually surprisingly at times out of line with Saskatchewan people. You know, the fact is that clearly this government didn't have the courage to come clean with Saskatchewan people before the election, denying Saskatchewan people the very basic information, hiding their plan, hiding the budget, hiding the true state of the finances, hiding the cuts and the impacts for Saskatchewan people.

And it's also clear that this government is making Saskatchewan people pay for their mismanagement, their waste, their debacles, Mr. Speaker. In so many cases in this budget, despite having a great big deficit, Mr. Speaker — and we see ballooning costs on projects that are being mismanaged — we see a government that's exacting callous and regressive, short-sighted cuts for Saskatchewan people. On so many fronts, cuts that actually defy common sense in any of the evidence around those cuts, Mr. Speaker, actions that are damaging to our future and limiting and hurting the futures of so many people across the province that we love.

Mr. Speaker, it was all hidden from Saskatchewan people before the election, a government that didn't have the courage or the decency to come clean or be straight with Saskatchewan people. And that's beyond unfair to the people of this province.

You know it is clear that they didn't want Saskatchewan people to realize that they had drained every last dime from that rainy day fund, the fact that they had spent billions of dollars and more, the surpluses that were left to them, the rainy day fund that was in place. And not only had they exhausted and drained all those dollars, they spent those dollars and more, piling on debt, billions of dollars, taking us to in fact record levels and not saving a dime for the future.

You know this is evidenced in things like the idea of a heritage

fund or a futures fund or some of the work that was done a few years ago by Mr. MacKinnon, work that has never come to fruition from this government because they couldn't get their priorities right. They couldn't get their mismanagement in line. The dollars continued to flow to the detriment of Saskatchewan people who deserve a lasting legacy from windfall in good years, Mr. Speaker.

[11:00]

It's clear they didn't want people to know about their plans in health care or in education, the underfunding and the consequences. And it's abundantly clear that they didn't want Saskatchewan people to know, who are sadly dealing with job loss, pressure of realities on that front, precarious employment, that they had no plan to create jobs, no plan to diversify the economy. And it's certainly clear that this government hid their mismanagement, their waste, their damaging plan; in the case of jobs, the lack thereof.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said in this Assembly and brought to the attention of government, who's often caught up in back-patting itself and denying the reality, Mr. Speaker, we have 9,000 fewer jobs in this province from last year. And we can talk about that as if it's a statistic, but those are real lives. Those are real people and real lives in my riding and across Saskatchewan, families under strain and under pressure. And in this budget we see no action, no meaningful action to resolve and to remedy that circumstance. Bankruptcies are on the rise. And instead of a government searching for solutions, we see a government making cuts — cuts to apprenticeship programs, cuts to post-secondary education, cuts to programs that help people get back to work and help support new businesses.

They used to talk about diversification, but they've even abandoned that in this budget. Instead now they're even making cuts to economic development trade programs that help our economy and help support us with commodity cycles and the challenging commodity cycle we're facing right now. Mr. Speaker, how is that going to help our economy grow and prosper?

Why isn't this government rolling up their sleeves to support the development of new industries — technology, green jobs, renewable energy, film and cultural industries? And why can't this government actually get the job done when it comes to market access? Actually getting our product to market by addressing our failed transportation system, rail that doesn't perform, the need for safe, responsible pipelines, and a road and highways network that's safe and efficient.

You know, when it comes to transportation and how important it is to an exporting province like ours, this government has been all words and no action. All words on rail transportation with no meaningful action to fix and build a system for the future. All words and no delivery on pipelines. In fact, a costly, failed approach by this Premier who's always ready, it seems, to sort of inflame divisions or grandstand, but not able to get the job done, which will require strongly making the case and building understanding across our country.

Mr. Speaker, while health care and education . . . When we look at health care and education, we know that the funding that's in

this budget just simply isn't enough to even maintain the current levels of service. We know that this government's pushing that important responsibility onto health regions, punting, off-loading that responsibility, sticking them with those tough choices, providing them insufficient dollars and leaving it up to them where they're going to cut. And that leaves concern for Saskatchewan people and communities all across this province, wondering what's next when it comes to their health services.

We see a government that's certainly not serious about addressing the pressures in emergency rooms across our province, making sure that hospitals are open and have the services that they need. And then we see a government that's hiking the cost in a significant way for families and seniors when it comes to prescription drug costs.

You know, this is something that was hid from Saskatchewan people in the election. It's a direct cost for families and people that are working hard. And all too often, I'm already told, long before this surprise hike by this government, that we have too many seniors all across this province that are in a very vulnerable circumstance, that are left with that very difficult choice between food or prescriptions. That's wrong, Mr. Speaker.

Just in the past week alone, we continued to hear from educational leaders, school boards, teachers, parents, students about the inadequacy of this budget relating to education. We have classrooms that are under strain and kids that have had support peeled away from them, class sizes that have grown, classes that have become more complex, insufficient supports for English as an additional language, insufficient action for First Nations and Métis students across our province. But we have a budget that's not making any of these things better, but it's actually making things worse. We have a budget that's not addressing the unsafe conditions in some of our schools, the current state of many facilities that need funding and need a clear, transparent plan from this government.

You know, we also see measures that the government I think just dismisses as a small budget item because it doesn't cost a whole bunch. Of course we have a government that's willing to spend, you know, 43 million bucks on an overpass just two years ago but now they're tearing it down and rebuilding it. But yet they're going to cut just over \$200,000 from heritage language schools across the province — almost 80 heritage language programs that serve thousands of students for \$50 a year per student. That's incredible value. These schools build to our multicultural province. Language is the foundation of culture. These cuts are regressive and they hurt us socially, culturally, and economically. They just don't make sense, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at education, education has to be the foundation of our future. That's what it is. Our future society, our future economy. It's the great equalizer, or at least it should be. It should be our tool to extend opportunity to all in this province. Instead of supporting education and making dreams realities and creating opportunity, we see another budget from this government that harms classrooms all across our province, thus harming our province and our future, Mr. Speaker.

We warned of these things in advance of an election, and I think the government opposite called it fearmongering at the time. All while they hid their budget and hid their plan, Mr. Speaker. Families are dealing with job loss, as I've stated. We need a plan, a meaningful plan to create jobs, protect jobs, and diversify our economy.

We have families that are struggling with costs, costs of raising families, and instead we have a government that has a surprise hike in power bills to the people of this province. And actually not one but just two surprise hikes, Mr. Speaker, to an alarming 10 per cent, Mr. Speaker, hidden from the people of Saskatchewan before the election from a government that wouldn't come clean before an election, Mr. Speaker, and a government that's clearly forcing Saskatchewan people to pay for their mismanagement.

You know, I watched the member from Athabasca and also our Justice and Corrections critic take to the floor to address the callous and nonsensical cut of the Buffalo Narrows corrections centre. This not only creates hardship for families in a community for which the centre is important, peels away meaningful employment, but it defies common sense. It rejects the evidence about what makes sense to build effective programs and to reduce recidivism.

We have a plea from this opposition to reconsider this very short-sighted cut, this cold-hearted cut, and to reinstate the support for that very meaningful program. You know, and I guess we look to that region itself as well. These are individuals who are being served that are from within the region. We know it's in our best interests to make sure that that process is as effective as possible. This hurts that process and it certainly hurts jobs also within a region that suffers a very difficult unemployment, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't think anyone expected in this budget that there was going to be cuts to parks all across the province, and there's consequences for that. Of course we have communities across the province that have been impacted: Weyburn, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Prince Albert, The Battlefords. But also now we have Regina and Saskatoon left in the lurch not knowing what commitments are there. This is a government that never ran on cutting parks within the election, and now we're left all across the province either with the choice for municipalities again being off-loaded onto, to either force cuts up once again on Saskatchewan people or to cut some of those things that are important to communities. And parks are important. They're important. They provide economic opportunities. They're important from a cultural perspective. They're important to quality of life.

All while this government has no trouble signing us on to wasteful project after wasteful project, whether it's 23 million bucks for the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] scandal, whether it's \$43 million for an overpass that was built two years ago that's now being torn down and being rebuilt, or whether it's the fact that we have a bypass that's been mismanaged so bad with the big cheques going to France, Mr. Speaker, of going from \$400 million to over \$2 billion. That's bizarre, Mr. Speaker. And then we see these callous and misplaced cuts for Saskatchewan people.

And who would have imagined, Mr. Speaker, that this government would make cuts to the programs that help the most vulnerable in our province? Families who are struggling with low-paying jobs are no longer getting the employment supplement for children over 13, despite the promise to parents already in the program from this government just a year ago that that money would be there. Families count on those commitments and they deserve to be able to trust their government at their word, Mr. Speaker.

We see cutbacks to things like the Aboriginal court worker program and police consulting groups. These are supports that we should be extending. These are programs that we should be championing to address some of the very troubling and challenging circumstances we have across the province and to ensure hope and opportunity for many in the province, Mr. Speaker. Making cuts in these areas is frankly shameful and unacceptable.

You know, Mr. Speaker, during the election the government told the people of Saskatchewan that they were going to sort of stay the course. That was sort of their pitch. They said, don't worry that we're hiding our finances. Don't worry that we're not sharing our plan. Don't worry that we're running on six items on a napkin, it would seem, Mr. Speaker. But the reality is this government didn't come clean with Saskatchewan people, and it's Saskatchewan people who are left to pay the price for this Sask Party government's mismanagement.

We hear a government now talking about transformational change. I don't know if they yet know what they're talking about on this front, Mr. Speaker, but of course it causes concern for people all across the province. The Minister of Finance says everything's on the table, Mr. Speaker. And he's asking questions that frankly should be asked by a government that's being responsible and prudent every single day of governing, Mr. Speaker, not 10 years in after blowing an historic opportunity. Health regions and school boards are already dealing with cuts and are now left wondering what this means. Saskatchewan people are wondering what's next by way of cuts and impacts. And all of that of course was hidden from Saskatchewan people.

You know, at the end of the day this government needs to stop blaming low commodity prices on everything, and they need to take some responsibility for the position we're currently in — no savings. And let's just remember: over eight years, almost a decade of record revenues in this period of government, but no savings, \$1.4 billion once in the rainy day fund completely drained and exhausted. Surpluses blown; strong economic times and windfall blown. Debt, Mr. Speaker, going to historic levels under this government.

In fact if you look at this government's own budget documents just back to 2009, debt was at \$7.9 billion. Now, Mr. Speaker, \$15 billion. And where is it going, Mr. Speaker, under this government in their own budget documents? Going higher, Mr. Speaker. That's not responsible. That's not prudent.

You know, we see the debt to GDP [gross domestic product] — your measure of whether or not you can afford the debt that you're taking on, whether it's sustainable — it's nearly doubled, Mr. Speaker, in just the past number of years from 11

per cent to almost 20 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Clearly this is a government going in the wrong direction, spending in fact, I believe, almost \$3 million more per day than they're taking in. You know, this isn't debt and deficit because of tighter times. It's because of costly mismanagement and waste, Mr. Speaker. You know, and sadly, it's Saskatchewan people who are left to inherit the consequences.

This government inherited an incredible situation — billions in the bank, surplus, a strong economy. Sadly it's evident to many, Mr. Speaker, that this is a government that while they did lots of boasting, that it was lots of boasting and coasting. But they really did squander a historic opportunity for Saskatchewan people.

You know, they blew it on smart meters. Despite having full briefings and information of the risk and the cost, they ran forward and blew the dollars and put people at risk.

They blew it on the carbon capture project without providing the facts to Saskatchewan people and not having a sound financial plan, signing Saskatchewan people on to some of the most costly power possible, Mr. Speaker. And of course we see it; it's just a start with the hikes that we see in our power bills.

Of course they've blown it with their external consultants and the whopping increases that they've subjected Saskatchewan people to. They've blown it on the GTH land scandal, the Pinkie Road bypass costing \$43 million, now being torn down and rebuilt. And they blew it on P3 projects that have been proven time and time again to cost more, cost more for Saskatchewan people over the long run.

They blew it on the lack of ability to plan an important project, the bypass. They dismissed and delayed action to address the traffic concerns on Highway No. 1 East. And then when they did, Mr. Speaker, they mismanaged the project every step of the way, from \$400 million now to over \$2 billion, Mr. Speaker, with the big money and big jobs going to France, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people deserve so much better than that approach, Mr. Speaker.

[11:15]

You know, at the end of the day this government has put us in this financial reality because of the mismanagement, because of the waste, not because they're adequately supporting education or health care as they should be across the province.

You know, we've called for and proposed actions to address the inequity in Aboriginal education — nothing in this budget, Mr. Speaker. We've called for and proposed actions to address the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] recommendations — not a mention in the budget. We called for and proposed actions to address and reduce poverty, Mr. Speaker. Instead, shamefully, we see a government exacting short-sighted cuts that are walking people in our province backwards.

We called for and proposed actions to address mental health and ensure community supports across Saskatchewan and, importantly, in the North. Instead we continue to see dismissal of this urgent need. We've proposed in advance of budget and have called for important practical environmental action like

bolstering renewable energy, green jobs, conservation, and the protection of water. Instead we see cuts and inaction.

We proposed in advance of budget and called for solutions to water management, solutions that work for agricultural producers and communities that have been subjected to damage and that respect the value of wetlands. Instead we see cuts to watershed authorities across Saskatchewan and dismissal of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, all that mismanagement has real consequences for the people of this province. We're seeing it in this budget. The budget goes against the best interests of Saskatchewan people. It fails to provide the means necessary for strong public health care and the best education possible. It shows no plan to create jobs, no plan to get this province's economy back on track.

You know, this government should take a hard look at the budget that's proposed and they should start to understand the impacts on families. And I urge members on that side, that big government majority to exercise some critical and independent thought here today before they vote for this budget from this government that never ran on a budget, a budget that clearly has costs for Saskatchewan people.

It's beyond unacceptable that this government didn't have the courage to come clean with Saskatchewan people before an election, denying the basic facts. You know, it's pretty clear this government's forcing Saskatchewan people to pick up the tab and pay the price for their mismanagement. That's wrong, Mr. Speaker. We see a budget that, instead of dealing and tackling their waste and their mismanagement, Mr. Speaker, we see them exacting short-sighted and regressive cuts that will hurt the future of children and students, the vulnerable in this province, and won't build the futures that everybody in this province deserves.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is we have a beautiful province full of innovators, creative thinkers, full of hard-working and common sense people, a province that we all love. But that requires a government that's ready to work with Saskatchewan people. It requires a vision and a plan. It requires meaningful actions, Mr. Speaker. It requires a government that's willing to recognize their mismanagement and take action to address it to make sure that the priorities, the real priorities of Saskatchewan people are addressed.

In the coming days and weeks and months ahead as the official opposition, we'll continue to work with all Saskatchewan people, to work in their best interests, and to build that future everyone deserves. Clearly this budget takes our province in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker.

I mean, it's pretty clear. We have a government that's breaking promises, that hid plans, a budget that's causing damage. Certainly Saskatchewan people can count on us to stand up, to stand strong, and to fight for their best interests. I won't be supporting this budget, a budget and a plan to make people pay for Sask Party mismanagement, a budget and a plan that causes damage and hurt for the most vulnerable in this province. As such, I'll be supporting the amendment.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it's an honour to be able to participate in another budget debate here in the Legislative Assembly. And I appreciate the opportunity to follow the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. I think it's fair to say he's a good speaker. From his very earliest days in this place he was effective in the House, I would say. I think that that would not be exaggerating the case at all. I think the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is effective in his communications, Mr. Speaker — not always consistent and accurate perhaps, but effective nonetheless.

And I just want to — because this is a debate — I want to highlight a few of the things that I think I heard him say in his speech and maybe offer another perspective to what he had to say. For example, when he was referencing, Mr. Speaker, his concern about the economy, I can assure the hon. member that we're all very concerned about the economy, that these job losses have hit home for our province in the energy sector, mostly in the energy sector, but not exclusively.

I'm from Swift Current, which has long been a community dependent on the oil industry, so I have friends and neighbours who have gone through something that nobody would ever want them to have to go through, Mr. Speaker. And so what they would need from a government, I think, is a government that would do no harm, a government that would perhaps offer a few ideas to the federal government. And we did that, if you will remember, with the well completion proposal that we made to the federal government.

It wasn't supported by the NDP, by the way. I recollect that prior to the election. You'll remember that suggestion to the federal government that perhaps we could get some support from Ottawa for the industry here to deal with some abandoned wells, to complete the wells. We knew that that would put people back to work. And yes, it would happen that some oil companies then, who couldn't afford to do it at the time, would have that perhaps provided to them — much like, by the way, the country has helped car manufacturers when they needed it; much like the country has helped aeronautical manufacturing companies when they've needed it; much like the federal government has helped agriculture when they've needed it. We thought that, well now more than ever, the energy sector could use a little bit of help.

So we listened to the oil field service workers, and a particular entrepreneur from Weyburn constituency, from the city of Weyburn. And we proposed it to the federal government whereby some support from them would put people back to work completing wells — an environmental benefit, to be sure, and an employment economic development benefit, to be sure.

So here was an opportunity for the NDP to support a plan like that. Not just to talk about their concern for job losses or their concern for the economy, but actually to support a common sense proposal from the government, and they refuse to. Now, Mr. Speaker, to be fair, their counterparts in Alberta initially weren't supportive. They never outright rejected the idea but later on, to their credit, the Alberta government also came on board and still the provincial NDP opposed that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the member opposite and to the

NDP in general, there is a need for consistency. If you're going to say that you're advocating for jobs for the oil sector, for the energy sector, then you have to act like it. And you have to I think at least find a way to work with the government in proposing a new idea to the federal government. I've heard my hon. member, my hon. friend say they want to work with us on common sense, good ideas for Saskatchewan. Maybe the well completion idea we proposed wasn't quite right. Maybe we could've worked together to figure out how to improve it. But they weren't interested; they just rejected it out of hand.

I would also point this out to my hon. friend, if he's worried about Saskatchewan's economy, then I think he and all of us need to send out clarion messages of consistency and support for those essential sectors of our economy. And those essential sectors, even though we are more diversified than ever before, are still agriculture and it's energy and it's the mining sector. It's the resource sector in Saskatchewan.

And in terms of consistency of message, I think it matters what appointments we make as leaders in this place. And I know the hon. member chose for his Finance critic, the one who provided the main critique to the budget of the province, someone who did support the further discussion of, at least the entertaining of the Leap Manifesto, and they deny this. And remember the Leap Manifesto, it goes against everything we do in the province. If ever implemented, it would destroy the economy. It doesn't like modern agriculture. It wants to end all pipelines. It doesn't like mining.

Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, that that item would come to the floor of a convention that any of us might be attending, what our response would be as representatives of the people of this province. I think a reasonable response for any of us in this place, regardless of where we sit, would be to get to the microphone in that hall, in that convention deliberation, and to say, this has no business being considered, especially in Western Canada. But here's what the member voted for. The Finance critic, hand-picked by the Leader of the Opposition, voted for this:

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP recognizes and supports the Leap Manifesto as a high-level statement of principles [as a high-level statement of principles] that speaks to the aspirations, histories, and the values of the party.

Mr. Speaker, that should be opposed by any member in this House. I don't care what membership card's in their wallet or what they, what party they support. If something like that is proposed . . . They're worried about the economy, they say, Mr. Speaker. He's saying he didn't see enough concern for the economy in the budget, and I'll get into that in a moment because I don't agree. But what we say outside of this province is important, and our actions are important in terms of those across the country who simply don't like what we do. And they'd like to stop what it is that Saskatchewan does, and does very well in terms of feeding the world and providing the answers around energy security that the fastest growing economies of the world have.

Mr. Speaker, the other decisions the NDP have made is to assemble a renewal committee, and the chairperson of this

renewal committee — this would be a very important apparatus within the party — the chairperson of this renewal committee I believe is the former candidate for the NDP. And I believe she didn't just vote in principle to have a discussion about Leap, I think she signed it. She signed the Leap Manifesto. And I would say, if I was the Leader of the Opposition or a leader of the party, I would say, sorry. I mean we want you involved in the party, but in terms of leading our renewal process, that's a deal breaker. Because in this place and in our party, we stand with the interests of the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And no, frankly, we're not interested in countenancing a debate, a debate that actually goes contrary to those interests that would devastate the Saskatchewan economy.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, we see the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP appointed a chief of staff who was a former staff person with Mr. Mulcair, who would have and did oppose the Keystone pipeline. Now there wouldn't have been Saskatchewan oil in that pipeline had it ever been approved by the Obama administration, but it would have done this. It would have narrowed the gap, it would have narrowed the gap between Brent price and West Texas, which has in certain years of our budgeting meant hundreds of millions of dollars, and for the industry it meant billions of dollars. Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important that . . . Who we appoint and how we act is as important as how effectively we may communicate in this particular Legislative Assembly.

If I can, Mr. Speaker, very quickly I'll point out that the Leader of the Opposition talked a lot in his speech about cuts. And you know, I think some of the characterization, some of the characterization perhaps wasn't quite right, wasn't quite right. But let's just assume that the Leader of the Opposition was breaking with tradition and dealing exclusively in fact when he was talking about those cuts. Let's consider what was in their campaign document. He just finished running a very successful campaign in Regina Rosemont. We know it was a successful campaign because the Sask Party had an excellent campaign, an excellent candidate in that constituency, and the member was successful, that notwithstanding. He worked on that campaign and I know he would . . . He's diligent, so I know he would have read the platform, especially the costing document of the platform. And I assume that prior to him taking his place and participating in the debate, prior to any member opposite participating in the budget debate, that they might have reread their own costing document to compare it to what the government's actually proposed in this budget. And we might find, actually, which party has an agenda for cuts, significant cuts in Saskatchewan.

Here are the facts from the NDP costing document, Mr. Speaker, from the NDP costing document. The NDP platform promise in the last election: percentage increase from budget, from the budget that was in place, in health care, point eight per cent. That member and members opposite have taken to their feet in this place and decried a budget that increases health in our case by 1.5 per cent, and the Finance critic has said an increase that small is a cut. She has said since that an increase of less than 6 per cent is not acceptable. She campaigned, and the Leader of the Opposition campaigned, costed in their document on a health care budget that would have only increased, if they would have ever been elected, by point eight per cent. That's inconsistency, Mr. Speaker. It's in the

documents. It's in the documents. The Leader of the Opposition is doubting this? It's in his costing document.

What about K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12]? Here's a quote from the member that just spoke. The Leader of the Opposition just spoke and he was advancing the interests of education. He said it was our future and he said, "It is the great equalizer." That's what he said, eloquent words, words with which we all agree. But, Mr. Speaker, he campaigned as the deputy leader of his party and now the Leader of the Opposition. He'll have to answer questions. But he campaigned on a costed platform that would have seen an increase to K to 12 — again the NDP platform — of 1.1 per cent.

[11:30]

This budget has an increase, a total increase for K to 12 of 7.9 per cent, total increase. These are apples to apples: operating K to 12, capital K to 12, Mr. Speaker. 1.1 per cent increase is what they campaigned on. And every day since we've met in this place since the session began, the Leader of the Opposition — and he continues to talk about cuts — the Leader of the Opposition and his Education critic, the member for Regina Lakeview, has stood up and decried the education funding represented in this budget. If they would have won, there would have been less money for education, a lot less money for education. And I think inconsistencies like this in a debate, I think they matter. I think Saskatchewan people would like to see the comparison. Then yes, you can be critical of things in the budget. But what did you campaign on just a few months ago?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, how about social services? We've heard the members opposite decry this budget in terms of what it offers in social services. Had they been re-elected, according to their fully costed . . . well their mostly costed document, they would have increased social services spending by point seven per cent. That's in the document that they campaigned on.

The Saskatchewan Party budget that they're voting against would have proposed an increase of 2.8 per cent. And the deputy leader makes a good point. I think I know now why the NDP are voting against the budget. The increases in social services, health care, and education are too high under this budget based on what they ran on in the last election campaign.

But, Mr. Speaker, consistency matters. Consistency does matter in this debate and, you know, the government has to be held accountable. That's the way the process works and when that happens, government is going to be better for it, Mr. Speaker. And so we accept the fact that the NDP will work hard to hold the government accountable, and we accept the fact that they're earnest in this work. But I encourage them, Mr. Speaker, to be consistent.

The election campaign wasn't that long ago. Remember what they said. Did the Leader of the Opposition just say that it's over? Well the Leader of the Opposition I guess in response to this said, well don't worry about the election and what we said in the campaign because it's over. Well, Mr. Speaker, promises that are made in an election campaign, in our view, should last for a very, very long time if not forever. That's kind of the nature of a promise. It's not just in the 27 days of a campaign

and we'll say what we need to say to get elected and maybe we won't fully disclose all the little details which we now have in the costing document. That also is not good enough, and again I think it explains why the people of this province may have made the choices that they made in the last number of elections.

Mr. Speaker, this budget deals with a number of challenges that we face in Saskatchewan. Chief among them I think is the economic challenge. And unlike how . . . I just fundamentally disagree with what the Leader of the Opposition has said with respect to this budget and its recognition of the importance of diversification. That's why the patent box initiative is in this budget, a campaign promise we made and part of our plan to further diversify our economy from an innovation perspective. And it's why, Mr. Speaker, we've not increased any taxes. I think that's pretty important. I think businesses out there, job creators out there want us to do no harm when times are challenging.

And so this budget, unlike other budgets where similar revenue challenges have been faced in other provinces, we have chosen, the Minister of Finance has chose not to increase taxes. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? It means that the tax cuts, the tax reductions implemented by our government over the last eight years are protected, are maintained. What's the number? What is the quantum of those tax reductions over all of these years? It's \$6 billion. That is the amount of money that government has given back to businesses. That is the amount of money that government . . . It's their money in the first place. That's the amount that government, this government has given back to small businesses, to farmers, to property owners, and to families, very significantly to families, Mr. Speaker.

And the Leader of the Opposition says that was a waste. He said it again in his budget debate. And member after member over there has said, well you know the government has blown . . . whatever number it comes up with in terms of billions with a "b" or whatever number they're using. The bottom line is this, Mr. Speaker. I don't think Saskatchewan families think it's a waste to reduce their taxes.

Here is what our party has done with some of the proceeds of growth in this province. In 2007 a single person making \$25,000 in income paid \$1,979 in taxes. In 2016 they paid 1,018 in taxes. That's a savings of 49 per cent. A family of four with \$50,000 income used to pay 3,382 in provincial taxes under the NDP when we first took office. Now they pay 721, and that is a decrease of 79 per cent. A family of four with 75,000 in income used to pay, under the NDP, \$6,396. Now they pay \$4,068, a savings of 2,328 a year, 200 a month, a savings of 36 per cent.

And you know, the Leader of the Opposition — and I think this is why they're at danger, at risk potentially of not changing places in this Assembly any time soon — he thinks that's a waste of money. That's how he describes this, that when you reduce taxes for families to the tune of 36 per cent, 79 per cent, 49 per cent, when you drop 114,000 low-income Saskatchewan people off the tax rolls completely, that that's a waste. Well we on this side of the House, we don't consider it a waste. We consider it as a part of our growth plan, Mr. Speaker, and we consider the dollars that we appropriate in this Assembly to belong to the people of Saskatchewan and not any party on

either side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this budget also makes a number of investments in people, as we have pointed out, as the Minister of Finance has pointed out. And members on this side have done a very good job of canvassing all of those important investments.

But one I'd like to focus on, if I can, in my closing minutes here is the additional investment that we've made to the surgical wait times initiative. Mr. Speaker, when we were able to be fortunate enough to take over government in 2007, here was the sad fact in Saskatchewan. People waited here longer for surgery than anywhere else in Canada. And it seemed incongruous, you know, here in the birthplace of medicare, the home of Tommy Douglas, we had gotten to a point with health care in Saskatchewan that people waited longer for their surgeries here than anywhere else in Canada.

And so the minister of Health, now the Deputy Premier, and carried through with by the current Minister of Health, have developed and implemented a plan whereby we use private clinics — setting aside ideology about private and public — private clinics in a public system and increased investment, significantly increased investment for surgeries. We've been able to reduce the wait times to the point where we're no longer the longest in the country, but now we're the shortest in all of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in this budget, which is a difficult one, there are challenges. We've decided, we've chosen . . . The Minister of Finance is recommending to the House and recommending to your vote and mine that we would increase, that we would provide an additional allotment, more money for the surgical wait times initiative in the province of Saskatchewan. And I hope members on both sides of the House would want to vote in favour of that kind of an initiative. There's a number of other increases in supports: more child care spaces, more support for people with disabilities, 15 drugs added to the formula for cancer treatment. But, Mr. Speaker, I do think the work that we're going to do on the surgical wait times initiative arguably is as important as any of those other key investments for Saskatchewan people.

And it's an interesting bridge, I think, to another discussion and debate that we actually had in this Assembly in question period. Because the other thing I think people want in Saskatchewan is they'd like a little bit less ideology and a little bit more common sense. They'd like results from their government, and that's why they didn't much care that it was private clinics that were shortening the wait times. They didn't much care where the clinic was even. They wanted surgery in a timely way.

It's the same approach that Saskatchewan people would take to diagnostics, Mr. Speaker. And in this session and facilitated in part by the health budget certainly and so very much material to the budget debate, we are going to take the step to provide that private option in CT scans as we've already done in MRIs. And here again it's an interesting juxtaposition. It's an interesting contrast because all these years later where people of Saskatchewan have moved on, moved way beyond the ideologies of the '50s and the '60s on health care and now are focused on the need for innovation and results, we have one party that is clinging to that tired ideology.

We saw it in question period today. Unbelievably the Health critic, I'm sure approved by the Leader of the Opposition, took to her feet in the Assembly today and said, you know when we were in government, sure, we allowed the Saskatchewan Roughriders and workers' compensation patients to get their diagnostics, to pay to jump the queue. Because that's what they were doing. They were jumping the queue. As long as they paid for a scan on the public system, that was okay according to the ideology of members opposite, but expanding that opportunity to everyone else is somehow wrong, and expanding it beyond MRIs to CTs is somehow wrong. And in that little debate, I think there's a bit of a microcosm of the dynamic of politics in Saskatchewan today just these few short weeks after the last election campaign.

I think it's incumbent upon all of us to remember that this is a province whose people are kind of . . . They've always been focused on results. They've been focused on common sense, and they've used different vehicles to achieve those results over the years. But, Mr. Speaker, they'd like results from their government and a little less ideology. For our part, Mr. Speaker, we're going to work hard to provide that common sense, to provide those solutions to meet the challenges that exist today. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the budget is a good example of that kind of government. We can always do better. We can always work harder. But I'm proud to support the budget because, Mr. Speaker, it speaks to those basic principles. It lays out a long-term vision for a strong Saskatchewan, one that is leading the country. And I'm proud, Mr. Speaker, to indicate to you today for the first time formally, that I'm going to be opposing the NDP amendment and supporting the budget of the Minister of Finance.

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the next speaker, it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to rule no. 31(8), to warn the Assembly that the member is about to exercise his right to close the debate and afterwards all members will be precluded from speaking to the question. Therefore if any member wishes to speak, let him or her do so now. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues. It was just over a week ago, last Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, a week ago Wednesday that I stood in my place here and presented our financial plan on behalf of all of my colleagues here in the Government of Saskatchewan for the people of Saskatchewan in presenting the budget of 2016-17.

If I could today, Mr. Speaker, just before I get into the essence of my comments, if I could just make a few thank yous. This is the first opportunity I've had to formally rise in this House and thank the people of Regina Northeast for re-electing me in the election on April 4th, and I really appreciate that support.

I want to thank the Premier for the opportunity to serve in cabinet, Mr. Speaker, to serve in cabinet as the Minister of Finance. I've often said to folks when they ask me questions about working in government, I've said I serve in this Assembly at the pleasure of the people of Regina Northeast, and I serve in cabinet at the pleasure of the Premier, and I appreciate both of those.

I want to thank all of my cabinet and caucus colleagues, Mr. Speaker. Many of them are new on this side of the House, and there's some new ones on the other side of the House, and I congratulate all of them on their election, their re-election, on both sides of the House here, Mr. Speaker. But I want to thank my cabinet and caucus colleagues who have worked diligently. And we are a team. This is a collaborative effort, Mr. Speaker. We are a team who have worked diligently to put this budget together and to present to the people of Saskatchewan on June 1st.

I want to thank the treasury board members in particular, Mr. Speaker, those that I was working with prior to the election that we started this budget process last year as we usually do on every single fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. And we had the election this year; it interrupted that process obviously. And we gathered back again. Contrary to some people's views that we were taking some time off after the election, I can assure members of this House, Mr. Speaker, and you, that we were back to work immediately after the election and trying to put this budget together. I want to thank my treasury board colleagues for the hours and hours and hours they spent in putting this document together.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the staff in my office, my ministerial office and my constituency office, but I want to thank Dawn, Paul, Danielle, and Jane who was in my office and served previous Finance ministers now moved over to the Minister of Advanced Education's office and doing a terrific job over there, and Eric, and Ron who is my constituency assistant, has been since 2011, Mr. Speaker, doing a terrific job.

I want to thank . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, our government, well all elected officials, are well served by the public service in this province, both on the executive side of government and in the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. I am particularly well served and treasury board members are well served by our deputy minister of Finance, Clare Isman, who is a stellar public servant, Mr. Speaker, and all of the officials in the Ministry of Finance who work for and with Clare on the preparation of a budget.

You know, Mr. Speaker, she was telling me that, just before we put the budget to bed with respect to it going off to the printers to actually be printed, that there were dozens of officials over at the Finance ministry going through every line both forwards and backwards to ensure that the numbers aligned in the charts and added up and that there were no mistakes.

[11:45]

I also want to thank all the different officials across the various ministries and the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, for their work in supporting their ministers with respect to their budgets and bringing forth their ideas, their hard work, their advice as we completed the budget. So I want to thank all those involved in the public service, both on the executive side and the Crown side, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening comments, the treasury board process is a difficult process, and there are some members over there who, on the opposition side, who had the opportunity to partake in that when they were in government.

There's some members that have never partaken in the treasury board process and have no idea how it works, Mr. Speaker. But it is a collaborative process. The Minister of Finance has the opportunity to present the budget, but it is a collaborative process amongst many of the elected members on the government side to put together the budget.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is a difficult process, particularly when you're sitting at the treasury board table, and on a daily basis you're trying to make public policy decisions, spending decisions with respect to where you're going to spend taxpayers' dollars as you're watching your resource revenue base and the value of the Canadian dollar fluctuate on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker, not knowing full well on any given day when you have to put the budget to bed and make those spending decisions, where you're going to end up with respect to the dollars that are available to you on the revenue side.

But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, as difficult as meeting the needs and the demands of all ministries is, this government and this budget found dollars for our priority areas, Mr. Speaker. We found dollars for the priority areas of health care and education and social services. All of these major areas, Mr. Speaker, received funding increases in this budget. Now there may be some debate on the levels of those funding increases whether they were appropriate or not. But you could say, Mr. Speaker, legitimately say, that all of these major priority areas received funding increases. Despite difficult economic and fiscal circumstances, these areas received funding increases. Again perhaps not as much as the opposition members would like to see. I'm going to talk a little bit more about that in a minute, Mr. Speaker.

There is no question that resource revenues in this province have dropped by close to \$1 billion over the course of the last year, Mr. Speaker. That's not in dispute, and anyone over on that side, over on this side as well, Mr. Speaker, who says that they saw this coming — anybody over there or on this side — who said that they knew that this was coming with respect to where the value of the Canadian dollar would be . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, the value of the Canadian dollar on December 31st was at 72 cents. Just three months later at the end of March, the end of our fiscal year, it was at 77 cents. That's a five cent increase, Mr. Speaker, over the course of three months. On an annualized basis, that's over \$200 million to the treasury, good or bad. That's the kind of volatility we're dealing with, Mr. Speaker, in trying to put a budget to bed. But anybody over on that side, or even this side, who claims that they knew that this was going to happen is either disingenuous or delusional.

We believe that, given the circumstances we were faced with, Mr. Speaker, that we took a balanced approach. We invested in the priority areas of the people of this province: health care, education, and social services. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker . . . And I think the members of the opposition should listen to this. It provides some context. Seventy four cents of every dollar the government collects from the taxpayers of this province, 74 cents of every dollar the government collects, goes to those three areas of health care, education, and social services.

And, Mr. Speaker, as the Premier pointed out, we did not raise

taxes in this budget. We campaigned on not raising taxes. We fulfilled that campaign promise. We were not going to shock the economy further by raising taxes, unlike what some other provinces did with respect to their budgets, Mr. Speaker. And we believe that we are running an appropriate sized deficit of \$434 million.

Now let me put that in perspective, Mr. Speaker. That size of deficit represents point six per cent of our provincial GDP here in Saskatchewan. Manitoba's deficit is \$911 million. That represents 1.3 per cent of their provincial GDP, and they get \$1.7 billion in equalization payments on an annual basis. And they are not subject to the volatility in the oil and gas sector like we are here in Saskatchewan. And they have no plan to balance their budget for another eight years according to their Finance minister, Mr. Speaker.

Alberta's deficit is \$10.4 billion and represents 3 per cent of their GDP. Remember I said our deficit is point six per cent of GDP. And they have no plan to balance their budget until at least 2024 at the earliest, Mr. Speaker, according to their Finance minister.

And Newfoundland and Labrador has a deficit of \$1.8 billion on a revenue base of only \$6.8 billion. Their deficit is 26 per cent of their revenue base, and they have to contribute to equalization this year, Mr. Speaker, as does Saskatchewan, as does Alberta, and as does British Columbia. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, three of the four provinces in this country that contribute to equalization are in deficit. Two of the six provinces that receive equalization payments are in surplus, Mr. Speaker. There's something wrong with that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, since I've been in this legislature since being re-elected again on April 4th and we reconvened here, I've met some of the new . . . I've met all of the new members on the opposition side. And they've all been assigned their critic duties and they've come into this House in every single question period, Mr. Speaker, particularly the Education critic and the Health critic, and have stood in their place day after — we heard it again today, Mr. Speaker — day after day after day and have criticized the government for not providing enough money in education or in health care. They said that there are cuts across the education sector and across the health care sector.

Well, Mr. Speaker, according to their own Finance critic, who stood in her place on budget day . . . I remember it well. The place was full of people, full of guests here on the floor. The Finance critic in response to the budget speech, Mr. Speaker, stood in her place on budget day and said this, and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't end there. We heard the minister today [me] talk about investments in health care and education, but perhaps the minister needs a lesson in inflation and population growth, Mr. Speaker. A minimum of 6 per cent annual increase is needed just to maintain the status quo programs like health care and education. Anything below that is effectively a cut.

That's what the Finance critic said. Now the Health minister tells me that a 6 per cent annual growth rate in the Health ministry alone would consume the entire provincial budget in

18 years. It would be in excess of \$15 billion on a 6 per cent annual growth rate.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's just take a look. Let's just take a look at what the NDP campaigned on just two and a half months ago. You know, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if members over there actually read their costing document, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if the Health critic, the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, actually read the costing document or the Education critic from Regina Lakeview actually read your own costing document. This was a document written by the current Leader of the Opposition who was the Finance critic.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in their own campaign document . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, this is rubbing them the wrong way, Mr. Speaker. They don't like this. They don't like this at all.

They forecast a deficit in their first year in government, had they been elected on April 4th, Mr. Speaker. They're criticizing me for running a deficit. They forecasted their deficit in their first year in office, based on what, Mr. Speaker? In health care alone they campaigned on a point eight per cent increase in the first year in office — point eight per cent. Mr. Speaker, there's a 1.5 per cent increase in this budget right now and the Health critic calls it a cut. There is a 7.9 per cent increase in the Education budget, Mr. Speaker, including operating and capital, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — K to 12.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — K to 12. Their own costing document that that member went around Regina Lakeview saying, oh if you elect us, look at what we're going to do — 1.1 per cent increase in their own costing document. Somewhat a little less, somewhat a little less of what we've actually proposed in this budget, Mr. Speaker, and far less than the 6 per cent that the Finance critic said had to be done as a minimum or it would effectively be a cut. I don't think they've read their own documents, Mr. Speaker.

Let me go on and further talk about what . . . The Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition gets up — he got up again today, Mr. Speaker — the Leader of the Opposition got up again today and said, there's 9,000 jobs lost in the province. What is the government doing with respect to creating new jobs in this province? This is the document that they put out for the people of Saskatchewan. It was attested to by an adjunct professor at Carleton University, a senior policy adviser at the Broadbent Institute.

Well we can debate that, whether that's a non-partisan organization or not. Had we put out a costing platform, Mr. Speaker, that said, oh by the way, it's been attested to by the Fraser Institute, I could just imagine what members opposite would have said.

Here's what they said, Mr. Speaker. This is the professor:

You are also taking advantage of historically low borrowing costs and a federal commitment to support growth oriented public infrastructure investment by the provinces. A recent study for the Broadbent Institute by the

Centre for Spatial Economics showed that such investments [this is capital investments — such investments] boost employment, growth and provincial government revenues in the short term, and expand the long-term revenue base by increasing business sector productivity.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we're doing on this side of the House. That's why we've got a \$3.5 billion capital program this year. That's why our Crown corporations after years, after years of being neglected by the NDP, has a \$1.8 billion capital program this year, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're investing \$1.7 billion on the capital side from executive government, including the Regina bypass that is employing thousands of people here in the province of Saskatchewan. Your own Broadbent Institute agreed with that. I don't think you've read your own documents. It's unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition brought up our debt-to-GDP levels. And I'm glad he did because the fact of the matter is our debt-to-GDP here in the province of Saskatchewan as of March 2016 was just over 17 per cent; it was 17.6 per cent. It is forecast to be just over 19 per cent at the end of this fiscal year. Now this Leader of the Opposition criticized our government for the first half of his speech for not spending enough on all these different areas, Mr. Speaker — health care, education, social services — even though spending more than what they campaigned on in their costing document.

Then in the second half of his speech, he criticized me for running a deficit and spending \$3 million a day more than what we're taking in. I don't know if he understands the contradiction in his own speeches, Mr. Speaker. He certainly hasn't read his own costing document, and he wrote it.

Our debt-to-GDP, Mr. Speaker, is the second lowest amongst provinces in Canada right now. Again let me provide some context and perspective. I said our forecast debt-to-GDP is going to be just over 19 per cent at the end of this fiscal year. The province of British Columbia is at 28.5 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Ontario is at 47.6 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Manitoba, Manitoba under the good old NDP for a number of years, is at 57.5 per cent. And Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker — and I don't wish this upon anybody — is at 63 per cent debt-to-GDP.

We're just over 19 per cent at the end of this fiscal year, including the fact we're borrowing over \$1 billion, which we're being criticized by the members opposite, even though the Broadbent Institute suggested with historically low interest rates and a AAA credit rating, you ought to be doing that. They won't even follow their own advice from the Broadbent Institute, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me just finish off here today and talk a little bit about transformational change. You know, Mr. Speaker, transformational change is not easy. I understand that. Members on the government side here understand that. It's going to require some heavy lifting. Change is never easy. Change brings about fear. Sometimes that fear can be . . . Oh, the flames of fear can be fanned by people with some ulterior motives, shall we say, Mr. Speaker.

But can you just imagine, can you just imagine this province of Saskatchewan, even under Tommy Douglas, if Tommy Douglas had been surrounded by a bunch of MLAs in his caucus, Mr. Speaker, that were afraid of change, that were afraid of change? How little Premier Douglas would have accomplished during his time in office if he had been surrounded by people who instilled fear in people outside of this building because of change. I would suggest Premier Douglas would not have achieved very much, Mr. Speaker. They like to hold him up as the beacon of their party, and I understand that. I understand that, Mr. Speaker. But he would not have accomplished anything had he been surrounded by those 10 MLAs over there today, Mr. Speaker, because they're afraid of change.

What I would say to members opposite, I've been in this legislature now since 2011. I've heard the same speech from the member from Athabasca probably 50 times. It doesn't matter what the issue is. I've heard the same speech over and over and over again. I've heard every single one of them. And I'm speaking more to the new members now, Mr. Speaker. I'm speaking more to the new members now. Don't buy into it every single day to come into the legislature and do nothing but criticize the government.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that this Premier and this government have got some things right. He's won three successive majorities in this province, Mr. Speaker. I would respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that we put some ideas out there. And yes, they're not perfect, but every single day this government proposes ideas, those members walk into this Chamber and do nothing but denounce them and disagree with them and just criticize whatever our ideas are. Well that's fine, Mr. Speaker. That's part and parcel of our parliamentary system.

But here's what I would say to the new members. You now have an opportunity to engage in your own transformational change with respect to how you bring ideas to the floor of this legislature. I listened to a number of their speeches, Mr. Speaker. The member for Regina Douglas Park, I listened to her yesterday. I thought she brought up some good ideas. She mentioned how we should have a look at creating green jobs in this province. I'm interested in those ideas, Mr. Speaker. I wish that member would put together a position paper and send it over to us, or come and discuss it with one of the ministers on this side, Mr. Speaker.

I listened to the member for Cumberland. I think he's a genuine individual, Mr. Speaker. I heard him talk yesterday about the fact that he could be a bridge to the Métis and First Nations communities in his constituency for this government. I welcome that kind of opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see more of those ideas come forward on this floor of the legislature. This ought to be a place of ideas. It ought to be a place of aspiration. It ought to be a place of innovation. It not necessarily has to be every single day where members come in and just criticize the government because we put ideas up, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to put ideas up. We will continue to put ideas up.

What I am asking the members of the opposition to start doing now is embrace change. Because if this is the new normal, Mr. Speaker, if this is the new normal with respect to what we have available to us as far as resource revenues, where our entire

revenue base is concerned, something has to change to ensure that our programs and services for the people of this province are sustainable . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, the member from Athabasca continues to chirp over there. He's not interested in any of this kind of stuff. He's not interested in any of this kind of stuff. His own Leader of the Opposition just stood here today and asked the government to work co-operatively with them, and he won't even silence the guy beside him who has no interest in doing any of this kind of stuff whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

[12:00]

So I'm appealing particularly to the new members, Mr. Speaker. I think now is the opportunity for you to come forward with some ideas. We're interested in your ideas. You represent constituents in your constituencies. We're interested in your ideas.

But if you're simply going to come in here day after day after day and criticize the government for putting up ideas, and criticize our budget because . . . And every single day it's just not enough, it's just not enough. We've got to spend more here, doesn't matter if it's education or health care or social services or highways. We've demonstrated in your own document, we've demonstrated in your own document, Mr. Speaker, we're spending more than you even campaigned on, that you even promised to the people of this province on April 4th, Mr. Speaker. In that case they ought to vote in favour of his budget.

Mr. Speaker, I know that again, as I want to close off by saying that change brings some fear. It ought not to bring fear, Mr. Speaker. People of this province over many, many decades have always embraced change. They've always embraced innovation. They've always embraced new ideas. It's how we came to be the great province that we are today, Mr. Speaker, and how we'll continue to be a great province in the Dominion of Canada.

So I say to members opposite, our government's prepared to work with you. If you come forward with new ideas and innovative ideas, we want to hear about that with respect to transformational change. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Premier in this government in presenting the budget to the people of Saskatchewan. I will not be supporting the amendment. I will be supporting the government in this motion with respect to the budget.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion from Saskatoon Nutana, seconded by the member from Athabasca:

That all words after "That the Assembly" be deleted and the following be added:

disagrees with the government for tabling a budget months late, failing to be transparent to the Saskatchewan people, and for failing to deliver opportunities to create jobs, diversify the economy, and support kids in the classroom.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say yea.

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:03 until 12:05.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly . . . [inaudible] . . . the text of the motion as read. All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 9]

Wotherspoon	Chartier	Belanger
Sproule	Forbes	Rancourt
Beck	Sarauer	Vermette

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 48]

Wall	Stewart	Morgan
Wyant	Duncan	McMorris
Boyd	Harpauer	Doherty
Reiter	Moe	D'Autremont
Weekes	Beaudry-Mellor	Cox
Docherty	Campeau	Heppner
Cheveldayoff	Harrison	Ottobreit
Tell	Bonk	Brkich
Hart	Steele	Hargrave
Makowsky	Marit	Merriman
Wilson	Eyre	Ross
Olauson	Young	Kaeding
Parent	Fiaz	Nerlien
Bradshaw	Dennis	Phillips
Steinley	Lambert	Carr
Michelson	Buckingham	Kirsch

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 9; those opposed, 48.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion lost.

The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Finance Minister, seconded by the member from Regina University:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say yea.

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — I declare . . . Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:08 until 12:09.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 48]

Wall	Stewart	Morgan
Wyant	Duncan	McMorris
Boyd	Harpauer	Doherty
Reiter	Moe	D'Autremont
Weekes	Beaudry-Mellor	Cox
Docherty	Campeau	Heppner
Cheveldayoff	Harrison	Ottenbreit
Tell	Bonk	Brkich
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Wilson	Eyre	Ross
Olauson	Young	Kaeding
Parent	Fiaz	Nerlien
Bradshaw	Dennis	Phillips
Steinley	Lambert	Carr
Michelson	Buckingham	Kirsch

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 9]

Wotherspoon	Chartier	Belanger
Sproule	Forbes	Rancourt
Beck	Sarauer	Vermette

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 48; those opposed, 9.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. I recognize the House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:13.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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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
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Hon. Donna Harpauer
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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
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Hon. Nancy Heppner
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Deputy Premier
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
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Liquor and Gaming Authority
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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
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Hon. Christine Tell
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