



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

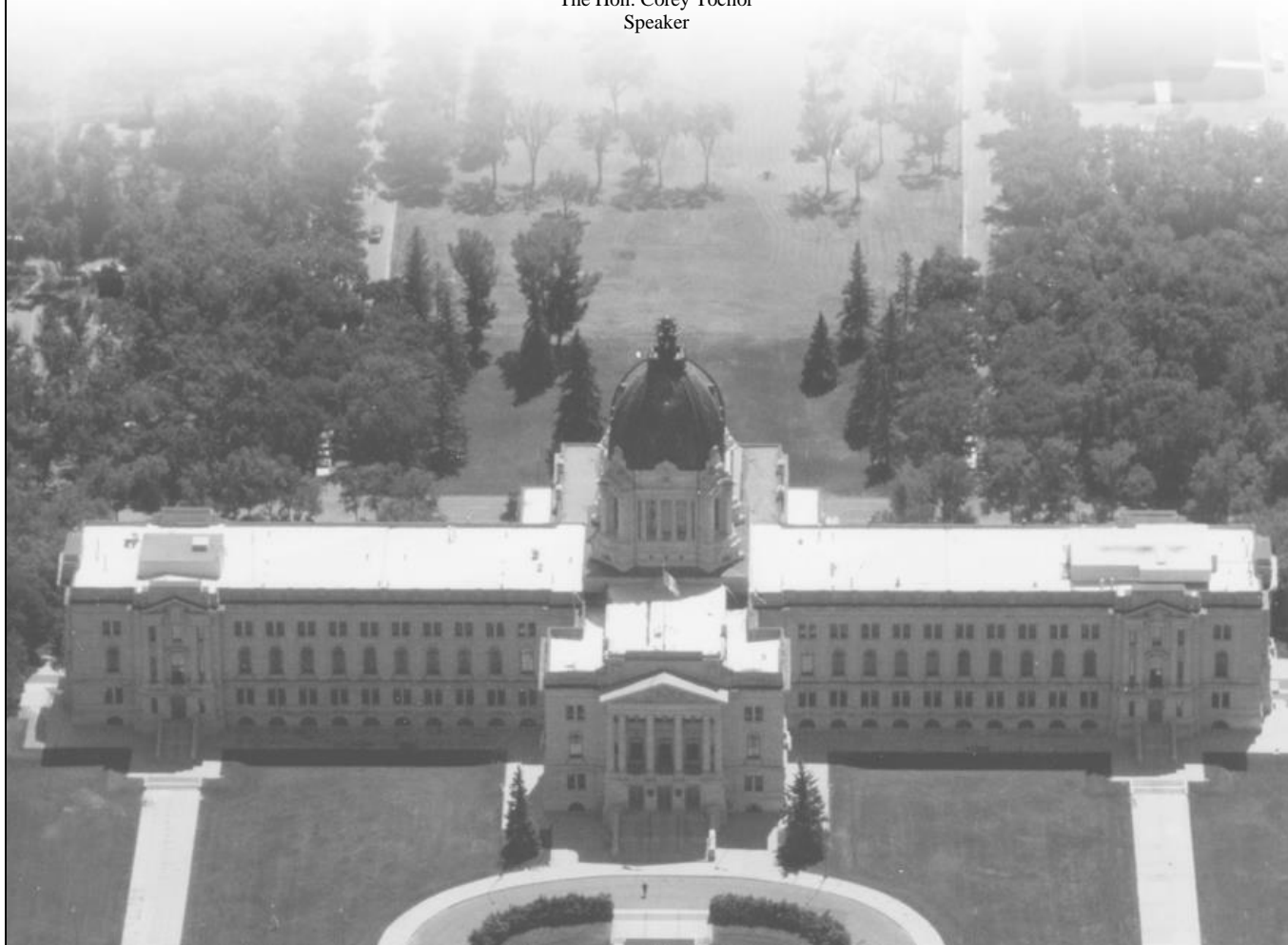
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Corey Tochor  
Speaker



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

**Speaker** — Hon. Corey Tochor

**Premier** — Hon. Brad Wall

**Leader of the Opposition** — Trent Wotherspoon

**Beaudry-Mellor**, Tina — Regina University (SP)

**Beck**, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

**Belanger**, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

**Bonk**, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

**Boyd**, Hon. Bill — Kindersley (SP)

**Bradshaw**, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

**Brkich**, Greg — Arm River (SP)

**Buckingham**, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

**Campeau**, Hon. Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

**Carr**, Lori — Estevan (SP)

**Chartier**, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

**Cheveldayoff**, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

**Cox**, Hon. Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

**D'Autremont**, Dan — Cannington (SP)

**Dennis**, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

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

**Doherty**, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

**Doke**, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

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

**Eyre**, Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

**Fiaz**, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

**Forbes**, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

**Hargrave**, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

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

**Harrison**, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

**Hart**, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

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

**Kaeding**, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

**Kirsch**, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

**Lambert**, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

**Lawrence**, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

**Makowsky**, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

**Marit**, David — Wood River (SP)

**McCall**, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

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

**Merriman**, Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

**Michelson**, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

**Morgan**, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

**Olauson**, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

**Ottenbreit**, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

**Parent**, Roger — Saskatoon Meewasin (SP)

**Phillips**, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

**Rancourt**, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

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

**Ross**, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

**Sarauer**, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

**Sproule**, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

**Steele**, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

**Steinley**, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

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

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

**Tochor**, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

**Vermette**, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

**Wall**, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

**Weekes**, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Maurice Riou

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to my colleagues for leave. Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly some very special guests who are seated in your gallery. Mr. Speaker, here today representing a remarkably diverse multi-faith coalition are a number of guests who have also been meeting I think with members on both sides of the House on the very important matter of the protection of conscience rights in respect of . . . The context of course is Bill C-14, the physician-assisted dying legislation for the country.

Mr. Speaker, I'll introduce members of the delegation that are here, and I'd ask them maybe if they could just stand briefly so that we could properly acknowledge them and welcome their to their Assembly. In no particular order, Mr. Speaker, because the first shall be last I guess, I'll introduce Bishop Bryan Bayda from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon; Bishop Don Bolen representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; Sandra Kary with the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan; Mary Deutscher, also representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; President Yves Noblet from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints here in Regina; Bishop Robert Hardwick and the Reverend Claude Schroeder from the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle; Major Mike Hoelt representing the Salvation Army; Dr. Brett Salkeld, a theologian with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina; and the Venerable Kay Adebogun, rector of the Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, this group is representing a much broader group, signatories to a joint statement calling on governments to provide for conscience rights protections with respect to Bill C-14. And they also are representing today a number of evangelical churches, church leaders from the province of Saskatchewan, including the Alliance Church, representing the Mennonite churches in our province; the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, the PAOC; three imams who couldn't be with us today, representing the Islamic faith; as well as two rabbis who are representing the Jewish faith here in the province of Saskatchewan. They were seeking from this House and from their governments at all levels for the protection of the rights of health care practitioners with respect to physician-assisted dying.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to members of the House, to our guests, and to those who might be tuning in that this government intends to do whatever it can to provide that protection. The Attorney General is going to work with the Minister of Health to canvass every single option so that that basic, fundamental protection for people who have faith in health care is provided here in the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming this delegation to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly my honour to join with the Premier here today to welcome these faith leaders to their Assembly. It's an impressive delegation that we met with here today, of many faiths representing many people across Saskatchewan, people who are devoted to so many across Saskatchewan and provide such leadership and service to many across the province.

We thank them for their direct submission and conversation about conscience rights and a very important discussion, and very important considerations for a government to take on to ensure we ensure accommodation of those protections at the same time as ensuring access to health services.

So we thank them so much for their presence here today, their voice with government, their voice with the opposition, and their voice as well in their advocacy around hospice, palliative care within Saskatchewan, something that they identify that needs to be much more accessible to Saskatchewan people. This is something that's of holistic supports to the people of our province. It's about dignity and about security, and their voice on this matter is so important.

It's my pleasure to welcome these faith leaders to their Assembly. We look forward to continuing to work with them, and we thank them for their service and leadership in our province each and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I have the honour of introducing a number of important guests joining us today in your gallery. From the Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre, Inc., better known as Egadz, we have Terry Scaddan, the board Chair, and we have Don Meikle, the executive director. Egadz started as a drop-in centre for young people 26 years ago but it's grown into a groundbreaking organization that provides a range of services and supports for Saskatoon area children, youth, and families.

So our work with Egadz also includes Sweet Dreams, Mr. Speaker, which is a very important partnership and the first example of a social impact bond in Canada. So I'm honoured to introduce today a number of vital partners in the Sweet Dreams project. We have Wally Mah, who with his wife are the social benefactors of this project. We have Eric Dillon, CEO [chief executive officer], and Annette Revet, the executive vice president, both with Conexus, and we have Chantal, most

important of all, a mom who has seen considerable success for herself and her family through Sweet Dreams.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in Sweet Dreams and the executive and board of Egadz for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming these guests, and I've known many of them for a long, long time — Wally and Don and Terry. And we're very interested in the work that social impact bonds are doing.

Egadz is a big part of my riding, and provides a very invaluable service to the youth in downtown Saskatoon and all parts of Saskatoon. So I just want to thank you very much for your good, good work. And so I'd ask all members to join me and all of us in welcoming them to their legislature. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to join with the minister and the member opposite in welcoming Egadz. I've known Don Meikle for far too long, and . . . [inaudible] . . . Terry Scaddan and Chantal. The amazing work that Egadz has done over the decades not only for youth but just their outcomes are absolutely amazing. And the social impact bond in relation to Sweet Dreams is a game changer. And I'd like all members to join me in welcoming Egadz to their Assembly and just saying thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, well in fact in welcoming everybody here today, the faith leaders here today, the community group leaders who are here today. But I would like to give a special thank you to Bishop Don Bolen. I had an opportunity this weekend to be a survivor. We spent about a day and a half on the streets of Saskatoon together, learning a little, getting a small taste of what homelessness actually feels like — just a very small taste, Mr. Speaker. But I think despite the fact that I think we both had some understanding of the issues, I know that that broadened all of our perspectives and made us stronger advocates for those who live in poverty and homelessness, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd just like to say welcome, Bishop Bolen, and thank you for all that you do. I would ask all members to join me.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I'm pleased . . . I have a couple of introductions, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, a very special introduction in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I have two outstanding students who are accompanied by their parents today. These bright young students were two of the three winners of Saskatchewan's first ever First Nations spelling bee. You're going to hear more about that spelling bee in a few minutes in a member's statement from the Minister of the Environment, but first, I'd like to just briefly introduce these bright young students.

This spelling bee was sponsored by a number of public and private organizations including the Government of Saskatchewan, SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.], SaskTel, and SaskEnergy.

The students who have joined us here today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are 8-year-old William Kaysaywaysemat III from the Kakewistahaw First Nation. If you'd stand up please, William, and give us a wave. He's accompanied today by his father, William Sr. Also with us is, from the Saulteaux First Nation, 12-year-old Alexander Johanson who won the spelling bee in the intermediate age category. And he's joined by his mother, Joanne Moccasin. Please stand and give us a wave. Thank you.

I'd also like to welcome to the Assembly, Pauline Favel. She was the event organizer, and she's a student support worker at Chief Poundmaker School. And Pauline did just an outstanding job organizing this event. Thank you so much, Pauline.

I'd also like to mention the third student winner who was unable to be with us today, Makayla Cannepotato of the Onion Lake First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to please give these wonderful students, their parents, and Pauline a warm welcome to their Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would also like to introduce to you, also in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a constituent and a good friend of mine from Beechy, Dean Stockman. Dean, if you'd give us a wave. Dean is a very busy guy. He's a farmer in the Beechy area. He's a hockey dad, and he's also a pilot. And by all accounts, Mr. Speaker, I'm far less terrified to fly with Dean than I am with the member from Carrot River Valley. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad in his busy life he made time to be with us here today. I had an opportunity to meet with him this morning and have lunch with him, and I hope he enjoys the proceedings today. And I would ask members on both of the sides of the House to please give him a warm welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join with my colleague in recognizing the spelling bee champions. There's no question in my mind that the parents and the teachers celebrate their achievement, and I wanted to point out that I too am very proud of their accomplishments.

And while I have the opportunity, I wanted to say hello to Pauline Favel who is a friend from long ago. We used to play in an Aboriginal volleyball circuit together, and of course my recollection of how good the Ile-a-la-Crosse team may be different from hers.

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

So this is my Cree language, and I'm just saying I'm so glad that you're here today, that we're celebrating your achievement, and that as Aboriginal people we take our rightful place, not only as spelling bee champions, but as legislators in this great democracy called Saskatchewan. And I welcome all of you here today, and God bless you for your work. Thank you very much.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and all members, seated in your gallery, Russell Kalmacoff. Russell's a very successful entrepreneur. He was born in the Kamsack-Buchanan area of our province. Back in the 1950s, Russell and his family, they moved to Calgary. They started an oil recycling and reclamation company and, Mr. Speaker, like so many families, when they left Saskatchewan, Russell's heart stayed here in our province.

Today he runs Rockmount capital corporation. He's involved in establishing capital markets in Saskatchewan and across the prairies. His resumé is much too long for me to go through here in the legislature, but he is on the board of Athabasca University who serves many Saskatchewan students. He's involved with the Frontier Centre and the Canadian Venture Capital Corporation. And when he's not working, he loves to spend time at Madge Lake, I'm told. So I'd ask all members to help me to welcome Russ Kalmacoff to the Saskatchewan legislature today.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to introduce guests, and again to you and through you, I'd like to take this opportunity, from my home community of Air Ronge is a group, a grade 6 class from Gordon Denny Community School. Give us a hand up there, you guys. Right on. Right on.

I'd just like to acknowledge the teacher, Marlina Ballantyne, Ashley Kennedy and Mrs. Cossette for being here from Gordon Denny to bring those students. We had an opportunity, the House is sitting, and they're bringing a group. So it is an opportunity to welcome northern guests here, especially so many of them are Aboriginal. And I want to say to them on National Aboriginal Day it is an honour to have you here and host you in your Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

There's 35 students that came with them. Grade 6, will be moving on next year. But they also, with them they brought four chaperones, Deb, Sean, Wendy, and Duane. I just want to say thank you for being chaperones, great chaperones. I got a chance to meet with them and visit, have a little bit of a laugh, you know, a little talk about what they can expect to see here today. And we're all, on both sides, we're going to try to be on our best behaviour, I said jokingly to them anyway.

But I just want to seriously take a moment and recognize them. We in this Legislative Assembly have family who come here sometimes. We get an opportunity to welcome them. And this is

the first time since I've been an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] that I've got to welcome a family member, one of my grandsons, Austin Vermette. He's in grade 6, moving on. I just want to say it's an honour to have you here, my boy, and I wish you well as you move on from Gordon Denny to the next school in your journey.

So to all the students, it is an honour to have you in your Legislative Assembly. This is your building, and we're here serving you. So with that I would say please, all my colleagues, welcome them here to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite when recognizing the people that have come from La Ronge. In that group are Sean and Morgan Hallett, and they are close family friends of Mayor Thomas Sierzycki. I met with them earlier and had a chance to meet with them and discuss briefly politics and political things.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would like to use the opportunity to withdraw and apologize for a statement I made yesterday. I made an accusation regarding the opposition making things up, and for that I unconditionally withdraw and apologize.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, and to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce one of my campaign office volunteers, Andrew Marklund. And yes, Mr. Speaker, he is graduating this year from Campbell Collegiate and planning to go to the University of Regina in the near future. His major will be computer science. Mr. Speaker, having political interests in this age is just outstanding. I ask all the members of the Assembly please join me welcome him in his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to join with one brief welcome to those in the east gallery here today, those from Gordon Denny School, and particularly the grandson of the member from Cumberland. And Austin, you need to know that your papa is so proud of you, and it's nice to have you here today.

I'd also like to welcome a very special guest in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, young Tyan Cherepuschak, the current vice-president of Pilot Butte School and the president-elect for next year at Pilot Butte School. He's visited us in the Assembly in the past. He's shadowing me here today. He's keenly interested and aware of political affairs. He's an incredible baseball player, an incredible hockey player, a great golfer, all around good guy, and it's a real pleasure to have this brilliant young man in his Assembly here today. I ask all members to welcome Tyan Cherepuschak to his Assembly once again.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour

to introduce to you and through you, Ryley Regier, if you can us a wave. Ryley's joined today, here today, with her parents, Chris and Cindy Regier. Ryley's very active in sports. She's involved in competitive swimming, basketball, gymnastics, theatre, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, she's got a keen interest in politics.

I know that many schools across the province conducted really great civics classes during this last campaign, and it piqued her interest. She wanted to come down and meet with her MLA today and sit through question period, and we had a great visit before question period started. She had a chance to meet the Premier and get some pictures taken. So I'd like all members to welcome her to her Assembly, and maybe one day in the not-so-distant future, she'll be sitting over on this side of the House.

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce in the west gallery 18 grade 5 students from the Cornerstone Christian School. It was great visiting with them this morning. They had lots of really interesting questions. They're accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Troy Breikreuz; their teacher's aid, Ms. Sheri Sommerfeld; parent chaperones, Tammy Geradts and Lisa Christensen; and their bus driver, Carman Zinn. So I'd just like all to welcome them to their Legislative Building.

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

**Mr. Steele:** — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Jason and Loretta Gemaro in your gallery here. Jason and Loretta come from Toronto, Ontario not too many years ago, and what brought Jason here to Western Canada was training with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. Then he had to convince, he decided he would like to be posted in Saskatchewan, and he had to convince his wife that Saskatchewan was the place to be. So we would like to welcome him to our gallery. And he's posted in Swift Current, Saskatchewan at the present time. So welcome to our legislature. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I wish to introduce, in your gallery, Mr. Mark Brayford, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel], one of the more pre-eminent lawyers, defence lawyers in the province and in the country. Mr. Brayford has been president of the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Bar Association, president of the

Saskatoon Criminal Defence Lawyers Association, and is presently vice-president of the Canadian Council of Criminal Defence Lawyers. Over 100 of his cases have been reported in the law journals.

He's also a university lecturer, and it's in that capacity that I first met Mr. Brayford as my coach for the national Gale Cup Moot competition back in 1995. And we won that. I believe the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] team has not yet sealed the deal since. I also worked for Mr. Brayford as a summer student and learned a great deal about working defence and constitutional law principles, which were very formative. He's a friend, and I'm pleased to introduce him today in your gallery and in his Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, and through you, I'd like to join with the member in welcoming Mr. Mark Brayford to his Legislative Assembly. I know you've mentored a lot of young lawyers in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan at the university, at the U of S College of Law.

I unfortunately wasn't smart enough of a law student to be one of your moot students, but I've heard that you've done great things. You represent so many people in the province, many people who struggle and who are hard done by. And you do very, very good work and you're very extremely well respected, as the member had said. I'm very happy to see you here. And please, I'd ask that everyone join me in welcoming him again to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 14 extraordinary students from the Langenburg High School. They're here with their teacher, Laura Sveinbjornson who is actually a neighbour of mine in Churchbridge, librarian Julie Mussell, and parent helper Jo-Anne Roulston. I understand they have prepared a lot of thought-provoking questions. And believe it or not, they are actually looking very forward to going back to school because on September 2nd they get to open a brand new school in Langenburg. So I ask all members in joining me in welcoming the Langenburg grade 5 students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, three distinctive gentlemen up in your gallery, three members of the Saskatchewan EMS Association who I've come to know as good friends. The first in fact is from the Yorkton area, is Kyle Sereda from Moose Jaw and District EMS [emergency medical services]. He's the president. Vice-president Steven Skoworodko, affectionately known as Wakaw Steve; and also secretary Trevor Dutchak from Parkland Ambulance Care in Prince Albert.

I'd ask all members to welcome these distinctive members to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health in welcoming these gentlemen who work in EMS, the EMS Association in Saskatchewan. I had an opportunity to meet Kyle about a month or so ago, Mr. Speaker. But thank you for all the work that you do in ensuring that people in Saskatchewan have access to incredibly important health care, those emergency medical services. So thank you. And I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these gentlemen to their Assembly as well.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you and through you, 18 grade 4 students seated in the east gallery from the Herbert School in Herbert, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, accompanied by their teacher, Sheryl Siemens, and chaperones Donavon and Tracy Epp. I hope that this group of bright young people will enjoy your visit to your Legislative Assembly and take home some additional knowledge about how we do business in government in this province. And I hope all members will welcome this group to their legislative building.

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

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could, I just want to also acknowledge Kyle Sereda who is one of my constituents. He does a great job in Moose Jaw. And also the only person that probably hasn't been introduced in the House today is somebody I worked with 40 years ago, Frank Flegel, who is in the press gallery. And I'd like to welcome him and ask everybody to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to also rise and bring greetings to Frank Flegel, seated in the gallery behind you. Frank is the Chair of the Regina Catholic School Board; I understand, a pilot and a gardener and outdoors person with a long list and a long history of community involvement. So I'd like to have all members join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Now that everyone has been introduced, I think we'll still have time for question period today.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm 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

post-traumatic stress disorder can severely impact the lives of Saskatchewan workers, and that a delay in diagnosis and treatment for PTSD can be detrimental to recovery. The petitioners are basically just asking for presumptive coverage under workers' compensation. If you're exposed to a traumatic event and have a diagnosis of PTSD, the traumatic event should be presumed to be the cause of that PTSD, 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 today by citizens from Saskatoon, Dundurn, Warman, and Martensville. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition as it relates to the rental purchase option for responsible homeowners in northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly cause the Saskatchewan Party government to restore the RPO rent-to-own option for responsible renters in northern Saskatchewan including La Ronge, Air Ronge, Creighton, and Denare Beach and all other communities in northern Saskatchewan, in allowing them the dignity of owning their own home and building communities in our province's beautiful North.

The people that have signed the petition are all from throughout Saskatchewan, and on this particular page, Mr. Speaker, they have signed, they are primarily from Air Ronge. And I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, 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 flood 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 do many of the benefits they provide. Sound wetland policy will allow Saskatchewan to provide sustainable development for all sectors of business in the province. And the prayer reads:

[14:00]

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 drainage 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 first focus on avoiding the environmental harm whenever 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed from individuals from Wadena and Lebret. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of funding for 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. It's becoming increasingly important to work towards improving access to indigenous languages, many of which are endangered. Heritage language programs provide support not only for immigrants, refugees, and their descendants but also for Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians who recognize the benefits of learning additional languages.

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 the petition today come from Saskatoon, Regina, and Yorkton. I do so present. Thank you.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meewasin.

#### National Aboriginal Day

**Mr. Parent:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the 20th National Aboriginal Day. This marks the first day of a month-long celebration of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit culture. Communities across Canada and Saskatchewan will gather to take part in local celebrations to honour the many contributions Aboriginal peoples have made.

Proclaimed in 1996 by the then governor general of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, National Aboriginal Day has served as one of many opportunities to celebrate and acknowledge such an important part of our country's heritage. Since the very first celebration, thousands of people across Canada have gathered to celebrate and recognize indigenous cultures and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, our government values our relationships with our Aboriginal peoples. We are proud to support the recognition and importance of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis customs including mandating treaty education in schools in all subject areas and across all grade levels. I encourage everyone across this great province to take part in local Aboriginal Day celebrations and events in or near their community.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing National Aboriginal Day and the month of festivities that follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today is National Aboriginal Day, and it's time for all people to think about the contributions and the histories of Aboriginal peoples throughout Canada.

First Nations and Métis people recognize and condemn the Holodomor, the Komagata Maru, and the Holocaust. We stand alongside those victims because we too have had atrocities carried out against us. Over the years Aboriginal people have been subject to a history of broken promises and of neglect. Forced starvation, residential schools, the Sixties Scoop, the pass and permit system — the list goes on and on.

It's important to remember that troubled past so that we can understand the problems and difficulties that Aboriginal people face today. But that history is why National Aboriginal Day is so important. It's an opportunity for First Nations and Métis people to lift themselves up, to celebrate their language, cultures, and to work towards building a country where we truly have reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people. It's an opportunity for governments to demonstrate their willingness to acknowledge the past and make progress for the future.

This week marks one full year since the government said it would apologize for the Sixties Scoop, and indigenous people are still waiting. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in calling for action on this issue, and then recognizing the need for reconciliation as we all celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rochdale.



### New Rental Housing Project Opens in Regina

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very, Mr. Speaker. On June the 18th, I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of a new rental housing project in Regina. A total of 12 safe, quality housing units were added to our community, providing another housing option for low- to moderate-income renters. These homes were made possible thanks to the partnership of our government and the Government of Canada, under the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, together with our federal counterparts, we contributed a total of 240,000 towards six of these homes, which is subsidized for low- to moderate-income families. With vision and leadership provided by 237 Property Developments, these homes are now a reality for 12 individuals or families. Because these affordable units are part of the capital rent subsidy program, market rents are reduced by \$300 a month over 10 years for the low- to moderate-income renters. Mr. Speaker, this project is a win-win for everyone involved and supports the goals of the poverty reduction strategy by ensuring Saskatchewan people have access to affordable, safe, secure, and stable housing. I ask all members to join me in commending 237 Property Development, the federal government for their leadership in finding solution to help make life better for Regina individuals and families. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Honouring the Treaties

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, National Aboriginal Day is a time for all of us to think about the need to honour the treaties and make sure that all levels of government are living up to their obligations to respect treaty and inherent rights. Here today on Treaty 4 territory, we are solemnly reminded of this. First Nations signed treaties to share the land in good faith with newcomers to Saskatchewan. And Métis and non-status communities also have constitutionally protected hunting, fishing, and land use rights.

But as we all know, federal and provincial governments have often run roughshod over the rights of Saskatchewan's indigenous peoples since European contact with the original inhabitants of this land. One example of that today is the Barren Lands First Nation on the north shore of Reindeer Lake who have had over a thousand acres of their reserve lost to flooding caused by SaskPower's Whitesand dam. Here and in so many other places we see governments not living up to their treaty obligations and undermining the reconciliation process.

In the landmark Haida Nation case from 2004, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that:

The honour of the Crown is always at stake in its dealings with Aboriginal peoples. It is not a mere incantation, but rather a core precept that finds its application in concrete practices. [and]

In all its dealings with Aboriginal peoples, from the assertion of sovereignty to the resolution of claims and the

implementation of treaties, the Crown must act honourably.

Mr. Speaker, the honour of the Crown is always at stake. We are duty bound to remember that. May we always act honourably.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

### Sweet Dreams Experiences Early Success

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to share early results from Sweet Dreams, a five-year pilot project in Saskatoon. Two years ago our government announced that we were going to be the first in Canada to use a social impact bond. We partnered with Egadz, Conexus, Wally and Colleen Mah to make Sweet Dreams a reality. Sweet Dreams provides vulnerable mothers and their children a safe place to live while receiving parenting support, access to educational opportunities, and the chance to develop employability skills. The goal of the project is simple: to keep families whole.

Sweet Dreams is designed to keep children with their mothers for more than six months after participating in the program. What's more heartening is that the six-month milestone means a significant reduction in the likelihood that the child will ever come into the government's care. Sweet Dreams is poised to reach this five-year goal just two years into the project, with 21 children and their mothers have achieved this goal to date. This success, at such an early stage, is exciting, and we are going to continue to lead Canada in improving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing Egadz, Conexus, Colleen and Wally Mah and their hard work, and extending our wishes for a bright future to all participating families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Signing of Social Infrastructure Fund Agreement

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to inform members about the signing of a new agreement under the 2014-19 Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement, which will give Saskatchewan people more access to affordable housing. Under the 2014-19 Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement, a total of \$91.9 million is being made available over five years to address a range of housing needs in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the new 2016 social infrastructure fund agreement goes a step further. I am pleased that this new agreement will see an additional investment of up to \$54.8 million for affordable housing over two years. This money will be targeted at improving affordable housing options for seniors, maintaining the existing social housing stock, and constructing and renovating shelters for victims of family violence. The funding will allow us to choose what programs to design and deliver, and to have the flexibility required to invest in programs that will meet local needs.

Mr. Speaker, this is great news for Saskatchewan. The goal of this government is to work together to keep Saskatchewan strong. These agreements will help us achieve that, as well as responding to housing needs identified in Saskatchewan's poverty reduction strategy, the disability strategy, and the mental health and addictions action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee Winners**

**Hon. Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to recognize two students who participated in Saskatchewan's first-ever First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee. I was pleased to bring greetings at this event, sponsored by the Government of Saskatchewan, which was hosted by Chief Poundmaker School on April 8th in North Battleford. And it drew over 100 students from 20 different First Nations schools across this province. And a great morning it was, Mr. Speaker, with the Don Ross auditorium full to capacity that morning.

Mr. Speaker, students competed in one of three different age categories, and the winners advanced to compete in the national spelling bee in Toronto on May 15th. While in Toronto they also had an exciting opportunity to take in a Blue Jays ball game.

Joining us today are two of the three winners: William Kaysaywaysemat III and Alexander Johanson. When William isn't studying for school, where he is an A student, he is playing hockey with the Grenfell Spitfires and performing traditional powwow dance representing the Treaty 4 area. And when Alexander isn't at school or spending time with his parents and three sisters, I understand that he loves to play games, including soccer.

Not only should we commend these students for their efforts but also the organizer, Pauline Favel, for promoting a love of learning and a bit of healthy competition as well. Thank you, Pauline. I ask all members to join me in congratulating all those that took part in the spelling bee and the winners here today for their hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Canada Pension Plan Changes and Federal Funding for First Nations Education**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to start by giving credit where credit is due. Yesterday we called on the government to put the best interests of Saskatchewan people ahead of political differences and to work together with other provinces and the federal government to come to an agreement to strengthen and improve the Canada Pension Plan for generations to come, something we've called for for years. As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, we were happy to see that coming out of the meeting yesterday, Saskatchewan was one of the provinces that did just that.

In that spirit and on this National Aboriginal Day, I also want to

thank the Premier for his co-operation on calling on the federal government to immediately close the funding gap for education on First Nations, a glaring injustice that must be fixed. While we continue to hope for more immediate action from the Sask Party, the Premier's willingness to work with us on this file last time I asked is something we want to recognize and something I thank him for. Does the Premier have any update following our joint letter to the Prime Minister about the federal government's obligation to properly fund First Nations education?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question and for his generous comments with respect to progress made yesterday at the meeting of the ministers of Finance of Canada on the CPP [Canada Pension Plan] enhancement.

I also, if I may, Mr. Speaker, want to give credit to the Finance minister for Saskatchewan. We were working to play a constructive role. The original proposal we didn't think was acceptable. Way back when when others were calling on us to simply adopt that original proposal, it would have had an increased payroll cost by 2017 and, condensed over a shorter period of time, would have been more onerous on those who are trying to create and maintain jobs in the province. And we think a compromise, I think in many respects we helped facilitate through the minister, is a much-preferred option to the deal that might have happened anyway, given the fact that the numbers seemed to be there for the federal government yesterday. So I thank the minister.

And with respect to the question, I want to again thank the Leader of the Opposition, who on the same day that he asked the question with respect to the gap in funding on-reserve education versus off-reserve, he was willing to immediately sign a letter that we both sent off to the Prime Minister. The federal Liberal government party has made a commitment to eliminate the gap, and we need to be vigilant and ensuring that the gap is indeed eliminated.

[14:15]

To his direct question, I have not yet heard back from the Prime Minister. We've not received correspondence or had a telephone conversation about it. We wanted to give it a little bit of time, but I think it will be important for us to just make direct contact. And we again invite, and are grateful for, the co-operation of the Leader of the Opposition and members opposite.

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

#### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations and Funding for Education**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thanks once again to the Premier. Certainly this needs to be a top priority, and it's a glaring injustice that must be fixed.

Mr. Speaker, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report came out nearly a year ago and was a huge step forward, but there's still so much more work to do. In fact now that the

report is done, it's on us to undertake even greater work to make sure that we move forward with addressing its 94 recommendations. Not all are our provincial jurisdiction, but we must do all we can to make sure that each are addressed so that we can move forward and build together. The key areas, of course, are education, child welfare, language and culture, health, and justice. We've heard the minister say that there's a multi-ministry committee in place to work on addressing these recommendations. That's important.

So, Mr. Speaker, can the Premier provide some specifics on what has been accomplished to date and provide some detail and timelines on what the plan is, so that we as a province can continue the crucial path towards reconciliation to ensure that we're a stronger Saskatchewan for everyone?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. I think there's about 34 of the recommendations would be under the purview of the provincial government, and my understanding is we've been making progress on about 23, 22 of those recommendations. And perhaps we'll ask the minister responsible to provide a specific update to members of the House on that.

Mr. Speaker, there is certainly, I think, also been progress made with respect to the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations in Saskatchewan. While we readily admit there's more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, we do see a closing in the gap in terms of graduation rates between First Nations or Aboriginal students in our province and non-Aboriginal students. We've not yet hit the goal — we set out in the growth plan to reduce that gap by half by 2020 — but we are getting closer to it all the time. There's been a 29 per cent increase in First Nations and Métis learners enrolled in post-secondary since 2007. That's 16,000 learners now enrolled and a 93 per cent increase from the government in terms of funding for First Nations and Métis post-secondary education. There's a number of other initiatives across government.

There's more to be done certainly, and perhaps most important of all is a greater engagement on the part of First Nations and Métis in the economy of the province of Saskatchewan, in direct benefit in employment, and perhaps even, Mr. Speaker, I would say in terms of operating and owning small businesses and creating jobs for others as well. And so we know there is more work to be done, but I think the minister can provide a more specific update with respect to the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Premier have noted, education plays a key role in the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission], and I appreciate the Premier's words. But I want to make sure that the Minister of Education understands that the intent of closing the gap is to raise funding for all students. The answer is not to cut funding and to walk away from commitments to off-reserve schools. If done properly, a new report shows that closing the First Nations education funding gap would provide massive

economic benefit to all Saskatchewan people. According to the study, closing the gap would bring an additional \$90 billion into our economy over the lifespan of the current population — \$90 billion, Mr. Speaker.

While we await a full follow-through by the federal government on their commitment to adequately fund on-reserve schools, will the Minister of Education commit today to working with us to ensure that all students in Saskatchewan on- and off-reserve can go to schools and classrooms that are adequately funded? Will he commit to working to end this disparity in the right way once and for all?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, our First Nations partners in this province have children that should be fully expected and entitled to participate in the growth and prosperity of our province, not just through education but through employment and through every other aspect of being a Saskatchewan resident. Our government has made a major commitment to ensuring that that happens.

We have set targets for the first time in the history of the province to close the gap between First Nations and non-First Nations students. We've increased the graduation rate from 32 per cent to over 40 per cent. Still a long ways to go, but our target is to exceed 50 per cent by the year 2020. We have work that is still left to do, but the progress is being made through the education sector's strategic plan and we're going to continue to follow through with that.

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

### First Nations Children in Care

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, child welfare is another crucial issue in the TRC, and once again we have another example of the Social Services minister getting her facts wrong. And, Mr. Speaker, once again it all goes back to a media scrum in April. At that time the minister told the media the number of First Nation kids in care was going down, saying, "It has come down, but it's still an overrepresentation."

Yes, indigenous children are overrepresented. But no, that number has not come down. In fact the number of First Nations children in care has gone up in each of the last three years. Mr. Speaker, the growing number of First Nations children in care is unacceptable. This is an important file involving Saskatchewan's children. Will the minister commit to knowing the facts in her file, and does she have a plan to actually move more indigenous children out of care?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And 67 per cent of children in care are First Nations children and that is an overrepresentation and a concern for everyone in our province. It's not unique to this province. That is a challenge that is faced by provinces across this entire country.

What we've done is we have expanded services, that is more

support services for in-home before the families come into crisis. And we're seeing some success from those initiatives and will be expanding them in this very budget, Mr. Speaker.

What we don't want to see happen again is what happened in the past, where under the NDP [New Democratic Party] the caseloads in child welfare was growing by 53 per cent between 2000 and 2007. Mr. Speaker, that was not sustainable and quite concerning. So we don't want to return to that, and I think we'll continue down the path of supports for families such as the healthy families initiative that was announced, I believe, last week where we can intervene with families, give them supports before the family goes into crisis and we have to bring children into care.

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

### Indigenous Languages and Funding for Heritage Language Schools

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, many of the recommendations from the TRC report revolve around indigenous languages, and rightly so. The languages carry the stories and cultures of Saskatchewan's indigenous peoples. Michif, nēhiyawēwin, Dene — we need all of these languages to be strong if we want our province to be strong. The heritage language schools used to receive funding to teach indigenous languages, but this government cut their grant in the last budget.

These programs are important. They are crucial. And we are working to help revitalize indigenous languages here in Saskatchewan. If this government is serious about its commitment to reconciliation, why did it cut the funding for heritage language schools, and will they now commit to restoring that funding?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I also want to thank the heritage language teachers and the schools for the work that they do in making education in our province a culturally rich and diverse experience.

Mr. Speaker, we made the decision to discontinue funding for heritage language for a number of reasons. One of those reasons was that the programs that they were offering were almost invariably offered in our schools as part of our regular 20, 30 high school curriculum. Those programs continue to exist.

Many of those programs involve First Nations languages, both in the larger southern cities as well as in the northern communities. We continue to support and will fund those. Those programs are there, and not only are they in the schools as being part of the regular curriculum, those are part of the programs that are available so that a student will be able to get a full grade 12 and use that for entry into a post-secondary institution.

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

### Cost of Ambulance Services for First Nations Seniors

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, seniors in this province who are over the age of 65 have access to the senior citizens' ambulance assistance program. This provides assistance to seniors faced with the outrageous interfacility transfer bills. They still pay up to \$275 each. All seniors who live in the province are eligible for this program. Well, Mr. Speaker, all seniors get this program except for status First Nations people. The discrimination is clear. The only reason their ambulance bills are higher is because they have status.

Yes, there are some federal programs, but when provincial residents don't get the services that everyone else does simply because they are First Nations, that is unfair. We have heard from the Minister for First Nations and Métis Affairs that "some things are just too important to get hung up on jurisdiction."

Mr. Speaker, does the Health minister not think a medical emergency is important enough? To the Minister of Health: when will this blatant inequity be fixed? When will this issue become important enough? And when will our province stop saying that non-First Nations seniors deserve a better deal?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member will know from committee last night, this is a topic of conversation that does come up from time to time as a part of our MOU [memorandum of understanding] through the tripartite, Mr. Speaker. In fact it came up at the most recent meeting of the quarterly MOU meeting which was held on May 11th where it was raised in terms of the discrepancy.

The deputy minister of Health has had numerous conversations with federal officials looking at whether or not we can actually take an inventory of the discrepancies with the different programs between what is provided in Saskatchewan through Saskatchewan Health and the federal Health Canada non-insured benefits program, Mr. Speaker.

I would say this though, that the position that the government has taken in this regard is the same position taken in 2003, in 2004, in 2005, in 2006, and 2007 by the members opposite when they were the government: that this is a responsibility that the federal government needs to make changes to the return transfer policy and reinstate that benefit. We will continue to advocate for that position, just as the members opposite did for five years.

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

### Indigenous People in Custody and Aboriginal Court Worker Program

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that indigenous peoples make up a disproportionate percentage of our province's prison population. In our correctional facilities, 74 per cent of those in custody are identified as Aboriginal. I think we can all agree, Mr. Speaker, that that is an overrepresentation.

The government should be working to lower that number, Mr. Speaker, but they have no plan. In fact they are making cuts in areas that help reduce that number and reduce the rates of recidivism. Areas like the Aboriginal court worker program and community-specific centres like the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre. Mr. Speaker, making cuts in these areas does not reduce disparities, it increases them. Will the minister admit these cuts were a mistake, and what is her plan to lower the rates of indigenous people in custody?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I'll speak to the Aboriginal court worker program. Certainly there were reductions in the budget this year, Mr. Speaker. We still provide \$1.3 million to help support the Aboriginal court worker program. We are confident, Mr. Speaker, that level of funding is going to be sufficient to ensure a responsible level of service, to ensure that that court worker program continues, Mr. Speaker. We're working with our partners, particularly people within the Ministry of Justice, to look for innovative ways of delivering that service, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you, I'm confident that a responsible and responsive program will continue to be delivered on the Aboriginal court worker program by the province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

#### **Suicide Prevention and Funding for Mental Health Services**

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, the history that everyone in this House knows is not ancient. It is fresh and real in many homes in our communities. It was lived by family members who are still with us, and the effects touch many, including our young people. Lack of funding in our schools means literacy and numeracy rates are low. There are too few jobs, and too many young people feel trapped. Many of their parents do not have the resources to provide them with the help and services they need.

Struggles with mental health are growing, and poverty and addictions are eating away at our community's pride and hope. Suicide has become all too common. Mr. Speaker, the leaders, families, and members of our communities have gone to too many funerals. It's just not right. What is your government's plan to do more to support mental health care and to bring an end to this crisis?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

[14:30]

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, funding for mental health services in the past eight years has grown by about 35 per cent. We've also put in place a number of different protocols as it relates to reducing the rates of suicide in communities in this province. But we know that there is more work to be done, Mr. Speaker. With respect to suicides in northern Saskatchewan, we've developed and implemented a regional suicide prevention and intervention plan, participated in the embracing life committee, partnered with trainers and the Northern Lights School Division,

Mr. Speaker.

And in fact I can report to the House that in terms of the northern health regions receiving visits from psychiatrists, the number last year was 32 clinics were conducted across the North in the last fiscal year. And this year we already have scheduled for the 2016-17 budget year 58 clinics. So we're seeing a dramatic increase.

Mr. Speaker, as well the Prime Minister a couple of weeks ago announced some dollars for indigenous mental health. Mr. Speaker, at first blush, it looks like Saskatchewan is not a recipient of those dollars, but the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and I have written to the federal government to ask for clarification to ensure that we are getting some of those dollars.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

#### **Support for Aboriginal Workforce**

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, in this time of reconciliation, we need to take concrete steps to make reconciliation a reality. When it comes to a basic measure of economic justice, the Aboriginal unemployment gap is getting worse, not better. As per the government's latest statistics, the Saskatchewan unemployment rate is 6 per cent; while for Aboriginal people the rate is 16.4 per cent; and for off-reserve First Nations people it is now an alarming 25.3 per cent. And it gets even worse on-reserve for First Nations people where statistics are not comprehensively reported.

What is the plan to take on Aboriginal unemployment gap in Saskatchewan? What are the action steps for this plan? And is the goal for that plan as it should be, to eliminate the horrendous unemployment gap that has 25.3 per cent of off-reserve First Nations people unemployed at a rate that is four times the overall provincial number?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would note that since 2007, we've seen Aboriginal employment grow by 21.3 per cent in this province. That being said, we know there is more work to be done. That's why we've made record investments into adult basic education, including \$6 million being spent this year on reserve for adult basic education to create the conditions so that First Nations people will be job ready once they complete that training. That's a 67 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, over the time that the members opposite were in government.

In terms of apprenticeship training, 76 per cent increase in funding for apprenticeship since 2007. I would note as well in terms of targeted funding for Aboriginal employment and training, we've seen an increase of 93 per cent since 2007. This government is taking the issue very seriously. We're investing at the front end in training. We're investing in First Nations people and Aboriginal people, and we know that they're going to be able to continue to participate in the economic future of this province.

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

### Reaction to Daniels Decision

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For years Harry Daniels fought for Métis rights and fought for Métis people here in Saskatchewan and all across Canada. Earlier this year the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its decision in the case that bears his name and found that the Métis people should be considered Indians and under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

This decision should not be viewed as a cost-saving measure where the provincial government off-loads their responsibility to the federal government. This offers an opportunity for true partnerships and new beginnings. In the past, this government hasn't shown leadership in building meaningful partnerships and instead chose to dig their heels in when it comes to jurisdiction.

I want to know, will the minister commit to a respectful, insightful, pragmatic, and engaging partnership with Métis people, non-status, First Nations, and the federal government under the Daniels decision and opportunity, or will they simply see this as a transition to the federal government as an excuse to stop funding their responsibilities, and as yet another way to avoid meaningful inclusion of indigenous peoples here in Saskatchewan?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that decision by the Supreme Court is indeed groundbreaking, as the member opposite said. It's going into unchartered territory, Mr. Speaker. We had a discussion about it last night in Estimates. The member raised those same questions with both myself and the deputy minister.

Mr. Speaker, to his more pointed . . . to his question on whether or not we'd be willing to meet with the affected groups, including the Métis Nation that he mentioned, absolutely we would. My door is always open to meet with them, to discuss the issue with them, as with the federal government. As I mentioned, this is unchartered territory we're going into, Mr. Speaker, but certainly I look forward to discussions with all the stakeholders and with the federal government on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Treaty and Métis Rights and *The Provincial Lands Act*

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, the treaty relationship in Saskatchewan continues to evolve. In the post-Daniels world, that also includes Métis rights. This government introduced its First Nation and Métis consultation policy in June of 2010 and the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] immediately rejected it. They pointed out that it would create uncertainty and instability in the Saskatchewan economy. It has been said that "The proposed policy not only fails to take into account the First Nation commitment to honouring the spirit and intent of the treaties, it practically represents the antithesis of such a position."

Mr. Speaker, the introduction of the new provincial lands Act last week is a further example of this government's continued failure to take into account the role First Nations and Métis people have when making decisions affecting treaty rights and Métis rights. It's about respect — respect for the traditional users of the land.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government finally act in accordance with the duties it has to First Nations and Métis people? When will they deal fairly when making decisions which impact treaty and Métis rights?

**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 truly come for a modernization of this Act that was first enacted in 1930, and most recently updated in 1978. Much of the language in the Act is not representative of language used today; it's gender inappropriate and so on.

But an in-depth consultation process started in 2013 on revisions to this Act and included an updated call in the spring of 2016 for feedback from lessees, stakeholders, First Nations and Métis communities. The proposed PLA [provincial lands Act] is enabling legislation that will not impact the ability of First Nations and Métis communities to exercise treaty or aboriginal rights or to carry out traditional uses.

Mr. Speaker, the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement remains unchanged, and the PLA has no affect on it or its processes. There will be additional consultations when regulations are developed as this is enabling legislation and we look forward to those.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Rochdale.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 25, *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 25 and that this bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

[Nays — 10]

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed to move to third reading. I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

|             |          |          |
|-------------|----------|----------|
| Wotherspoon | Chartier | Belanger |
| Sproule     | Forbes   | Rancourt |
| Beck        | McCall   | Sarauer  |
| Vermette    |          |          |

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 25 — *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016*

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

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the third reading motion, 47; opposed, 10.

**The Speaker:** — I declare the motion carried.

**Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 25 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees later this day, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

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

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour say yea.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:44.]

**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 14:40 until 14:41.]

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 47]

|              |                |             |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| 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           | Hart        |
| Steele       | Doke           | Hargrave    |
| Makowsky     | Marit          | Merriman    |
| Wilson       | Eyre           | Ross        |
| Olauson      | Kaeding        | Parent      |
| Nerlien      | Bradshaw       | Dennis      |
| Phillips     | Steinley       | Lambert     |
| Lawrence     | Carr           | Michelson   |
| Buckingham   | Kirsch         |             |

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed please stand.

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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**President of the Executive Council**  
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Minister Responsible for The Global  
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