



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

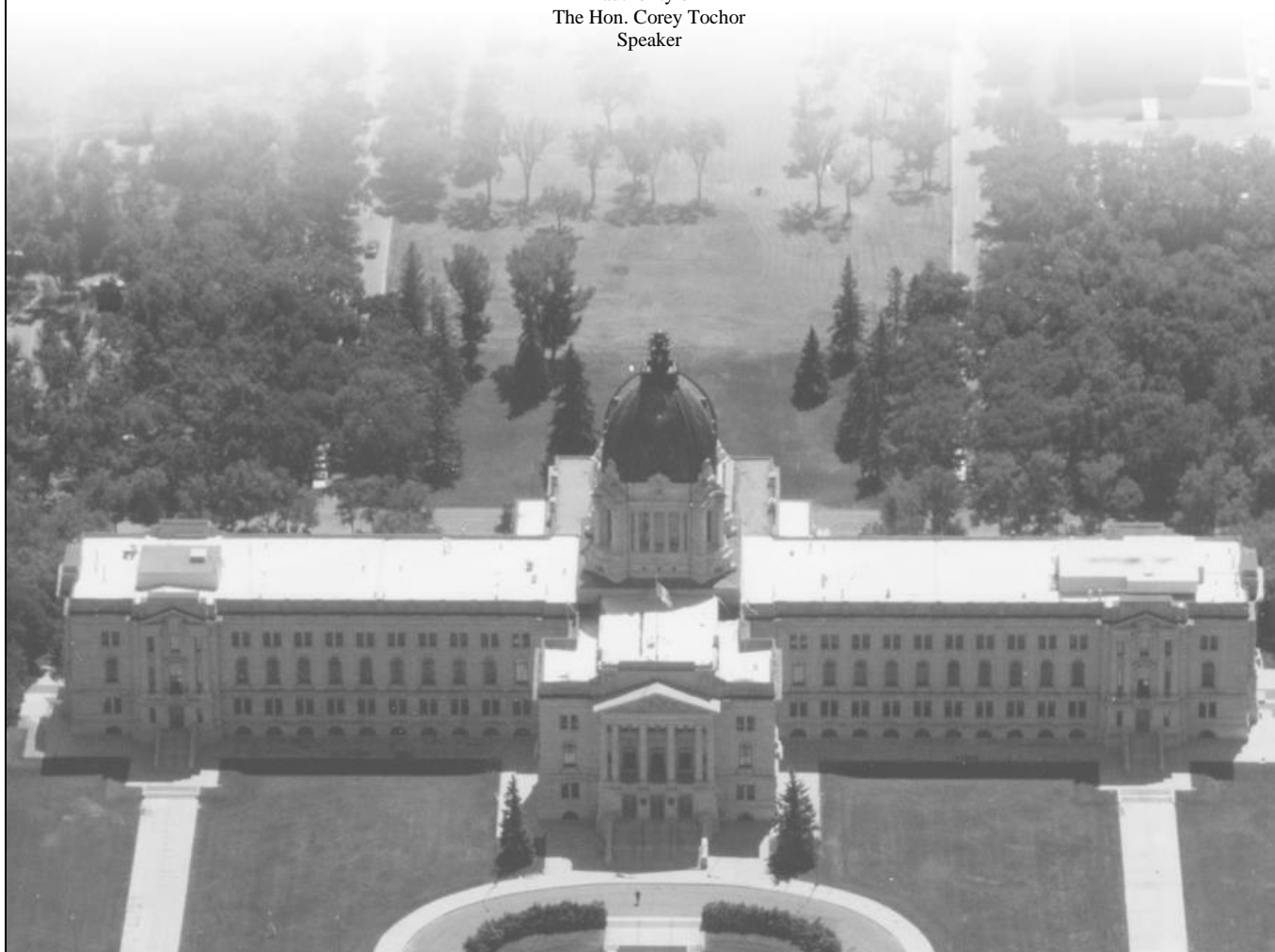
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 Buriandyk

**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 Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to request leave to make an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — Leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of Saskatchewan's longest serving volunteer crop reporters. From seeding to harvest, crop reporters provide valuable information that many rely on locally and internationally. Having accurate and timely crop reports available each week allows international traders to better predict market trends. Local producers are able to plan and evaluate each crop season to make the best business decisions.

The volunteer crop reporters that are here today have served from 25 to a remarkable 40 years in the field, providing valuable updates on agricultural progress in Saskatchewan. I want to recognize and thank each of the volunteer crop reporters here today. I ask that each volunteer crop reporter and their spouse give a wave as I announce their names.

The 25-year recipients are Kay and spouse, Ray Berry, RM [rural municipality] Battle River; Paul and spouse, Teresa Heglund, RM Reno; Ken and spouse, Lorrene Johnson, RM Prairiedale; Leslie Sarauer and his spouse, Deborah Bryson-Sarauer, RM of St. Peter; Einar and Barb Thompson, RM of McKillop; David and spouse, Linda Bettschen, RM of Wolseley; Lyle and spouse, Linda Ehrman, RM of happy dale . . . Happyland, that is. I don't want to make it sound any happier than it really is. Don and spouse, Charlotte Payak, RM of Weyburn.

And the 40-year recipients are Mike Shawaga and daughter, Evelyn Thomas, RM of Fish Creek; Thressa Whitfield and her son, Darwin Whitfield, and spouse, Michelle Whitfield, RM of Oakdale. I'd also like to congratulate those who could not join us here today: celebrating 25 years, Bill Mescall, RM of Marriott; Linda Osmachenko, RM of Eagle Creek; and celebrating 40 years, William Bindig, RM of Sasman.

I now ask that all members join me in thanking those volunteer crop reporters for their service and dedication to agriculture and to Saskatchewan, and to welcome them to their legislature.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you and on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to take a minute to also welcome these volunteers to their Legislative Assembly.

Forty years is a very long time, and it's a huge commitment. And I think, without that kind of dedication and volunteerism and commitment to keeping those records going . . . My aunt used to always write them on her calendar. She had her calendar, you know. So these records are invaluable. They're local; they're grassroots records. But they are really important and, as the minister indicated, they do contribute greatly to the business of agriculture, so it's very important work. So on behalf of the official opposition, congratulations. Thank you, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with the minister and the member on this side to welcome all you folks, all you volunteers.

But I want to give a special introduction to my uncle, Leslie Sarauer, who is here. I couldn't think of someone more deserving of recognition. He farms the family farm, Mr. Speaker, in Lake Lenore with his son, Ken, who I had the opportunity to introduce to the House last week actually. On top of that he's involved in several boards including one on conservation and development, and he's also on the board for the CMT grain terminal near Naicam. And if I missed anything or got anything wrong, I got my intel from dad, so please blame him.

Accompanying him is my aunt, Deborah Bryson-Sarauer, who is here as well and very accomplished in her own right. She's got a very impressive CV [curriculum vitae], Mr. Speaker. She's got a master's of social work. She was the dean of St. Peter's College. She was a mental health counsellor at the Saskatoon Health Region. She's a lecturer at the University of Regina, and she's formerly the executive director at Family Service Saskatoon. I'm so pleased to have both of them here, and I'd ask all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I am pleased to introduce 25 public servant employees seated in your gallery. They're part of the parliamentary program for the public service. They have quite a full day in the legislature, in and around and meeting with yourself as well as myself and the opposition, a number of other meetings, Mr. Speaker. They are here from various ministries such as Agriculture, Education, Finance, Health, Highways, Justice, the Public Service Commission, Social Services, a number of ministries, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to answering some of their questions at about 3 o'clock. I'd like everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister on behalf of the official opposition as the critic for Public Service to welcome these public servants to their Legislative Assembly. And certainly the public servants that take the keen interest that these folks are demonstrating to gain that better understanding of how the parliamentary side of this public policy process works is to be commended.

And certainly as an example of just how busy things are in the life of the session these days, I won't be able to join with them, but certainly the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition will be fulfilling that duty for our side, as I'm off in estimates, Mr. Speaker. But certainly they'll probably have a better time with him anyway. But again I join with the minister in welcoming these important public servants to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a massive group of students from L.M. Hanna School, Mr. Speaker, sitting in the west gallery. Give everybody a wave. Mr. Speaker, accompanying this group of grade 3 and 4 students is Ms. Corina Wesdyk, Ms. Dina Lazurko, and parent chaperones are Shawna Aufner, Amy Jeannotte, Sandra Truckair, Pam Guest.

And I will have an opportunity to get stumped again by their questions and will enjoy a juice box. But that will be coming up later, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to help welcome this group to their Assembly.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming the group from Hanna School to their Legislative Assembly and welcome all of the parents and chaperones.

But I do want to single someone out. I see Pam Guest is here with us today. Pam has been a tireless crusader and advocate for the rights of children and around the prevention of sexual child abuse of children. She has been an advocate for the implementation of Erin's law, which would require jurisdictions to provide sexual abuse prevention training to students through the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education. Certainly a worthwhile cause, and I look forward to working with her and members of this Assembly to bring this important cause to light. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all the members of the House, Katelyn Duncan. Katelyn, please stand up and wave and be acknowledged.

Katelyn is a leader in her own community. She is employed within the Ministry of Agriculture, but Katelyn, her brother and her sister farm just south of the city. Katelyn is one of these young leaders in our community. She's one to watch. I'm so

proud to be able to call her my friend.

And I think that . . . One day I'm hoping she will consider seeking public office because she has the perfect mindset. She understands policy, but she also has her feet firmly rooted and landed on the ground. So please, welcome Katelyn to this Assembly. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour to welcome a couple of members of my family. It's still my dream to have my wife and my three daughters and my five grandchildren in the Assembly altogether at once, but it's not going to happen today yet, Mr. Speaker, after 21 years.

But I'd point out that I do have someone very close, or several people that are very close to me visiting the Assembly today. They travelled all the way from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And with us today are my two nieces, Ally McKay and Cheryl Tootoosis. And along with Ally and Cheryl is their mother, adopted mother, who is my wife's aunt, and that is Suzanne Aubichon.

So my Auntie Sue is in the building, and she said to me today, you make sure you behave. You'll send a note to the Premier and promise him you'll be on your best behaviour today. So, Auntie Sue, the Premier got my note. I am going to behave today. So I would ask all members to please welcome my family from northern Saskatchewan, Regina, and North Battleford.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cox:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you, I'd like to introduce and join with the Agriculture minister and the members opposite to welcome two very special friends of mine who are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and that's Kay and Ray Berry. And I thank all of the volunteers in the Ag for the work that they do.

But I would just like to say that I've had two great neighbours for many, many years. We farm right across the road from the Berrys, and Ray's been an excellent . . . He's a very knowledgeable cattleman. And he's given me a lot of great advice over the years, as well as a lot of help whenever I've had problems on my farm. I certainly appreciate that, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly, Kay and Ray.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my great pleasure today to rise and to welcome some guests to our east gallery. It's always special when we have students with us, but I'd like to single this group out for some special praise. With us are 13 members of the leadership 30 class from grades 10 to 12 at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Samantha Taylor.

This group of students have done some amazing work over the past year. They set a goal to raise \$15,000 for extra ESL [English as a second language] teaching through the Regina

Open Door Society. And not only did they raise that money, they surpassed it. I know that they held a number of events, and I think the Leader of the Opposition was able to attend one of their main events at Sheldon-Williams.

I just want to commend them for taking what they learned in school in their leadership class and applying it to the situation that they saw around them to make this city a better place, and to raise awareness around the issues that face newcomers and refugees, and to really extend a welcome to them and to provide some practical support in the way of that tutoring.

So I would invite all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating and welcoming them to our Assembly, to their Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce a number of officials from the Ministry of Justice who have joined us in the House today. Joining us from the deputy minister's office is Anna McCashin and Michelle Heintz. Can you give us a wave? Oh there they are. From our corporate services division, we have James Njeri and Carter Carson. Darryl Ward, Diane Fraser, and Danielle Neisz are here from court services.

We also, Mr. Speaker, have two law students joining us today. Alexander Buchan is working in our civil law division, and Derek Gianoli is working for us this summer in our innovation division, and I'd like to wish them all the best in their future studies.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank all of the officials for all their very hard work that they do. And I would ask all the members of the legislature to welcome these dedicated officials from the Ministry of Justice to their legislature.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again 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 delaying both diagnosis and treatment for PTSD can be detrimental to recover. The petitioners basically are asking the government to make PTSD a presumptive illness for all workers under workers' compensation, which means if you experienced a traumatic event, Mr. Speaker, and then had a subsequent diagnosis of PTSD, you would be presumed, or the traumatic event would be presumed to be the cause of the PTSD, Mr. Speaker, unless proven otherwise. I'd like to read the prayer:

[13:45]

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, I have petitions from all across Saskatchewan, and today this petition is signed by citizens of Grandora, Hague, Warman, Rosthern, Tisdale, Wakaw, Strasbourg, Meyronne, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition as referenced to housing. 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, and these involve all the communities including La Ronge, Air Ronge, Creighton, and Denare Beach, allowing these families the dignity of owning their own homes and building communities in the province's beautiful North.

And, Mr. Speaker, many people have signed this petition. On this particular page, they're primarily from the Saskatoon area. And I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on wetlands. Wetlands serve a very vital function in our ecosystem. Home to wildlife, including waterfowl, they protect us from flooding and drought. In the worst cases, as much as 90 per cent of our wetlands have disappeared. And as they continue to disappear, so too do the many benefits they provide. 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's significant damage annually from flooding; and

Create a sound and transparent mitigation process that adequately addresses sustainable development.

Mr. Speaker, the people who've signed this particular petition are from Moose Jaw and Regina. 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 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. 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 they can continue to operate. And we know, in addition to providing language and cultural classes, these schools offer a welcoming environment and crucial support for newcomers who are searching for a way to feel at home in their new surroundings here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon, Regina, and various communities throughout the province of Saskatchewan. I do so present. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Regina Pasqua on his feet?

**Mr. Fiaz:** — [Inaudible] . . . introduction, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, and to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce some constituents of Regina Pasqua, Mr. Christopher Kutarna and his father, Emil Kutarna. Mr. Christopher Kutarna is author of the book, *Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of Our New Renaissance*. Christopher grew up in Regina and currently resides in Oxford, England where he's attending the University of Oxford. He has come back in Canada to launch his book on Monday, June 27th.

Mr. Speaker, columnist Tom Friedman from New York wrote about his book in today's *New York Times*. I'd like to ask all members of the Assembly to join me welcoming Christopher and his father to their own Legislative Assembly.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatoon Students Learn About Their Community

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to tell this House about a wonderful project at St. Dominic School. The school in historic Montgomery Place received a Saskatchewan Arts Board ArtsSmarts grant this past spring. The school used the grant to help students learn more about their community, a community rich in heritage and history. To learn about the infrastructure, significance, and history of Montgomery Place, students worked with members of the community association, local veterans, community members, and artist Karly King. Montgomery Place veteran Bill Schmidt talked with the students about his wartime experiences.

Montgomery Place Community Association members Barb Biddle and Leslee Newman shared artifacts and stories with kindergarten and grade 1 and 2 students. Students had the opportunity to learn things like why they have streets named Dieppe, Merritt, and Ortona, and for whom some of their parks are named, like Lieutenant General G.G. Simonds or Lieutenant Colonel D. Walker.

Each class had a different learning outcome based on Saskatchewan curricula and, in order to represent their learnings, the students worked together to create four beautiful tile mosaic pieces that now hang in the school. The students unveiled their work earlier this spring and invited the community to a tea, which I had a chance to attend.

I want to congratulate teacher Jennifer Meikle, who led this project; students for diving into it and working so hard on the mosaics; veterans like Bill Schmidt and Don Leier who helped bring history to life; and community members Leslee Newman and Barb Biddle who are committed to ensuring current residents of Montgomery Place are connected to its past. Thank you.

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

#### Lloydminster Celebrates National Aboriginal Day

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had the privilege of attending the National Aboriginal Day celebrations in Lloydminster hosted by the Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre on Treaty 6 territory. The festivities kicked off with a pancake breakfast followed by a teepee raising with crafts and traditional games and activities for the children.

For lunch the Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre held a small fundraiser in which attendees could buy a delicious bannock taco. Following lunch, Mr. Speaker, both Chief Wallace Fox of Onion Lake Cree Nation, Mayor Rob Saunders, along with myself, brought greetings to the people gathered for this celebrational event. The event concluded with a performance from the Onion Lake Cree Nation dancers, a barbecue, a jamboree, and a closing round dance.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday National Aboriginal Day was an

opportunity for all indigenous people across Canada to showcase and share the diversity of their cultures and traditions. It's also an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Canada's Aboriginal peoples, their history, and their contributions to our great country, province, and our communities. I was very honoured to be able to attend this event and share in the celebration of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the board of directors and staff of the Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre for hosting this wonderful celebration and educational event. Thank you.

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

#### **North Central Regina Citizens Launch Community Patrol**

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to salute the great work that is being done by the White Pony Lodge in North Central Regina to promote community safety and to take on violence. Drawing inspiration from Winnipeg's Bear Clan Patrol, the White Pony Lodge launched its first community patrol this past Friday evening. The lodge was established as a community response to violence and as a way for neighbours to speak out and stand up for safety in North Central.

I want to especially recognize the work and determination of White Pony Lodge founders, Shawna Ochoo, Jennet McGillis, Spurgeon Root, and Beatrice Wallace Littlechief. I also want to commend the work of Tara Amyotte and Tory McGregor in making the White Pony Lodge a reality. These are individuals that we are proud to call our friends and neighbours in North Central.

They first came together to memorialize those who have been tragically murdered and to speak out about gang violence and community safety. I should also point out, Mr. Speaker, that these are individuals that have experienced loss to senseless violence, too often gang violence, personally. That they're responding to that loss in a way that helps the community as a whole I think makes their work and their courage all the more commendable.

Mr. Speaker, the inaugural patrol set off with ceremony and song. It is fully supported by the Regina Police Service. And Friday's group of about 20 folks included the Yorkton family of Mikayla Bali, a 16-year-old who went missing in Yorkton in April. The family of Kelly Goforth was also there in memory of this young woman who was killed in 2013. The White Pony Lodge will be patrolling in the neighbourhood on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the summer.

Again, Mr. Speaker, as a neighbour in North Central and as the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Elphinstone, I want to say thank you, meegweech hay hay to the White Pony Lodge for their valuable work towards increasing the peace and working towards an end to violence in North Central.

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

#### **Key Ceremony for Habitat for Humanity Homes in Regina**

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thanks a lot, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to inform the members about another Habitat for Humanity success story in Regina. Last week I attended, along with the member from Pasqua and Walsh Acres, a key ceremony for four Habitat partner families. These families were officially presented with keys to their brand new homes located at Haultain Crossing in the Eastview neighbourhood of our city. Upon completion of this multi-unit housing development, a total of 62 Regina families will call Haultain Crossing home.

Mr. Speaker, owning a home is a dream that many people aspire to. Habitat, along with other community partners, ensure aspiring families have the opportunity to purchase a home of their own. Our government shares that goal, and that's why we've provided \$260,000 to help build these four homes. It's also why we've dedicated nearly \$8 million in funding since 2009 to support 13 Habitat chapters across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this investment supports those Saskatchewan families in greatest housing need and the neighbourhoods and communities in which they live. I ask all members to join me in thanking Habitat for Humanity for their commitment and for creating more housing options for Saskatchewan families. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

#### **Writer Recognized by Saskatchewan Weekly Newspaper Association**

**Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize the success of Helena Long, a constituent of mine from Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency. Mr. Speaker, Helena is a writer for the Unity Wilkie *Press-Herald*. She was recently recognized by the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association for her outstanding writing.

Articles written by Helena and published: the *Press-Herald* won awards for best agricultural coverage, single story; and best business writing. Mr. Speaker, Helena's article headlined "Co-operatives continuing to contribute to communities" from the October 2nd, 2015 issue of the *Press-Herald* received especially high praise. This is an article that won best business writing. It scored 99 out of a possible 100 points, with 25 out of 25 points awarded for quality of writing, content, and impact on the community, and 24 out of 25 points awarded for her clarity.

Helena's first-place article in the category of agricultural coverage, single story was headlined, "Hay yields less than 50 per cent of normal in the *Press-Herald* areas," and was published on July 13th, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Helena Long and the Unity Wilkie *Press-Herald* on being recognized by the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association for their outstanding work in reporting the news in the Cut Knife-Turtleford constituency. And on a personal note, Helena is fighting some health issues, and I wish her all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Zoogala Supports Saskatoon Zoo Foundation**

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were bears and owls, bats and parrots, cougars and pandas. No, this wasn't an NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus meeting. It was Zoogala. Last Friday the member from Saskatoon Meewasin and I had the honour of attending the 2016 Zoogala in support of the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation. Dignitaries including Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor, along with Mayor Don Atchison and many others from across the city and province were there to "hang out."

Mr. Speaker, this year's theme was Meeting the Amazing Animals of Latin America, where attendees were able to get up close and personal with some incredible animals in the zoo from Central and South America. In addition to seeing the animals, attendees had the opportunity to taste Saskatoon's best cuisine. Chefs from around the city brought their best dishes, and I can personally attest to the calibre of the food. To top off the evening there was some great entertainment provided by Wayne Bargen, Corey Morgan, and Elly Thorn. The MC [master of ceremonies] was Jeff Rogstad from CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.].

There is no question that this event, their 19th annual, was a resounding success. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Saskatoon Willowgrove resident Dawn Woroniuk and her committee along with the attendees and sponsors in making 2016 Zoogala a resounding success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

### **Moose Jaw Sidewalk Days Festival**

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, the city of Moose Jaw held its annual downtown festival, the Moose Jaw Sidewalk Days. This festival acts as a showcase for Moose Jaw's downtown as 165 booths were set up on Main Street. Local groups entertained festivalgoers and over 25 food vendors sold their best. Because this year's festival fell in June, Mr. Speaker, we also got to enjoy local dance and school groups before they disband for their summer holidays.

Sidewalk Days is also a great platform for local artists, musicians, and entertainers to showcase their talents. This year the Scotiabank Songwriter Showcase saw local musicians compete in front of local judges. And we even had High Impact Wrestling in the Hochelaga Street intersection.

Mr. Speaker, Sidewalk Days isn't just for the citizens of the friendly city. People from all over the province and Canada came to enjoy themselves, perform, and spread the messages about their businesses. In fact, SaskPower used this festival to kick off their 2016 Power to Grow tour, which will promote their goal of achieving 50 per cent of renewable energy in

Saskatchewan's power generation mix by 2030.

It was truly an amazing weekend, and I would ask all members to join me in congratulating all Sidewalk Days volunteers, participants, and organizers on their hard work and dedication to the city of Moose Jaw. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

### **Provincial Economy and Education**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier just isn't getting the job done when it comes to creating good, mortgage-paying jobs for Saskatchewan families. In fact, he's losing them — 9,500 fewer jobs than just a year ago. Over 1,000 Saskatchewan workers in the resource sector out of work.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on about the Premier's past and present failings, but let's talk about how he's failing our future. Under his government, young workers are falling further and further behind. New numbers from StatsCan show that youth unemployment today is 38 per cent higher than 10 years ago. For those with a college or trade school education, it's up 47 per cent.

After a decade of record revenues and a booming economy, this government failed to diversify our economy. And young people are paying the price for that government's choices. What does the Premier have to say to the young people in Saskatchewan who can't find a job because he refused to do anything but talk about diversifying our economy?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, there's much in the preamble for my hon. friend's question which needs some correction. I would point out for all members of the House that, notwithstanding some very significant economic pressures owing to commodity prices which of course are not under the control of anybody in this particular Assembly today or the Government of Saskatchewan, notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, the last job numbers were out and the province of Saskatchewan, even in that environment, posted the second-best employment numbers in the country, the second-lowest unemployment rate in all of Canada.

Since members on this side of the House had the good fortune to form the Government of Saskatchewan, between 45 and 50,000 new jobs have been created right across this province. And with respect to young . . . Mr. Speaker, by the way, in the years just preceding that change in government in 2007, Saskatchewan was posting the worst job creation record in the country. And in the time of the Saskatchewan Party in office, we now have the second-best job creation record in the country, even though we are going through some commodity price challenges right now.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point out for members opposite, he asked a question with respect to young people. We do need to do more in terms of diversifying the economy, and I expect we'll debate this a little further in subsequent questions. But



think about this: 50,000-plus people have applied for the graduate retention program, young people who have graduated and are staying here in the province of Saskatchewan. There's more work to be done, but this province has never been stronger.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's awfully disrespectful for the Premier to boast and brag and to dismiss a harsh reality for young people all across Saskatchewan. That's a 40 per cent increase in unemployment for young people in just 10 years. That's a disrespectful approach.

The fact is, the Sask Party is letting young people down. The Education minister has shamefully refused to back down on his indefensible decision to bargain in bad faith, even though the minister has admitted, "Each and every . . . year until this year, we have fully funded the cost of the collective bargaining agreement . . ."

But not this year, Mr. Speaker. He outright admitted to shortchanging school boards, teachers, and our kids. It's unacceptable and it's inexcusable. Will the Premier stand in his place, admit that his minister and his government bargained in bad faith, admit that his government is shortchanging our kids? And will he ensure finally that his government holds up their end of the bargain with its negotiated contracts so that our kids' already-strained classrooms aren't further damaged by his broken promise?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the record of the government with respect to education funding was debated during the provincial election campaign which ended on the 4th of April. And we put our record of education funding up against what the education system used to get when the NDP were in power. And we have seen record increases in operating funding, record capital investments, new schools being built across the province, Mr. Speaker, while members on the opposite side of the House, when they were in government, were closing schools.

I would also point out to my hon. friend in terms of the direct question that he asked is that the collective bargaining agreement will be honoured. The Minister of Education has been very clear about that. The Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance have been meeting with SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], Mr. Speaker, and that collective bargaining agreement will be maintained.

But again, the preamble to his question referenced the economy, Mr. Speaker. The facts of the matter is that there were 2,200 new jobs, new jobs created in May in this province compared to April, notwithstanding commodity price challenges. That's month to month 2,200 new jobs, even in this circumstance. One of the ways we can ensure the economy diversifies and that we're creating jobs in Saskatchewan is to open up new markets to support trade.

One of the most important trade deals ever to come before Canada in terms of our province, especially our agricultural

sector, is the TPP [Trans-Pacific Partnership]. That trade deal was debated on the floor of this House and members opposite refused to even bring it to a vote, to send the most basic signal to our agricultural sector, to our manufacturing sector, that they would fight for their interests by supporting a trade deal that makes sense for the province. We'll put our record against theirs any day of the week, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, that Premier was anything but clear with Saskatchewan people in the election as it relates to bargaining in bad faith, breaking his promise to students. Ultimately that government holds the purse strings for education. When they choose to break their promise to fund their agreement, it has a cost for students and school boards all across this province, Mr. Speaker.

The minister says that the teachers deserve to be paid and that they will, but of course he's not coughing up the dollars. So the dollars are being pulled directly out of classrooms and it's students that are paying the price. It's not fair. It's not right. It's not acceptable.

Even the minister has admitted that the Sask Party has now refused to honour their own commitment. The Premier should review this record. That's what the minister has now shared. Will the Premier do the same? More importantly — a second chance here — will the Premier do the right thing and, at the bare minimum, commit to funding the agreement that they negotiated? Will he honour their signature?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has been there for the education sector of this province for the last eight years — frankly, like few other governments before, Mr. Speaker. The record of the government includes record investments on the operating-side support for school divisions. The record includes massive investments in infrastructure and capital, Mr. Speaker. And with respect to the collective bargaining agreement, as I said in an earlier answer, that is going to be honoured.

Mr. Speaker, the school boards themselves are reacting to the recent budget, and I have a couple of quotes I could share with members across the way. "We know that administration is working hard to ensure that we're staying away from the classroom and what we're doing is making sure that our students and our staff will be well looked after." That's Diane Boyko, Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board Chair, in the context of funding, and the teachers' agreement would be a part of that.

Here's another one: Saskatoon Public School Board Chair Ray Morrison said staff cuts are not on the table. The division is looking hard to find efficiencies. And I think it was just yesterday the Regina Catholic Board has indicated that as a result of the budget, including the well-known . . . the issue that we're debating now with respect to collective bargaining, they have said this as a result of their budgeting: no staff will be laid off; 17 new, new full-time equivalent instructional staff will be hired. And their budget will be balanced.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to work with school boards to ensure that that is a story replicated across the province, and the collective bargaining agreement with teachers will be honoured.

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

#### Funding for Educational Assistants

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier is being selective with the quotes that he's using today in this Assembly. And certainly there have, school boards have done their bits to try to protect the classroom. But the fact is that this government has put undue pressure on the classrooms and on school boards, and those pressures will have impacts in the classroom.

The truth is that the Sask Party took away the ability for school boards to actually run our schools and to control their own revenue, so now they are at the whim of the Sask Party and the minister. And as we know, the whim was to cut and run, and even more cuts are following.

At the Prairie Spirit School Division for example, they've been forced to cut 75 positions. Mr. Speaker, Trina Miller is worried about the effects that these cuts will have on her daughter who is looking forward to grade 10. Trina says, "The government has whittled away the ability for our school division [and I'm sure that Trina wants her words to be heard] to give our children the basics that they need for meaningful education under the ruse of an increase."

Will the minister meet with Trina and explain to her why, after close to a decade-long boom, the Sask Party is asking for cuts to her daughter's classroom?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm assuming that the member opposite has got a consent and authorization from Mrs. Miller, and we'd ask that, we'd ask . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And, you know, the members opposite want to chirp from their seats. Mr. Speaker, this is something that deals with the privacy of a child. And, Mr. Speaker, were not going to take lessons from the people opposite on how to treat parents and how to treat children with respect when they're in our system. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to stand up and apologize for that, and withdraw that, we'll pass that on to Mrs. Miller.

But in the interim, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the members opposite and I can advise the people in this House the following: I spoke with the director of Prairie Spirit yesterday. He advises me that they have 220 EAs [educational assistant] working in their system; 100 of those will be assigned to specific high-needs children. The other 120 will be allocated as appropriate throughout the system and, Mr. Speaker, they're working on that allocation now. We have officials within the system that are working with them. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the commitment that we're going to make to the people in our province, unlike the Leader of the Opposition.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, that kind of spin is barely acceptable when talking to me, although I'm used to it. But the question was for a concerned mother, and the answer was concerning. Trina's . . . And of course we have authorization. Trina's daughter has developmental delays, but with support brings a lot to and gets a lot from her classroom.

After years of record revenue, the Sask Party should have money in reserves. The fact that they've failed to properly invest in our children's future during this province's sunniest days is frankly shameful. So is the fact that education is one of the first places that this government went to cut.

Mr. Speaker, this mom should be able to trust that her daughter is receiving the best education possible. Instead she's worried, saying, "I'm tired of cuts happening year after year with more and more supports gone for my daughter." How can the minister justify making cuts that affect our children's classrooms across the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, in our province each and every child and each and every parent deserves to be treated with respect. Each and every child deserves to have the best education possible.

I've arranged to meet with Mrs. Miller, and I'm going to be doing that soon. I'm going to have the officials work with them to try and find the best possible solution for her daughter. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be more important than doing exactly that. Unlike the members opposite who choose to politicize things, we're not going down that road.

And Mr. Speaker, another road that we're not going down is the things that they're recommending that would involve actual budget cuts, Mr. Speaker. This is a budget that increased funding. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite said in February of 2016, endorsed the report by David McGrane tying education funding to a percentage of GDP [gross domestic product]. Mr. Speaker, in the past year, education . . . or GDP dropped 1.4 per cent. We aren't doing that to education, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask the member opposite to withdraw her position on that.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister can dismiss this case all he wants, but it isn't the only, it isn't the only parent that we've been hearing from. Just a few days ago, I received an email from another mom. She is worried about her son and her son's teachers because she's been told that next year he will lose his educational assistant that has been helping him for the past six years. Her son has needs that require some additional one-on-one attention and that his teachers simply can't provide on their own. She says, "This news has been very upsetting and frustrating for our family. We are now very uncertain as to the future of our son's education."

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, the minister said time and time again that his government's cuts would not affect our children's classrooms.

We know that this is not the case for many schools across the province. Will the minister stop blaming school divisions and accept responsibility for the effects that his government's cuts have had on our classrooms?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it's the goal of this government to work with each and every parent and each and every child and the school divisions to make sure that supports continue for children. Mr. Speaker, since we've been in government, we have never cut funding to a school division. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the following: provincial funding to school divisions in 2007-2008 was \$694 million. In 2016-17, that number increased to \$1.2 billion. Mr. Speaker, during that time, education property tax went down as well.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with the divisions. We've asked them to work to find economies. We've asked them to work to find efficiencies. We'll never apologize for asking people to do their job. Part of their job, Mr. Speaker, is to be responsible, to find efficiencies, but above all else, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that the resources remain committed to the front lines, to the students of our province, because that's where they belong.

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

#### Management of Health Care System

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, despite almost a decade in power, one of this government's favourite lines is, more work needs to be done. In fact, we just heard the Premier say that just a few moments ago, Mr. Speaker.

And in health care they often tell us they are working using a lean process. The Sask Party government paid \$40 million to John Black to learn about lean and how it is used in places like the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. The minister has spoken time and time again about his fondness for Virginia Mason and what a great example Virginia Mason is for Saskatchewan hospitals.

Well the minister's model medical centre just flatly failed in almost 30 separate areas during a surprise accreditation visit. It failed accreditation, Mr. Speaker. What does the minister who loves lean a lot and likes Virginia Mason very much have to say about his trusted training centre?

**The Speaker:** — We'll hear the oral answer from the Health minister.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, using continuous improvement methods, we have saved over \$140 million since 2008 as a government. Mr. Speaker, as well I can say that we have had no accreditation problems at Saskatchewan hospitals, and certainly there is no concerns with respect to the use of continuous improvement as it relates to accreditation, Mr. Speaker.

What I would note is that in the last campaign, the members opposite said that they, as a part of their platform, would

remove the continuous improvement offices in the Ministry of Health and in our regional health authorities, Mr. Speaker. Those continuous improvement offices, one of the things that they do do is work with organizations like Accreditation Canada to ensure that we do have accreditation for our facilities, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite would have cut that role of the regional health authorities. We're not going to cut that role. We'll continue to work hard to ensure, not only that our facilities are accredited but that we are providing a high-quality service for Saskatchewan residents.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, it is shocking that this minister still continues to defend lean. Let's talk about some of the areas where lean failed at the Virginia Mason centre: providing care, treatment, and services safely and effectively; infection prevention; testing and maintaining medical equipment; the availability of resuscitation services throughout the hospital; and providing care in accordance with law and regulations.

Mr. Speaker, we've spent millions of dollars to send our health care providers to learn at this hospital, this hospital where lean has been a failure at "providing care." Is the minister finally willing to admit what a huge mistake all of this was, or does he still stand by this colossal waste of time and money?

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, using continuous improvement methods, a paramedicine pilot project in Saskatoon is helping to ensure that long-term care residents avoid trips to the hospital. Since that pilot was put in place, 80 per cent of patients have been assessed and treated at their residence, including long-term care, without having a transport to the emergency department, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the member opposite thinks that that is a colossal waste of time.

Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital has reduced the time surgical patients wait for their medication by 57 per cent using continuous improvement methods. I wonder if the member opposite thinks that that is a colossal waste of time.

Mr. Speaker, mental health patients in Sun Country Health Region wait 78 per cent less time for a referral and an assessment. I certainly don't think that that is a colossal waste of time. I hope the member opposite agrees with me on that.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, they continue to brag about their progress, but it's not based in reality. Mr. Speaker, if this minister put as much effort into standing up for Saskatchewan patients as he has for John Black and lean, health care in this province would be in much better shape.

The minister has also bragged about how they, along with the UK [United Kingdom], have implemented the stop-the-line program. Of course, that's something they learned from the no-longer-certified Virginia Mason. Stop-the-line is supposed to ensure safe care, Mr. Speaker. The UK has moved away from lean. Now these grave revelations about safety at Virginia

Mason. Mr. Speaker, what will it take for this minister to move beyond lean and implement a sincere and gimmick-free strategy for addressing concerns in Saskatchewan health care?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, there is so much wrong with the premise of the member's question I do not even know where to begin. Prior to stop-the-line safety alert system being piloted in St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, there were dozens of different phone numbers and contacts that patients and family members and staff members could call in the event that they saw a problem. And what, through continuous improvement, we've done is we've moved to one line for people to call so that it is simplified. It is easier and it in fact is a better way to do business. It is more common sense. The members opposite apparently are opposed to that, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, here's another example. Mr. Speaker, Sunrise Regional Health Authority's mental health and addiction staff have increased unit capacity by 41 per cent without adding a single dime of additional resources, Mr. Speaker. This is meaning better care for people. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we used lean, continuous improvement, even in surgical, the surgical initiative, Mr. Speaker. Where the members opposite resided over the longest wait times in Canada for surgery, we now have the shortest.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, they paid millions and millions of dollars for the failure that is lean. Prior to terminating John Black's contract, the Minister of Health decided he had to grant him four final requests, requests for which the taxpayers of Saskatchewan are on the hook.

Mr. Speaker, would you believe one of those was a demand that the Health minister himself tour Virginia Mason. Not only did the Sask Party cough up millions of dollars for hundreds of health care providers to travel to Seattle to see this quote unquote hospital, but on top of it all, at the demand of the American consultant, the Health minister jetted down there too. If the goal was to learn what not to do, that may have been worthwhile, but we all know that's not what's happening. At the very least, can the minister tell us how much his trip to the former hospital, along with his entourage, cost Saskatchewan taxpayers?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I had a little bit of trouble hearing the full extent of the question by the member opposite. But what I did hear, I just want to be able to clarify, Mr. Speaker. Virginia Mason Hospital — I've never been to Virginia Mason Hospital, Mr. Speaker. I have been to the Mayo Clinic though. I did a tour of the Mayo Clinic that does employ continuous improvement methods, Mr. Speaker, and I think that the Mayo Clinic has a pretty high reputation when it comes to delivering health care to people not only from the United States but from around the world, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'll give you another example that I think the

members opposite would, I think, find interesting. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, using continuous improvement, have achieved a 95 per cent reduction in the amount of time that it takes a patient that arrives either by STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] or EMS [emergency medical services] to receive their first diagnostic procedure in the cardiac care unit. So people that are attending to the tertiary hospital here in southern Saskatchewan for perhaps a heart attack, a 95 per cent reduction in the first time they get a diagnostic procedure. I wonder if the members opposite think that that is a waste of time or a waste of money, Mr. Speaker. I certainly don't think so, and we'll certainly continue to look for efforts to improve the health care system in this province.

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

### Food Services in Correctional Facilities

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we've known for a long time that this government's prison food contract only means one thing — more money going from taxpayers to yet another Sask Party private contractor. Last week in committee, I asked the Corrections minister what has been done to make sure Compass is meeting the terms of its lucrative contract for prison food services. This is what she said: "The ministry has also put several processes in place to monitor the compliance of the contract. A contract manager has been hired to establish a formal reporting structure."

Another manager, Mr. Speaker, to manage the manager? When a company they hired, because the Sask Party said they'd be experts, better than the ones we had in-house, can't put food on the table, their answer is to hire another manager? Why is the minister hiring another manager instead of actually enforcing the contract with Compass? And has she perhaps considered combining two Sask Party deals and getting the prison to skip the dishes?

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have contracted out food services within all our eight correctional facilities across the province to ensure consistency across the province, to provide healthy meals in accordance with Health Canada's food guide, and save taxpayers in Saskatchewan nearly \$12 million over a five-year term in the contract.

I don't know that the member opposite was . . . I don't know where she has been, but this issue is done and over with. We have signed a contract with Compass. It is Compass's responsibility to ensure that the terms and conditions of the contract are adhered to, Mr. Speaker. We have ministry people in-house that also address and make sure that the terms and conditions of the contract are met, Mr. Speaker.

The taxpayers of this province are saving \$12 million over five years, Mr. Speaker. The quality of food has dramatically increased. The number of meals, or what's included in the meals has improved, Mr. Speaker. We'll continually monitor what's going on with Compass, with the ministry staff, and with the people that are designed or in charge of administering the

contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**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:** — The House Leader has moved adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:28.]



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