



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

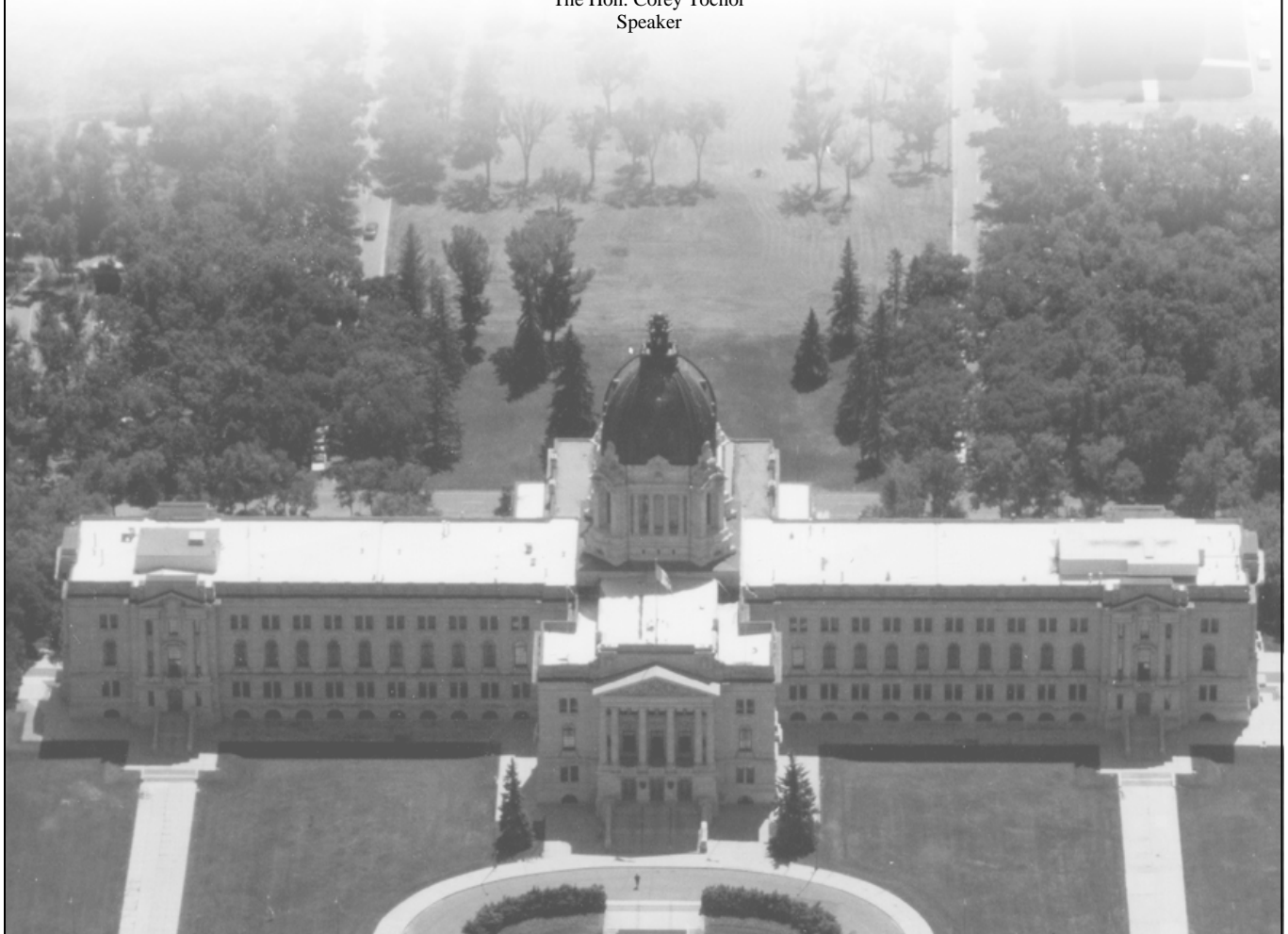
of the

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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Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

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Marit, David — Wood River (SP)

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Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

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Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave for a National Day of Mourning condolence statement.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Education.

COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENTS

National Day of Mourning

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 28th was the annual National Day of Mourning for workers who were killed or injured on the job. On April 28th our Legislative Building had flags flying at half-mast in order to recognize these people. As we were not in session on April 28th, we are recognizing these individuals today. Across both Saskatchewan and Canada, groups gathered to remember those who have suffered tragedy and loss due to workplace incidents.

Mr. Speaker, the Day of Mourning is a time to honour and mourn those who have suffered fatalities and injuries in the workplace. It is also an important opportunity for us to remember, reflect, and renew our commitment to eliminating workplace tragedies. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our workplaces are safe and healthy and that everyone makes it home alive. Nobody deserves the tragedy of losing a loved one due to preventable work-related injury.

I once again ask my colleagues to renew their own personal commitments to safety. We must all be conscious of safety in everything we do if we wish to eliminate workplace accidents. I would also ask both employers and employees, small and large businesses, and those involved in all industries to consider the health and safety of everyone around them. We must all make it a priority.

I would like to thank those workplaces in Saskatchewan who have achieved Mission: Zero and the leadership that they have shown. Saskatchewan has the fourth highest workplace injury rate in Canada. While work has been done to reduce this injury rate, we are still far from our goal of zero workplace incidents. Mr. Speaker, there is still more work to do. No job is worth someone's life, and no job is worth injury.

This past year in Saskatchewan, 32 workers lost their lives as a result of workplace injuries and illnesses. These are parents, children, friends, and loved ones. It cannot be understated, the financial and emotional turmoil that these deaths and injuries have had on those closest to them. We must all remember these individuals by ensuring that every worker returns home safe after their work is done.

To honour those that we have lost, I will now read the names into the record. I would ask that all members rise, and the member for Saskatoon Centre will read the first list of names.

Mr. Forbes: —

Alfred Joseph Hazelwenter	Dewaine Irwin
Andrew Boa	Duane Nelson
August Martin	Eugene Blocka
Brian Zarowny	George Gregg
Cade Sprackman	Ieuan Williams
Catherine Parkinson	James Rechenmacher
Chad Johnstone	Jonathan Jonasson
Darren Pearson	Joseph Vorachek
Dean Gervais	

Hon. Mr. Morgan: —

Kevin Timmerman	Rando Biasini
Lah Wor	Ron Vandeven
Larry Chorneyko	Tanner Graf
Leo Hnatyshyn	Travis Gordon
Ludovick Geni	Vanitha Mutukistna
Murray Mann	Wasim Hanif
Nilo Sanchez	William Davies
Pah Day	

Not included in these names are the approximately 13 people who lose their lives working on Saskatchewan farms and ranches each year. Today is also to honour their lives as well.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I'd like to offer our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed away due to workplace incidents. I would now ask that we observe a moment of silence in honour of the 32 people who have lost their lives.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would ask you and colleagues to grant leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to follow on a spring tradition that we've started a few years ago in the Legislative Assembly. That tradition would be to introduce the coaching staff for the Saskatchewan Roughriders and wish them well as the team embarks on a brand new season, Mr. Speaker.

And so it's my privilege to introduce that group today.

Mr. Speaker, members of the House will know — it will cause us probably even pain again — that the last Grey Cup was won by the evil empire; I should say, the Edmonton Eskimos. So the Riders embarked on a great plan to go right into the evil empire and get their best, get their leaders and bring them back. I'm not sure if that makes Coach Jones a sort of a Darth Vader or not. I think that's probably unfair. But boy, are we ever glad that he and so many of his colleagues and a number of players have joined us.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I do want to introduce each member of the coaching staff, if I may. And I would ask that they would maybe just stand and give members of the House a wave as we introduce them to the Assembly today. So, Mr. Speaker, we'll start with the head coach and the general manager, vice-president of football operations, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Coach Chris Jones. For those of us who've had the pleasure of talking to Coach Jones, he has a very, very thick accent, but I understand the Riders are putting out a Tennessee-English dictionary which we'll all be able to use that'll be . . .

Craig Reynolds is the team president and CEO [chief executive officer]. We want to welcome Craig back to his Assembly. Jeremy O'Day, no stranger to the Assembly, assistant vice-president of football operations and administration and the keeper of stories on the member for Regina Gardiner Park. If you're looking for some stories, talk to Jeremy O'Day. John Murphy is assistant vice president of football operations and player personnel.

Stephen McAdoo is the offensive coordinator and the assistant coach. Craig Dickenson is back in Saskatchewan. We had a great special teams under his leadership; we're going to have another great special teams year under Craig. He also coached with the Oakland Raiders, Mr. Speaker, the best team in the NFL [National Football League].

Jarius Jackson is here. He is the quarterback coach for the Riders this year. Markus Howell, receivers coach; Mike Scheper, the offensive line coach; Craig Davoren, he's the running backs coach; Phillip Lolley, the linebackers coach; Jason Shivers, defensive backs; Ed Phillion, defensive line; Clint Spencer, strength and conditioning coordinator. Merritt Bowden, Cam Robinson, Kent Maugeri, and Tyron Robinson are the quality control coaches, and we want to welcome them as well. Scott Annand is the football operations coordinator.

And also a guest coach for Rider camp this year is the long-time defensive coordinator for the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Huskies. He's been coaching defence there for 93 years I think, about now. His name is Ed Carleton, and he's joined the Rider coaching staff.

Mr. Speaker, the Riders . . . There are many things that bring Saskatchewan people together that transcend all the divides in the province, but perhaps none with the consistency of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. They really do bring this entire province together, not just during the season but during the off-season.

And so we want to wish these coaches and their charges all the best in the upcoming season. For those who are new to the province, we want to welcome them here. We hope they've enjoyed Saskatchewan hospitality and will continue to enjoy it. And I would just ask members of the House to join with me in welcoming the coaching staff to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to join with the Premier here today and welcome these esteemed guests and leaders within our province to their Assembly. The Premier's quite right: this is something that forges political divides, that usually in this Assembly we have fierce political debate. Here we have unanimous support for the legendary team that makes all of us proud.

We've come through the period of spring in the province where that embodiment of hard work and optimism was on full display at, certainly Riders' training camp and into the pre-season. And certainly on display as well, it's small-town football camps and high school football camps all across our province. Spring seeding; it's sort of a special time in Saskatchewan of hard work and of optimism.

It's a real honour to welcome all of these coaches here today. I won't introduce and welcome all of them specifically, but it is a pleasure to welcome, and I don't think I would have said this a year ago, but Mr. Chris Jones. Coach, thank you so much for your leadership you'll provide to the team. Yes, hailing from the evil empire of most recent, but thank you for your leadership here in the province. Thank you as well to Craig Reynolds, CEO and president, native of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, a great business mind and a real leader on that team. And of course, Jeremy O'Day, someone who patrolled that O-line [offensive line] with force and was a fierce competitor who's still continuing to provide leadership to this organization.

We know that sometimes we talk about there's a level of scrutiny on us as public officials. Certainly there is for the Premier. I think that the level of scrutiny that falls onto the shoulders of Mr. Jones, Coach Jones, exceeds that of the Premier, and we wish him well in the time ahead. This team is beloved by Saskatchewan people with the exception of the odd call-in show to Rod and Carm, at, you know, on Rider Radio after the odd game. But we want to wish you well. Thank you for continuing this proud legacy. We wish you nothing but the best in 2016. We stand here in unanimous support as full members of Rider nation. Green is the colour.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, Mr. Mike Ellis, Progressive Conservative MLA for Calgary-West. And accompanying him today is Yonathan Sumamo. He's with communications of the Progressive Conservative caucus in Alberta. Thank you very much for joining us here today.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mike today to discuss a very important issue in community safety: the increase of fentanyl in the Western provinces and of course throughout Canada. There will be more information in an upcoming member's statement, Mr. Speaker, but I would like all members to welcome Mike to his Legislative Assembly. Thanks, Mike.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Mr. Ellis and Mr. Sumamo to this Legislative Assembly. I've heard a little bit about your new bill with respect to pill presses, and I'm looking forward to learning a bit more about that today. Thank you so much for joining us.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce two guests from my constituency that are joining us in your gallery. First of all, we have Gwen Wright. Gwen is a retired schoolteacher, although I know she enjoys substitute teaching, especially at the bridge program. She's very involved with the local Rotary as well as her church, the Free Methodist Church in Weyburn. And seated beside her is a very special guest for me, and that's my constituency assistant, Marcie Swedburg.

Mr. Speaker, Marcie became the constituency assistant for the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Weyburn-Big Muddy on October 25th, 1999. And, Mr. Speaker, we surprised her with your help this morning in recognizing her 16 years as a constituency assistant to the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Mr. Speaker, as a part of the certificate, the citation reads in part that the work of a constituency assistant is instrumental in the work of an MLA, and it notes the loyalty and commitment that is required of a constituency assistant. And, Mr. Speaker, to me Marcie Swedburg exemplifies all that and much more. And so I want to ask all members to join with me in welcoming Gwen, as well as Marcie to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, I'd like to introduce someone sitting in your gallery. Terry Parker is up there, from the Saskatchewan building trades. And he happens to be in the House today, and he's no stranger to the House. He watches very carefully about the legislation and how we can make sure we do the best for people, especially those tradespeople here in the province. So I'd ask all members to join us in welcoming him to his legislature. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Mr. Parker to the Assembly today. He is here for the Day of Mourning for reading the names into the record.

He has been, as people are aware, business manager for the Building Trades Council, a strong advocate for workplace safety, and their agency has provided any number of training courses. He also serves on the board of the Sask Polytechnic and the minister's advisory committee for the Ministry of Labour. So he's been very competent and professional and very supportive in making sure that we do the best we possibly can for the workers in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce my beautiful wife, Fran, who is seated in your gallery and has just signed a contract to help coach the Roughriders, apparently. She was looking for additional work, so glad she found it today.

Fran is my partner and my best friend and the love of my life. Yes, we're still like that after many, many years. One day, Mr. Speaker, many years ago while hanging some wallpaper, we realized that we actually work very well together. And since then we've worked side by side for many, many years in our businesses and enjoyed every minute of it. There's a lot of people that tell me they could never work with their spouse, but I can't think of anyone I'd rather work with.

The people around Prince Albert know it's rare that you see one of us at an event without the other, and that's the way we like it. Fran wholeheartedly supported my decision to run for political office. In fact she always said, I knew you would do it one day.

She helped out in every way possible, from selling memberships for my nomination to door knocking, organizing fundraisers. Whatever was needed, she did it. I owe her much of my success. I ask all members to join me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to welcome here a grade 6 class, 17 of them, from Rocanville School. Give a wave to us. So I was able to meet with them a little bit earlier today, and they are a very inquisitive bunch. And I hope that they're enjoying the trip to their Legislative Assembly, so I'd ask all members to help me welcome them here.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce an individual that's seated in your gallery, Mr. Benoit Hardy-Chartrand who is a senior research associate with the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

The Leader of the Opposition and I, along with some other folks attended a breakfast discussion this morning hosted by the Canadian International Council where Mr. Hardy-Chartrand

along with Mr. Leonard Edwards discussed with us the importance of the Canadian . . . the relationship between the Canadian, Indonesian countries. So thank you so much for your discussion, and please help me welcome them. Mr. Edwards is not here in the gallery right now, but I believe he is around the House somewhere, but please help me welcome them to this Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Hon. members, I would like to introduce Terry Quinn. Terry, can you give us a wave? He's in the Speaker's Gallery. He will be our new Sergeant-at-Arms on July 1st when the acting Sergeant-of-Arms retires. I was lucky enough to meet Terry earlier on today. I told him or I informed him that he is required to grow a moustache, and he will be working on that over the summer months.

Terry retired from the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] in 2015. After a long career with the force, he worked in Nova Scotia as well as overseas in Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. Most recently he had been with the Ministry of Justice as the program manager in policy and governance. Please join me in welcoming Terry Quinn, the new Sergeant-at-Arms to the 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 that delaying diagnosis and treatment for PTSD can be detrimental to recovery, 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, Allan, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition from individuals from Earl Grey and Regina. They wish to bring to our attention the following: wetlands serve a very vital function in our ecosystem. They take the form of marshes, bogs, fens, swamps, and open water. Wetlands are home to wildlife, including waterfowl. They clean the water running off of agricultural fields. They protect us from flooding and drought. And they are a playground where families can explore and play.

In the worst cases, such as some areas on the Prairies, as much as 90 per cent of our wetlands have disappeared. As they continue to disappear, so too do the many benefits they provide. Sound wetland policy will allow Saskatchewan to provide sustainable development for all sectors of business in the province. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to:

Increase funding to do the proper inventory work, putting Saskatchewan in a better position to manage the water resource.

Speed up the evaluation of high-risk watersheds where there is significant damage annually from flooding. This evaluation must include a recognition of draining works that could be closed or restored that will alleviate some of the issues downstream with respect to flooding and nutrient loading.

Create a sound and transparent mitigation process that adequately addresses sustainable development. The sequence should focus first on avoiding environmental harm wherever possible before a secondary focus on minimizing the harm, with compensation being sought only when the development is deemed essential and the first two stages cannot be met.

Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of funding heritage languages 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, but 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 or not they can continue to operate.

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.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today are from the city of Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

National Day of Mourning

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Every year on April 28th, we recognize National Day of Mourning to commemorate workers who've lost their lives on the job. Normally Day of Mourning falls within the sitting of the Assembly and I, along with the Minister of Labour, read the names of those who've died on the job. With this year's spring election, we've delayed that tradition to today.

Last year 32 workers died because of injuries that happened at work. Thirty-two families said goodbye to a loved one who never came home. It's for those 32 families that we have to do so much more to reduce workplace injuries in every part of our province. It shouldn't matter if a worker carries a tool box or a briefcase to a job site, whether they wear coveralls or scrubs, or whether they work high in an office tower or hundreds of metres below ground. Every Saskatchewan worker has the right to a safe workplace. We still see an unacceptable number of injuries and deaths in the workplace, particularly when it comes to young and inexperienced workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to consider what they can do to support workers' rights and workplace safety as well as keeping the families of the workers killed and injured in their minds today and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Opening of Kelvington and Area Hospital

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday I had the opportunity to celebrate the opening of a new hospital in my constituency of Kelvington-Wadena. Mr. Speaker, not only does the new Kelvington and Area Hospital allow for improved access to health care services for residents. It also provides a modern work environment in which health care professionals are able to deliver high-quality, patient-centred care.

While the opening of this hospital is an exciting achievement, it is just the beginning of what will soon be an innovative integrated health facility. Mr. Speaker, renovations are under way at Kelvindell Lodge, the community's long-term care facility that now lies adjacent to the new hospital. Once completed, the residents of my constituency will be able to access a range of health services all under one roof: acute and primary care, emergency services, and long-term care. I would like to acknowledge all of the dedicated individuals from Kelsey Trail Health Region, partners from the municipality, and staff in the hospital who worked hard to make this project a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I saw first-hand how a 3P [production preparation process] approach involving the community, staff, and patients in the design stages creates an environment of collaborative health care that is positive for all involved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like everyone to join me in celebrating the completion of this new hospital. Our government is proud to support worthy projects like this and deliver on our promise to put patients first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

World Refugee Day

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, June 20th is World Refugee Day. Marked every year since 2000 by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, it is a day to recognize that so much more work needs to be done to help refugees around the world.

In many ways, we are lucky in Canada. In response to the Syrian refugee crisis over the last few years, Canadians have opened their hearts and their wallets to offer their support. And the discussions in our country revolve around questions like, what can we do to help, rather than, what can we do to keep them out. The fractious debates fuelled by fear and insecurity that we see in the United States, the UK [United Kingdom], and parts of Europe just don't resonate here, and that speaks volumes about our country's values and the importance we place on multiculturalism and tolerance.

One organization in Regina that helps refugees around the world is the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation. They do great work fostering international development and building capacity in developing countries. Unfortunately this year's budget saw their provincial funding removed, and that's going to have a serious impact on the work they're able to do here in Saskatchewan and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing World Refugee Day and in committing to do our part to address the global refugee crisis.

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

Esterhazy Potash Mine Receives Safety Award

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand in this Assembly and boast a little about a little potash mine that recently received the prestigious John T. Ryan Trophy for Select Mines safety award. The K1 Mosaic mine, just outside of Esterhazy, is an important part of the local community, and this award shows the professionalism that they conduct themselves with in this important industry.

The award was handed out to five mines across Canada that have shown exemplary safety performance. The K1 mine went an astounding 431 days in 2015-2016 without an occupational health and safety administration recordable incident. General manager of the K1 mine, Paul Gill, had this to say: "To be recognized as one of the five safest mines in Canada in 2015 is a remarkable accomplishment for the Esterhazy K1 mine site."

Mr. Speaker, our government acknowledges the importance of the mining industry to the Saskatchewan way of life. For a generation, Saskatchewan has been a leader in mining innovation and has become the leading jurisdiction in this

country for attracting mining investment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mosaic and the K1 Esterhazy mine of this accomplishment.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Combatting Opiate Use

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fentanyl and other opiates are a growing problem in Western provinces. Fifty-six per cent of overdose deaths in BC [British Columbia] this year are attributed to fentanyl. Over 270 Albertans and 17 people here in Saskatchewan have died due to overdosing on fentanyl in 2015. This is why today the Minister for Corrections and Policing, along with her ministry officials, met with Mr. Mike Ellis, Progressive Conservative MLA for Calgary-West and former Calgary police officer, to discuss this community safety issue.

Mr. Ellis proposed a private member's bill which involves restricting access to the pill presses used in the production of drugs like fentanyl and W-18. These presses as well as pharmaceutical mixers and capsule filling machines will only be available to people with the necessary permits.

The Government of Saskatchewan will study this bill as well as reach out to partners across the country to see if these measures fit into the Saskatchewan context. Our government has made investments in municipal policing that has provided funding to key initiatives such as the combined forces special enforcement unit. This unit is mandated to detect, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations in Saskatchewan. Our government will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure Saskatchewan citizens are safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Saskatoon Diocese Partners With Indigenous Peoples

Mr. Olauson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I attended a plaque unveiling ceremony at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon. This plaque signifies the partnership between the Roman Catholic Church and indigenous peoples, and our continued path towards reconciliation. It also recognizes the shared history between indigenous peoples and the rest of us who are newcomers to this country. As the seat of the Diocese of Saskatoon, it is fitting that we recognize this history and move forward in solidarity with indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, the plaque was unveiled by Harry Lafond from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Bishop Donald Bolen, Father David Tumback, and First Nations leader Dianne Anderson, and it will reside in the welcome area of the cathedral in Saskatoon. The plaque is a symbol of the partnerships that will be strengthened between the diocese and our First Nations brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud and honoured to be present and represent the Government of Saskatchewan and our Premier,

Brad Wall, at this historic occasion. I have attended this parish my entire life and I am proud of this important initiative. I ask all members to join me in congratulating this important step towards reconciliation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Carbon Capture and Storage Initiatives

Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to SaskPower's initiative at Boundary dam 3 in Estevan, Saskatchewan, it is capturing both carbon and the world's attention. Just last week the province of Quebec recognized the world-leading expertise that Saskatchewan has developed in carbon capture and storage technology. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday our Premier and the Premier of Quebec announced that Saskatchewan and Quebec are entering into a new collaborative relationship to further develop knowledge and the best practices in the use of CCS [carbon capture and storage] technologies. This collaboration will see our provinces work to accelerate the development and deployment of CCS technologies and exchange information on CCS projects. This announcement comes on the heels of the establishment of the BHP Billiton SaskPower CCS knowledge centre in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, on a yearly basis, China's fleet of coal-fired power plants emits more than 20 times as much CO₂ as Canada's entire energy sector. As the federal Environment minister noted during a recent visit to BD3 [Boundary dam 3], there is an opportunity for 50 trillion worth of technology transfer to China alone. By leading the world in the development of commercial-scale CCS technology, Saskatchewan is helping to create a solution for global problem of climate change.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Quebec for joining Saskatchewan in our work to further develop and expand CCS technology. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Economy and Climate Change

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, allow me to start with a quote. "We just think because of the advancements in renewable technologies, the mix towards renewables can be much greater." Mr. Speaker, here's another one: "We want it to be greater. We need it to be greater because, as you know, we have high emissions per capita in this province."

Mr. Speaker, do you know who said those things? It was the Premier, of course. He was talking about getting half of the power, the province's power, to come from renewable energy by 2030. Yes, the goal was ambitious. We supported it. In fact, we proposed it, Mr. Speaker. And it puts Saskatchewan in line with the rest of the country and the rest of the world. So the question is, why did the Premier walk — well in fact, more run — away from these ambitious but science-based goals? Going back to inflaming divisions, making lots of noise on Twitter, and calling climate change a misguided dogma that has no basis in reality.

Mr. Speaker, he's putting politics ahead of people. He's wall building instead of bridge building, and headlines ahead of pipelines. Why is the Premier putting Saskatchewan back on the defence instead of offensive inaction when it comes to climate change?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of good lines in that question. He shouldn't use them all on the first one, I'd suggest to him. Unfortunately they're not based on reality, Mr. Speaker. The misguided dogma that was referenced in the Speech from the Throne was the Leap Manifesto. That's the NDP [New Democratic Party] document that would destroy Saskatchewan's economy if it ever saw the light of day, a Leap Manifesto that his Finance critic actually supports in principle and that the renewal, the Chair for the renewal of his party signed on to, Mr. Speaker.

The premise of his question around renewables is wrong. Our goal is to get to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. That process is under way, working with First Nations, working on flare gas, utility—scale solar and wind power to complement the other sources of energy that we have, Mr. Speaker. So the bottom line is this: we think you can do both. We can have more renewables in this province and we can clean up coal so we can keep that industry viable, not just here in this province but perhaps in other places around the world. Today there are 2,400 coal plants being built in Asia. On our side of the House, we think we need to do better by emissions, but Canada can help the world in terms of advancing leading CCS technology right here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier knows full well that no one here supported that document. It's simply not on for Saskatchewan. He can try to distract all he wants but I urge him to start to get the job done for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, because as they laugh and guffaw, Mr. Speaker, 9,500 Saskatchewan people have lost their jobs over the last year, over a thousand alone in the resource sector. Saskatchewan people, our economy need this government to make a change and develop a plan. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result just isn't working.

Of course we need to get our resources to market, but for all his huffing and puffing and Twitter noise, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has not built a single kilometre of pipeline to tidewater. We saw with Keystone and now we're seeing with global and national pressures, Saskatchewan needs to be seen as a leader on responsible resource development so that people will . . . or otherwise people will not be trusting us when we come to make our pitch. So why is the Premier ignoring that reality? Why is he refusing to put Saskatchewan people ahead of his personal headlines?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Once again, there's just so much wrong with that long preamble I don't really know where to start, Mr. Speaker. We're advocating for pipelines across this country in

the interest of our industry, the energy sector. We advocated a few months ago for a program to help with well completions that would put people in the energy sector back to work today — opposed by the Finance critic, opposed by the leader of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. They've opposed every single idea that this side of the House has had, whether it's new growth tax cuts or support for the energy sector or supporting pipelines in the general sense. Every time it's been proposed on this side it's been opposed on that side. In part it's because some members of their party over there just don't like the energy sector. They don't like what we do well in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just say very clearly that one of the elements of his preamble was to say, doing the same thing over and over again will get you the same results. For the last eight years here's what's been happening in the province of Saskatchewan in part because of the economic plan of the government: record job creation, Mr. Speaker — we still have the second-lowest unemployment rate in the country, Mr. Speaker. Population growth the likes of which we haven't seen in a hundred years, and this population is still growing, Mr. Speaker. Record investments into this province, Mr. Speaker, a AAA credit rating; more competitive taxes. Mr. Speaker, we're going to compete and we're going to continue to repeat those things in the interest of Saskatchewan's leadership nationwide.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Talk about wind power, Mr. Speaker, talk about wind power . . . A Premier who again isn't letting the facts stand in the way of, you know, I guess a good narrative for him. Attacking us, picking fights with other premiers, dismissing climate change, the Twitter noise — it may all get the Premier to the top of the news but it's leaving Saskatchewan people behind. Us versus them hasn't worked, doesn't work, won't work. The Premier admits himself it's not working: "Frankly, we haven't been winning very many battles."

Mr. Speaker, he's fighting on the wrong field. The only way to get pipelines built is if we build together. Saskatchewan people are innovative, resourceful, and creative. The Sask Party's carbon capture scheme has been a costly boondoggle plagued by cost overruns, delays, inefficiencies. But instead of touting the success stories like . . . He touts that instead of success stories like wind and solar power, Mr. Speaker. Despite not having the support it needs by this government, wind and solar power is getting less expensive and more efficient. It creates jobs and in fact makes our resources more marketable.

So will the Premier change his failed approach, start standing up for Saskatchewan workers and resources in a smart and constructive way, one that actually delivers for Saskatchewan people well into the future?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, again the premise of the member's question is just wrong. Just a few days ago we signed an agreement with the Premier of Quebec. Premier Philippe Couillard and I signed an agreement that we would move forward together in terms of carbon capture and sequestration research. And you know, Mr. Speaker, part of the reason for

Quebec's interest in working with us in this regard was embodied in their own climate change document tabled in the Quebec National Assembly. When they cited carbon capture and sequestration leadership . . .

Well the Finance critic's shaking her head. I invite her to listen to the answer to the question that her leader's asked. Because Quebec has acknowledged that in this country there is leadership in CCS from Alberta and from the province of Saskatchewan. That leadership, because of Boundary dam, has been acknowledged by the International Energy Agency. That leadership has been acknowledged by the federal Liberal government, who recently just toured that particular facility.

We believe in an all-of-the-above approach. We believe we have to have more renewables in the mix in this province, and so we've set our goal. But we also think that we can help with the global challenge of coal-burning plants by our investment, our R & D [research and development] at Boundary dam 3 in Estevan because we like the thought that those jobs could continue in mining, coal, and in that research and technology in the development of coal-fired power.

Mr. Speaker, it's up to the NDP to explain why the Finance critic approved in principle further consideration of the Leap Manifesto as she did. It's up to the Leader of the Opposition to explain how the head of the person on their renewal process signed the Leap Manifesto that would shut down coal, shut down oil, shut down any pipelines, shut down potash, Mr. Speaker. That's why there's that number over there, in part, and that's why there's more over on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — This is coming from, Mr. Speaker, this is coming from a Premier who uses unicorns and pixie dust to raise the level of debate. I don't know, Mr. Speaker. He should check his facts too because the premise of everything he just said is wrong. But last week I asked the Minister of the Environment about this very topic. I asked him to describe their climate change plan. He said, "the plan is there. It's under review and it's constantly under review and is I guess . . . Call it a living document. Call it whatever you would like . . ."

So I tried a simpler question. Is there a plan written down or is it just in the minister's head? He said, as I said, it's there but it's constantly under review. Mr. Speaker, eventually the minister said, "We've got a long ways to go. But until we can formulate some of this stuff, I don't think we can know how we're going to get there."

Mr. Speaker, this has been the so-called plan for several years. Can the minister explain why, even after consulting at length with his officials, he was unable to provide me with anything? Nothing in writing, nothing on paper. One of the key actions in the ministry's '15-16 plan is to advance their "climate change strategy." Mr. Speaker, how can you advance something that doesn't exist?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the government took over from an NDP government that truly had no plans for climate change. Mr. Speaker, our emissions were increasing exponentially. Moreover, moreover, Mr. Speaker, they refused to make the required investments in technology to keep coal as part of the picture.

Mr. Speaker, since the election in 2007, members on this side of the House have made the largest per capita public sector investment in fighting climate change in Canada. Mr. Speaker, that sounds like it might be part of a plan to me. Sounds like it might be part of a long-term plan to actually deal with the fact that as we're sitting here now, 4000 megatonnes of CO₂ will be burned in China. We on this side of the House for a number of years have said, we need to fix our own problem but also contribute to the global problem.

In addition to that, we've already announced — and we announced it ahead of the election — that we're going to move to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Sounds like it's part of the plan, Mr. Speaker. I think you're also going to see this government and this minister is going to move more directly with respect to other issues facing the country, like a carbon tax.

But I would just close with this. That member still has not explained why in Edmonton at a convention of the NDP, she voted for this: "Therefore be it resolved that the NDP recognizes and supports the Leap Manifesto as a high-level statement of principles . . ." She supported that, supported its further discussion and exploration, notwithstanding the fact that it would ruin Saskatchewan's economy. She needs to explain that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Premier better check his facts. He's got the wrong resolution. We've told them over and over and he's still reading the wrong resolution, so maybe he should check his own facts. Also, allow me to remind the Premier that their target is a 20 per cent reduction by 2020. But what the minister told me at committee was this: this is something that we have just started on in the last couple months. Now this was an ambitious goal in the first place, but now we find out that after announcing it in 2009, they've only worked on it in the last couple of months. It's strains credulity, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

How can other provinces and the rest of the world take Saskatchewan seriously if he can't even tell us — either one of them — where the plan is? In fact in the last seven years, the Sask Party has used climate change as a place to hide money, \$20 million in fact unused in the last seven years on what has been budgeted for climate change. This is one of the only programs where money is consistently returned back to the Sask Party government coffers. Will the minister or the Premier admit there's no plan and that you know you'll fail miserably on reducing greenhouse gasses by 20 per cent by 2020?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly do have a climate change plan here in this province and we are seeing results from it. We're seeing a decrease . . . The intensity of greenhouse gasses has only risen by 12 per cent, but at the same time our GDP [gross domestic product] has risen by 24 per cent, a very substantial raise, contrasted sharply to what it was before under that NDP government — 70 per cent increase while the economy was stagnating and people were leaving this province.

We are building the world's first and largest commercial carbon capture plant in Boundary dam 3. We've talked about that before. We are focused on technological solutions that can have an effect, not only here in Saskatchewan, not only in Canada, but globally with 2,400 coal-fired plants being built over the next several years. And, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this type of technology can do a lot more to curb GHG [greenhouse gas] gases than can a carbon tax.

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

Changes to Canada Pension Plan

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's refusal to co-operate with others and to build consensus is causing problems and hurting Saskatchewan people beyond climate change and pipelines. Every time the federal government talks about expanding the Canadian pension plan, or Canada Pension Plan, this government digs in its heels. They opposed an expansion in 2013; they opposed it again last winter, and they're opposing it again today.

Mr. Speaker, we know that some can save on their own, but especially in these challenging economic times, more and more Saskatchewan families are counting on CPP [Canada Pension Plan] being there. And we all know, it just isn't enough. A stronger CPP is better for everyone.

So, Mr. Speaker, why? Why does the Premier refuse to work with other provinces and not even discuss ways to work together to help Saskatchewan workers retire with dignity? Why is this Premier so opposed to finding a way to get more money into the pockets of seniors?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had a concern for some time since these discussions were being held, when the previous federal government was in power, about the nature of the impact of a change to CPP on those who create and sustain jobs in our economy, because effectively this is an additional cost to payroll. So small businesses, entrepreneurs would have to be able to find additional dollars to maintain the jobs they have for the payroll that they have. But also it would be more expensive for people to create new jobs in our economy. And we think the timing of, effectively, a payroll tax right now, given where our economy is, even in Saskatchewan, is just not right. And it's in our interest then to make that case nationally when there's talk of a CPP change.

But, Mr. Speaker, again the preamble of the hon. member's question is not correct. There are other provinces that are

concerned as well. We're joined by Manitoba with concerns. We're joined by Quebec with concerns. I had a chance to speak to Atlantic Canadian premiers over the weekend, and they're concerned. They agree in principle with a lift, an enhancement in CPP. But they're worried about that the current proposal doesn't actually help low-income earners to save more, which should be entirely the point, I would expect, for those who support a CPP enhancement. They're also concerned, and some are, about the complexities that are inherent in the new proposal. We also know that some provinces have said, look this is a take-it-or-leave-it proposal, or we're going to walk away and build our own plan, Mr. Speaker.

And our view is that we need to take the time to get this right, understand the economic impact, and make sure that if there ever is an enhancement to CPP, that it's helping low-income people save. They're the group that needs the most support and help in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, would the Premier be willing to give that answer to seniors in my constituency who don't have any money left after their entire pension cheque has gone towards rent, Mr. Speaker? The Sask Party's approach also does nothing to help the young people in my riding who know they can't count on a workplace pension and can't afford to start their own.

Does the Sask Party understand that money collected through CPP just doesn't disappear? It gets invested in the economy, Mr. Speaker. This money doesn't go into some CPP black hole in Ottawa. It earns good interest rates and goes back into the pockets of seniors, and ultimately back into the economy that way too. Why can't the Premier see reason on this? Why is he sending his Finance minister to pick fights with other provinces that undermine the interest of Saskatchewan families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister is in Vancouver today working constructively, both with those who propose the enhancement as it exists . . . And I encourage the member to look at the proposal today because it would not help low-income . . . lots are worried that it would not help future low-income pensioners. Mr. Speaker, he's working with other provinces who have concerns.

And I want to be very clear in the House because the member did not represent the facts accurately with respect to this CPP proposal, and this is very important that we get it right. Seniors need to know this enhancement proposal would not affect seniors today at all. Nobody that's currently receiving pension benefits are affected by this at all. This is for future retirees. So let's be very clear. Let's not scare seniors and let's not scare any pension recipients today. It has nothing to do with existing recipients of CPP.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to fight for seniors. We dropped 114,000 low-income people off the tax rolls completely. Many of those were seniors. We increased the seniors' assistance program three times, by threefold, three

times increase in the seniors' assistance plan after it was ignored for 16 long years by the members opposite.

We've introduced a personal home care benefit, Mr. Speaker. The welfare of seniors in this province . . . In fact in the last election we have offered a proposal to help seniors with their property tax as well, if they choose.

Seniors remain a priority of the government but so too do the job creators in our economy, and so we need to separate both because the seniors aren't affected by this proposal. We need to have an assurance about the impact on the economy of this plan. And we'll be constructive in that process.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, for weeks I've stood in this House and reminded the Minister of Education that people responsible for educating our children have concerns with his government's budget. And time and time again he dismisses those concerns, dismisses them and often mocks them, Mr. Speaker. This despite the fact that school divisions are being forced to make deep cuts and that those cuts will affect our kids.

Well we have more evidence about how school boards feel about his budget. When asked about their opinion on the budget in a survey conducted by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, most school boards gave the Sask Party two out of five as a rating, "not good," Mr. Speaker, a fail.

School divisions and teachers are obviously concerned about the effects this budget will have in the classroom and on our kids. So instead of proudly walking away from his signature and commitments, why won't this minister start taking these concerns seriously?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of things in the preamble to that question that we'll probably have to deal with on another day, because the members opposite have a consistent program and a consistent plan of making things up, exaggerating, and taking things out of context. But, Mr. Speaker, I will say this. Last week the member for Regina Lakeview said, and I quote, "Education arguably shouldn't be one of the first places you look to cut." Global Saskatoon, June 17th.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with that member. That's why we have increased the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] operating grant in this year's budget, unlike what the NDP did in difficult financial times: 1992, reduction of the K to 12 operating grant, 2 per cent; 1993, a year later, reduction, 1.5 per cent; 1994, zero per cent; 1995, zero per cent.

Mr. Speaker, that's not the road we're going down. We're going to do the things that are right for the students in our province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, people in this province have concerns about the road that this ministry and this government are going down with regard to education. He can boast about his government's record all he wants, but the fact of the matter is, is this is a minister who promised school divisions that he would fully fund a 1.9 per cent increase in salary, and he walked away from that commitment. And now school divisions are on the hook. They're forced to put projects on hold, make cuts, and dig deep into their reserves to find the cash.

And, Mr. Speaker, my phone did not stop ringing all weekend with people willing and wanting to tell me about those problems. The SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] and school boards are very concerned about this. The survey noted, by the SSBA, that the minister's refusal to keep his promise negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement was a major concern.

Mr. Speaker, I ask again: how can school divisions trust that this minister won't walk away from other commitments now or in the future? Will the minister at least admit that he bargained in bad faith and apologize to our school divisions and teachers for breaking that commitment?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we've increased teachers' salaries by 1.9 per cent, 2015; 1.9 per cent in 2016. You know what the NDP did in some difficult times? 1992, this is what they said to the teachers: zero; 1993, zero for the teachers; 1995, zero for the teachers. That's the respect that they gave to the teachers in our province.

Mr. Speaker, they're a group of people that closed 176 schools. They neglected the schools they didn't close. We've invested four times what the NDP did into schools across the province. They drove over 35,000 students out of the province. Mr. Speaker, they underfunded school divisions to the point where there was actually tax revolts in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have increased funding by 33 per cent. We've increased capital spending \$265 million. Do you know what the NDP spent on capital their last year in government? \$1.36 million. Mr. Speaker, they should be ashamed.

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

Funding for International Development

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, last week we saw another example of some of the hidden cuts not mentioned in this government's budget document. The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation is a non-profit organization that works with a coalition of global development and anti-poverty agencies.

Mr. Speaker, for 42 years, through all sorts of economic up and downs, SCIC [Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation] received stable funding from the Government of Saskatchewan for the matching grants in aid program. Now the funding for the program was suddenly cut in this year's budget.

People from across Saskatchewan have taken advantage of the matching grants in aid program to double their money to support dozens of organizations to help people all over the world. Many international agencies counted on this fund for development projects like teacher training, maternal health, and food security. It helped to improve Saskatchewan's place in the world. It showed the planet the generosity and kindness of Saskatchewan people.

So, Mr. Speaker, why after 42 years of sustained funding by multiple governments has the Sask Party now decided to secretly cut SCIC's funding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Immigration, Jobs, Skills and Training.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and of course the issue was addressed directly in the budget document. And I would say, Mr. Speaker, as other ministers have said that we had to make some very difficult decisions with regard to our budget. We had to balance priorities where our precious tax dollars could be used most effectively.

We know right now, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan taxpayers contribute through their taxes to, as an example, the Canadian International Development Agency, which has a mandate at the national level to do development work around the world. We know that they contribute through their tax dollars to Global Affairs Canada, which also contributes to development work around the world.

You know, one of the examples cited, and I want to, you know, not minimize the value of the work that's being done by organizations around the world, but it was a water project in Sri Lanka, Mr. Speaker. You know, we, again balancing priorities, we're going to be funding water projects, but they're going to be in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that would be, I think that that would be the priority of your, of taxpayers in this province, that their tax dollars that are put towards provincial priorities would be used here in the province. Their tax dollars that would be put towards national priorities could be used in development work across the country, Mr. Speaker.

So we're going to continue to move forward in that fashion. We know that individuals who wish to contribute can continue to do so through church organizations and other third parties.

The government will continue to fund disaster assistance. We did that in Fort McMurray. We've done that in many other areas. But development assistance is best done through other parties.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Wood River and ask him why he's on his feet.

Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a class in the west gallery. It is the 43 students, grade 4 students, from the Assiniboia Seventh Avenue School from Assiniboia that are here. And I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. And I will be meeting them afterwards, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 77 through 90.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered questions 77 to 99.

An. Hon. Member: — 90.

The Speaker: — 90 — nine zero.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 37 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*. The first amendment centres on the cancellation of certain Auto Fund administrative products such as driver's licences, vehicle registrations, and permits. This change will allow SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] to cancel these if a customer has outstanding debt owing on their account and they are not working with SGI to establish a payment plan. SGI does help customers with payment, with plans to pay off that debt, Mr. Speaker; however sometimes there are still problems in collecting amounts owing.

The second amendment, Mr. Speaker, focuses on vehicle impoundment. Currently when an unregistered vehicle is impounded and then abandoned, it is difficult to determine who is responsible for paying the impoundment fees. This change will enable vehicle impoundment fees to be recovered from the person operating the vehicle at the time it was impounded. This way, Mr. Speaker, the person caught driving the vehicle will be penalized, rather than the last known owner of the vehicle.

The third key amendment, Mr. Speaker, deals with three-wheeled vehicles and the transport of children. This change applies to small children under seven years of age.

These children will be prohibited from being transported in a three-wheeled vehicle.

There is also a housekeeping amendment, Mr. Speaker, that's regarding rules for operation of motorcycles that apply to driver position and carrying passengers.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Deputy Premier that Bill No. 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly I just looked at the bill and certainly the comments made by the Deputy Premier in relation to *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act*. And from what I can gather, and I want to share a bit with the people that are listening, that all that this bill allows SGI to do is cancel the licence or registration renewal of someone who has large amounts of unpaid debt to SGI and that they have not created a plan to pay off that debt.

The bill also makes it clear that SGI may collect money from impoundment fees from the owner of an impounded vehicle, or the driver, if the owner cannot be determined. And, Mr. Speaker, there's a bit of confusion on that part obviously as to who is to be held liable for that. Is it the driver or the last known owner? And this would certainly correct some of the confusion.

And as well, Mr. Speaker, we all know the challenges around, the safety challenges attached to three-wheeled vehicles. And having small passengers and children under seven prohibited from being on three-wheeled vehicles may save a lot of problems in the future, Mr. Speaker.

And finally the bill also allows new rules for passengers on motorcycles, stating that they must wear a helmet and eye protection, have their own footrest, and cannot sit in front of the driver.

Mr. Speaker, these are all basic, straightforward amendments, and we obviously are going to take our time to read through them as quickly as we can. And if this is all in the interests of good safety and good driving, Mr. Speaker, then certainly we will have the opportunity to look at that and make further comments if necessary.

So on that note, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 37, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has adjourned debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

Speaker. To facilitate the work of committees later this day, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has adjourned the Assembly for today. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:36.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENTS

National Day of Mourning

Morgan	593
Forbes	593

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	593
Wotherspoon	594
Tell	594
Sarauer	595
Duncan	595
Forbes	595
Morgan	595
Hargrave	595
Bonk	595
The Speaker	596
Marit	603

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Chartier	596
Sproule	596
Forbes	596

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

National Day of Mourning

Forbes	597
--------------	-----

Opening of Kelvington and Area Hospital

Nerlien	597
---------------	-----

World Refugee Day

Sarauer	597
---------------	-----

Esterhazy Potash Mine Receives Safety Award

Kaeding	597
---------------	-----

Combatting Opiate Use

Wilson	598
--------------	-----

Saskatoon Diocese Partners With Indigenous Peoples

Olauson	598
---------------	-----

Carbon Capture and Storage Initiatives

Carr	598
------------	-----

QUESTION PERIOD

Provincial Economy and Climate Change

Wotherspoon	598
Wall	599
Sproule	600
Cox	601

Changes to Canada Pension Plan

Chartier	601
Wall	601

Funding for Education

Beck	602
Morgan	602

Funding for International Development

Sarauer	602
Harrison	603

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Merriman	603
----------------	-----

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 37 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016*

McMorris	603
Belanger	604

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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