



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

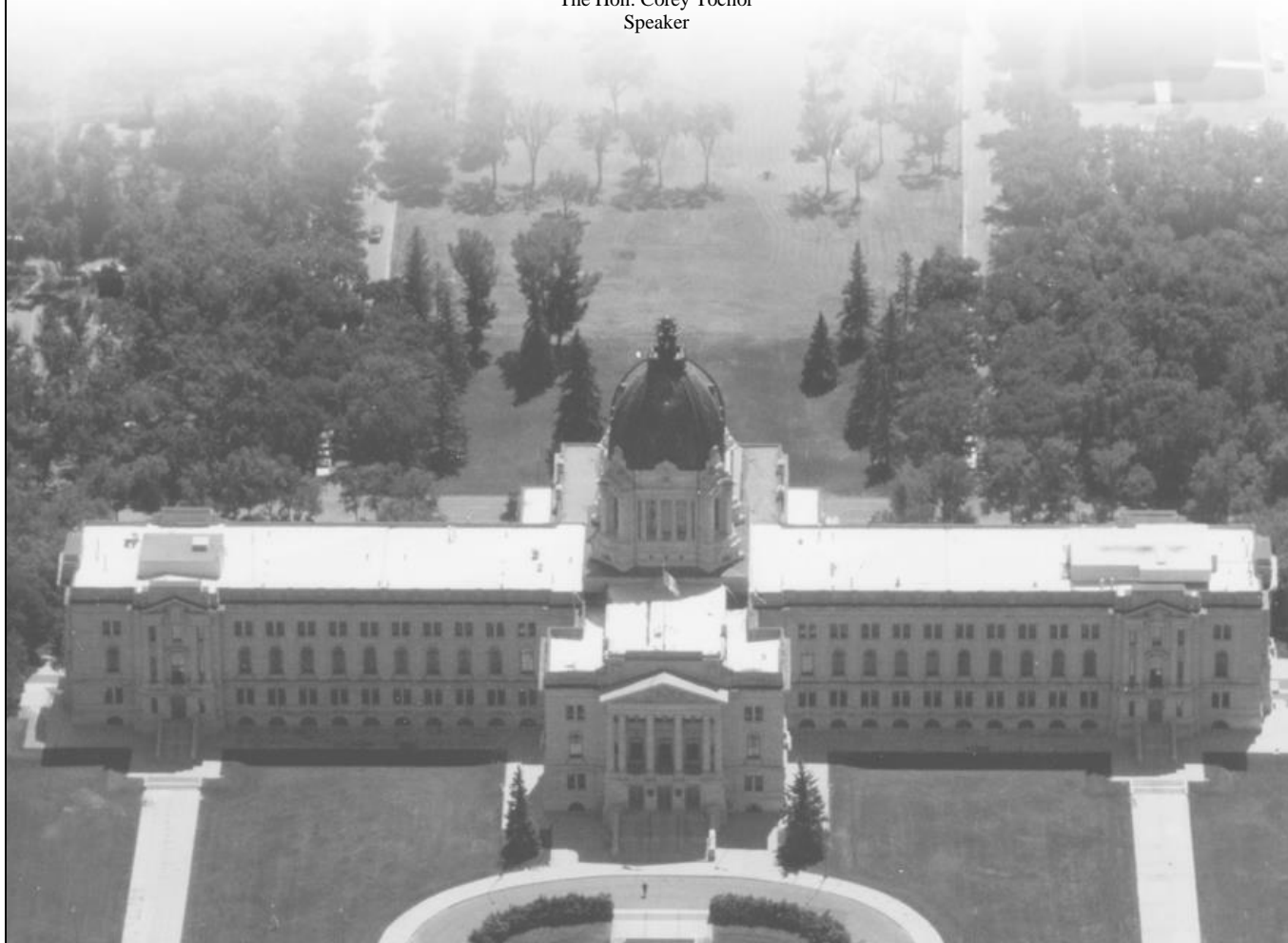
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

Beaudry-Mellor, Tina — Regina University (SP)

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

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Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I would like to welcome to this Assembly my brother, Staff Sergeant Brad Kaeding, and his wife, Janna Van Kessel, seated in the west gallery . . . east gallery? They are currently residents of Whitehorse, Yukon, where Brad is the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] staff sergeant responsible for all detachments outside of Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. Janna is instructor coordinator of adult basic ed at the Yukon College, and she also contributes to writing a lot of reference guides for various Saskatchewan government agencies, including the grade 1 to 11 science curriculum.

As with a lot of RCMP officers, he has been posted to eight provinces and territories and has had 13 moves in 27 years, but still very much considers Saskatchewan home and tries to enshrine the Riders at every location that he's been at. But I would also like to just publicly state how proud we are of his dedication and service to his country, and also to Janna's sacrifices to support those efforts. And I'd like to ask all members to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to introduce a few very important guests in the Assembly here today. Someone who's no stranger to this Assembly, it's an honour to welcome Andy Iwanchuk, along with Ann Iwanchuk and grandson Drake — nine years old, going into grade 5 next year — to their Assembly. Of course, Andy served honourably in this Assembly as an MLA. I count him as a good friend. He's an all around good guy and great fisher. They're both highly involved in their community as community leaders. Ann, of course, serves as a city councillor as well. They're active in the movement for workers' rights, and just give so much back to our community. So it's my pleasure to welcome Andy and Ann Iwanchuk as well as Drake to their Assembly here today.

While on my feet, to you and through you, it's also my pleasure to welcome a good friend to the Assembly: Darcy Bendig, someone who served with distinction with an entire career with SaskTel, somebody who is an all-around good guy also. Someone who knows how to handle himself with some wind and water — an incredible athlete, in fact, on the water. And I'm looking forward to hopefully connecting with him sometime, hopefully fairly soon, on Last Mountain Lake. And somebody who's also the uncle to a very incredible person who works in our caucus office, Mel Bendig. It's my pleasure to welcome my friend Darcy Bendig to his Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my leader in welcoming the guests in here, Andy and Ann Iwanchuk. Andy Iwanchuk here has fought so hard for labour rights, and it's so ironic that he's back here after the good fight he fought for Bill 5 and 6 and the right to strike, and here he is. And I just want to congratulate him for his good work and welcome him to his legislature. Thank you, Andy. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great honour today to be able to introduce three very important guests to this Legislative Assembly, sitting in the east gallery. These are my three children, Hannah, Maya, and Nolan. And this is their first day off school and they chose to spend at least some of their time here today. And as all members will know, families play a very important role in all of us getting to this Legislative Assembly, and it's not without sacrifice. So I want to just thank them for their patience and just being all around pretty good kids. Welcome. I invite all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome, seated in the west gallery, Ms. Pam Guest and her sons Liam and Wyatt. Pam has been noted before as a tireless advocate and really a force of nature, so I welcome her here today and I invite all members to do the same.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the member opposite in welcoming Pam Guest and her children to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Pam and I for some time grew up in the same town in Halbrite, Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, it's been some years since we've seen each other and I know Pam is advocating on a very important issue for children in this province and so I'd also want to join with the member opposite and ask all members to help welcome Pam and her sons to the Legislative Assembly.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Today I'll be tabling a special report on the Global Transportation Hub Authority and the Ministry of Health and Infrastructure in accordance with provisions of section 14(1).

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to stand in my place today to present a petition around housing and the home ownership opportunity for the people of northern Saskatchewan. And this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, it relates to the Air Ronge, La Ronge, Creighton, and Denare Beach area as well as many other northern communities. And I'll read the petition prayer, 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 allowing them the dignity of owning their own homes and building communities in our province's beautiful North.

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

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise and present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan. The individuals want to bring to our attention the following: wetlands serve a very vital function in our ecosystem; they are home to wildlife, including waterfowl; and in worst cases, such as some areas on the prairies, as much as 90 per cent of our wetlands have disappeared. As they continue to disappear, so too do the many benefits they provide. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

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

The sequence should first focus on avoiding 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 Estevan and Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again 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 or not they can continue to operate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the prayer:

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to reconsider this decision and restore funding for 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 all across the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege to stand in my place today and present a petition in support of sexual abuse prevention curriculum in Saskatchewan. And I draw attention to the following: Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of sexual abuse, sexual child abuse in Canada, and statistics show that one in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. Up to 90 per cent of perpetrators are known to the victim, and it is estimated that 95 per cent of these cases never get reported.

Mr. Speaker, child sexual abuse has lasting impacts throughout a child's lifetime. These effects include mental health impacts, PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], severe depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and low self-esteem. It also impacts school attendance and achievement and decreased productivity throughout the lifespan.

Mr. Speaker, victims of childhood sexual abuse are more than four times likely to commit suicide, and currently there is no comprehensive elementary or secondary curriculum regarding prevention and reporting of sexual child abuse in Saskatchewan.

The prayer reads as follows:

That the ministry take immediate and concrete action to develop and implement Erin's Law and such legislation would ensure that a comprehensive health education program be developed and implemented which would require age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades pre-K through 12, along with training for school staff on the prevention of sexual child abuse.

The signators to this petition reside in Regina. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Saskatchewan Jazz Festival

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in this Assembly today to announce the 30th annual SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival is having a resounding success this week.

The largest ticketed festival of its kind in Western Canada, the Sask Jazz Festival is an amazing showcase of artists: provincial, national, and international musicians. With about 600 artists performing during the 10 festival days with a range of musical genres such as jazz, rhythm and blues, funk, pop, and more, there was excitement for everyone.

The festival attracts over 85,000 people to the Saskatoon area. SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival has a significant cultural and economic impact on the province. The jazz festival's economic impact in 2016 is estimated to be \$10 million.

This festival could not happen without the 400 volunteers that work hard all week long to make it run smoothly. I'd also like to note that the organization also offers several outreach programs that include a high school jazz intensive educational program, a provincial tour for seniors, jam sessions and workshops, and *Six Degrees of Jazz* film series.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in congratulating the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival on their 30 years in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

High School Graduation Events in Prince Albert

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like many other cities and towns in Saskatchewan, this final week of June is an exciting time for Prince Albert graduating students. All five high schools in our city are holding graduation events this week, and I want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our students and the mentoring and guidance of our teachers. Mr. Speaker, graduation signals the start of a new life. Students have completed their studies and are ready to begin a new phase. The students have many choices to make and many different career paths to choose from. It is my hope that the choices our students make will bring them joy and a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Westmor Community High School held its graduation on Monday, June 27th, and Prince Albert Collegiate Institute, known locally as PACI, held its graduation on Tuesday, June 28th. Graduation for students at Carlton Comprehensive High School was on Wednesday, June 29th. St. Mary's High School and Rivier Academy are having their celebrations today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the 2016 graduating students from Prince Albert and wishing them success in their new adventures and acknowledging the support they have received from their parents and their teachers.

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

Convocation Ceremony

Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Regina campus convocation ceremony on behalf of the Minister of Advanced Education. The accomplishments of 350 graduates were celebrated during the ceremony.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Polytechnic strives to provide programs that meet our province's labour market needs and to provide students with training and the skills necessary to drive economic growth in the province. The Regina campus is doing an excellent job of living up to these goals, as approximately 93 per cent of this year's graduates have already secured employment.

Mr. Speaker, across the province more than 3,000 of the students attending Saskatchewan Polytechnic self-declare as indigenous, more than any other post-secondary institution in Saskatchewan. One of these successful graduates is Sara Vail who has gained employment at GasBuddy Regina, thanks to her successful completion of the new media communications program. Sara received the Governor General's Academic Collegiate Bronze Medal in recognition of her having earned a 94 per cent average, the highest at the Regina campus.

Mr. Speaker, Tim Young, who is known to many of us over here, of Young's Equipment, was also honoured with an honorary diploma. Young's Equipment is a top employer and supporter of Saskatchewan Polytechnic students and graduates.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating all of the graduates and award winners who were celebrated at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Regina campus convocation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Right to Health

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in this House and highlight the 70th anniversary of *The Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act*. This weekend marks a milestone for our province and the important work that was done to ensure that every person in Saskatchewan and every person in Canada has the right to health care.

The right to health is a human right, and our province has shown strong leadership on this front. In 1946 then Premier Tommy Douglas introduced this legislation, and Saskatchewan became the first province offering full hospitalization coverage to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay. This bold move highlights the strong, communal, and caring values of Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, people before us have laid a strong foundation, and we need to ensure that we honour this work. Unfortunately we have seen some of these rights to health being stripped away. We see unequal rights where status First Nations people do not have the same access to health care that other

Saskatchewan residents do, simply because of their identity. We need to do better to get rid of this blatant discrimination in our system.

Mr. Speaker, this anniversary this weekend is a reminder of the work that has been done before us but also of the work we need to do. We must uphold our rights to health and ensure that everyone in Saskatchewan has the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the 70th anniversary of *The Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act*. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twelve new doctors are practising in the province thanks to the most recent results of the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment program. SIPPA is a unique, made-in-Saskatchewan program that assesses international trained doctors on their medical education and clinical ability before allowing them to practise in the province.

This Saskatchewan program opened doors for family doctors trained in countries throughout the world. Since SIPPA began in 2011, more than 190 new family physicians have completed the assessment and have fulfilled or are fulfilling their service commitment to the province. Mr. Speaker, access to physician services continue to improve for people all over Saskatchewan because of this program. The results of this program have been especially important for rural Saskatchewan where approximately 82 per cent of all SIPPA graduates are currently practising.

Attracting and keeping doctors has always been a priority for this government. SIPPA is one of many initiatives to help us meet the health care needs of Saskatchewan residents. Today we have nearly 650 more doctors practising in the province than we did nine years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming these new physicians and their families to Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Dr. Tom Smith-Windsor House in Prince Albert

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Post-secondary students, educators, and health care providers will have reason to celebrate in Prince Albert next week when the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health and I will join them for the grand opening ceremony of a new student housing complex on the grounds of the Victoria Hospital. The \$1.9 million structure has been completed on budget and on schedule using the proceeds of the sale of the old Pineview Terrace Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, the Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority board recently voted to name the building Dr. Tom

Smith-Windsor House in recognition of the man named Family Physician of the Year in 1995 by the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians. Dr. Smith-Windsor worked tirelessly in his family medicine practice, and he is also the associate dean of rural and northern medical education at the University of Saskatchewan's school of medicine.

These units will be used to support locum physicians, health professionals, health care students, and residents in training. It is located next the Victoria Hospital and will help students take part in their health care training in Prince Albert, while performing practise in a more rural setting.

Please join me in celebrating the completion of another project that shows our government's commitment to physician recruitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Fort Qu'Appelle Habitat for Humanity Key Presentation

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today and inform members about a Habitat for Humanity key presentation that I recently attended in Fort Qu'Appelle. Many hands were involved in building this new home. Not only did Habitat for Humanity take a lead on this project, but they also partnered once again with Regina Trades and Skills and Prairie Valley School Division to build this home.

This project engages and trains students in a variety of construction trade areas and provides hands-on experience in building a home from start to finish. Mr. Speaker, our government continues to work with Habitat for Humanity and its partners and volunteers to make home ownership a reality for Saskatchewan families in greatest housing need. Through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, we provided \$65,000 to see this project through. This brings the government's commitment to Habitat for Humanity to a total of \$7.85 million since March of 2009.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Habitat for Humanity and its partners, the town of Fort Qu'Appelle and each student from the Prairie Valley School Division, for showing tremendous leadership and community spirit as they helped yet another Saskatchewan family achieve their dream of home ownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Auditor Recommendations Regarding Global Transportation Hub Transaction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the auditor's report that was released today displays and confirms incredible waste by that government with their GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal. Terrible processes, insufficient processes are described. It does nothing to exonerate that government, that minister. In fact it leads to some incredibly serious unanswered questions.

Exposed in the report are some almost unbelievable facts. It requires answers to further investigation. The report clearly states that the active involvement in the GTH land scandal, the deal, that that minister's involvement was a problem.

Why is the Premier, in his position of trust with the people of Saskatchewan, why did he try to defend a deal as indefensible and wasteful as exposed through this investigation? Why didn't he come clean a long time ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the Provincial Auditor for her report, for her work and the work of her team members in her office.

Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear that there are some recommendations here that need to be acted on — two for the GTH, eight in respect of the Ministry of Highways. I also want to say this for the record, Mr. Speaker. We've said it would be the kind of government that admits to mistakes when they've occurred and then seek to address those mistakes. The mistakes that the auditor has highlighted in the report around the particular parcel of land that's received most of the focus of the debate is a lack of focus and coordination on the part of government in terms of assembling the land, purchasing the land, which may have well led to the land . . . to the prices for the land being too high by the time of purchase. And for that we take responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the context is a massive land assembly for an important project at a time of historically escalating land prices, but that's not an excuse. It is a unique situation. We should have been up to the task of meeting that very unique situation with respect to the land purchases.

I am still confident, based on recent sales at the GTH, that taxpayers are going to actually still make money on the purchase. But we accept the recommendations of the report, Mr. Speaker, and we will be implementing those recommendations.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is no small matter. How incredibly weak and dismissive, Mr. Speaker. The auditor's report finds that they didn't . . . I'd urge members that are heckling to finally read this report to see the holes that are in it . . . [inaudible] . . . push for their constituents for some answers finally of that Premier and this minister.

It didn't have any documentation. The report finds that the GTH consistently pays more, way more than appraised values, and they didn't keep appropriate documentation for the purchase of said land, pages 28 and 29, that the GTH treated landowners unfairly — of course that includes the nuns. There was never even a proper business case done for why they needed this land in the first place, and that the GTH and the GTH board had no clear direction as to how the process of buying land was supposed to happen.

They needed direction from their board Chair. The Chair was the minister. He failed, and millions of hard-earned tax dollars, taxpayers' dollars, were wasted. Why would the Premier, for so

long and to such great lengths, try to defend a deal when the processes were obviously so weak and so suspect?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we do take the matter seriously. That's why we referred the matter to the Provincial Auditor in the first place. That's why there has been an unprecedented level of co-operation between the government and the auditor, including the full access to cabinet documents for the Provincial Auditor. And, Mr. Speaker, as I've already noted in the answer, there's some important recommendations here. The auditor has highlighted what the challenges were with respect to escalating prices and a government's need to have been better co-ordinated, have better communications between the ministries of Highways and the GTH, and we will be implementing those recommendations.

And she does comment on the involvement of the minister. In fact the Provincial Auditor's report says that the GTH minister got involved in the land purchase in the fall of 2013 because he had become "... increasingly concerned about the rapid escalation of land prices around Regina and the GTH's and . . . [Ministry of Highways'] ability to buy the East Parcels in the near term."

Mr. Speaker, so yes, the minister was involved to try to mitigate the cost implications of escalating prices. Moreover, I will read this from the press release that was just issued by the office:

The audit focused on the GTH's processes to acquire land from the private sector. The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or the Board of Directors.

The chairman of the board of the directors is the minister.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, let's remember this is the Sask Party that gutted the mandate that would have actually had the auditor looking at those very things. And if the Premier wants to stand up here and try to whitewash a report of this situation, that's his prerogative. But Saskatchewan people deserve better.

What's almost unbelievable though in this investigation, what's been reported out here today, is that the appraisal from the third party, the third party of course with a relationship to that government, that flipped the land to government, the appraisal that was touted and used as the defence by that Premier, was never even reviewed before government offered to purchase the land. Never even reviewed.

The appraisal that the Premier's been hiding behind, the appraisal that that Premier's been hiding from Saskatchewan people, the appraisal that that Premier has used as his justification to spend this exorbitant sum on this small parcel of land, was never even reviewed. Of course the payments went to the speculators with relationship to government.

Why would the Premier stand behind an appraisal his government never even reviewed before they purchased this

land and wasted dollars? It's almost unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. Why would he stand behind it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I would want to point out for the record that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner had already reviewed, upon the request of the minister, issues related to this transaction, indicating there was no conflict of interest.

Now the Provincial Auditor has quite clearly stated that there was no conflict of interest, neither with respect to the allegations of fraud that the member continues with. They were not found as well with respect to her work.

The Leader of the Opposition, just moments ago, told members on this side of the House to read the report. I invite him to do the same thing, especially given the absurdity of that last question.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the appraisal, with respect to the appraisal, I'm going to say this. The auditor's report states that the agreed-upon sale price "... include considerations (e.g., impact of market conditions at time of sale) in addition to the appraised value ..." In addition to.

There were other factors involved, but we know the appraised value that we're talking about was higher than the price that was actually paid for the land. And since then, we've seen some transactions occur at even a much higher price, even when you add in the cost of servicing the land. And so taxpayers can expect to actually make money on the transaction, even though, as I have already said today, that original purchase could have happened at a lower price had the government, had we, had a better and more coordinated approach, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

But let's be very clear. The recommendations with respect to Highways and GTH are very real and important in terms of the need for action. But the auditor says, and I quote again: "The audit did not find evidence of conflict of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or the board of directors." And the Chair of the board of directors is the minister responsible.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier's getting worked up here today, but he's not answering the questions for Saskatchewan people. And the fact that the very appraisal that that Premier has hid behind — has hid behind day after day, week after week — was never actually reviewed by his government, is absolutely appalling.

In the auditor's report, it actually dismisses the validity of the government's claims about that supposed appraisal. It says that the methodology is incredibly different and actually the appraisal, had government looked at it, was actually on a very, on a portion of that land, on a parcel of the land itself and on land that was valued at a higher value than the other parcel itself.

You know, this is the same appraisal touted by the Premier for months as his defence, the one that was never even reviewed by the government before inking the purchase for that outrageous price. The auditor has stated that, had government actually reviewed this appraisal ... And the Premier should read this report, and I urge him to. It states right in there, had he reviewed this report, they would have seen it for what it is and it would have put government in a position, a position I would hope that would have prevented the waste of millions of dollars.

How can the Premier stand behind this appraisal as his defence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I will read again a quote from the report. The report states that the agreed-upon sale price "... include considerations (e.g., impact of market conditions at time of sale) in addition to the appraised value ..." Mr. Speaker.

Moreover, we know that since the transaction ... The appraised value was for \$129,000 an acre. The actual deal was for \$103,000 an acre. That's what the government eventually paid, and since then we've seen transactions much, much higher than that. So that does not take away from the fact that we need to implement the recommendations of the auditor and recognize that the process could have been better managed by the government and by the cabinet. For that I take responsibility.

But let's be very clear. The appraised value, the appraisal is not completely irrelevant. And the market has weighed in since. The market has weighed in with an actual transaction that's much in excess of that appraisal.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Let's be clear here. The investigation did not fully investigate the relationships or flow of information between the minister, cabinet or government, and the land speculators with a relationship to government.

What is known though, and what's made clear in this report, is that the minister was aware of the need to act and to purchase the 204 acres at the very least, at the very least, months before the company and the land speculator that he apparently rents land from offered that purchase of the land.

My question to the Premier: does the Premier know what information the minister's apparent landlord had that caused him to act to purchase this land?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I want to invite the member to say what he just said outside the House. If he stands by that, he ought to have the courage for that little bit of drive-by smearing we've seen from him and members opposite and from his predecessor. He ought to say it outside the House.

The fact of the matter is that in the first paragraph of the auditor's press release, and I'm going to read it again:

The audit focused on the GTH processes to acquire land from the private sector. The audit did not find evidence of

conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management . . .

The board, or the minister who is the chairman of the board. That's what the auditor said today. So now is your chance to maybe disagree with what the auditor's findings are, if that's your position. I would also say this: just a few weeks ago in this House, when there was a breach of privilege committed by the Finance critic, the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly asked for all members to consider that each other are honourable, that we are all hon. members working to do the work of the people.

In this case we've had the minister say there's no connection. We've had the Conflict of Interest Commissioner say there's no conflict. We've had the auditor say there is no conflict as well for the minister, or the allegations around fraud are at least not founded in this particular report.

Well now is the chance for him to practise what he was preaching, to consider good will and the . . . Well he's not. And the fact that all members have honour, especially when they've clearly said there was no wrongdoing, and it's been supported by independent officers of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier can try to threaten me and try to threaten us all he wants . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. The Assembly come to order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier can point fingers from his chair and make whatever threats he wants. But we're here to do our work and to put him on notice, because the people of Saskatchewan deserve much better answers than they've received right here. And I think it should be noted as well . . . and of course here he is on hot defence of that minister here today when we actually see in this report that there's massive holes and dollars that are wasted and questions that haven't been answered.

And of course this is a government that hasn't been accountable from the get-go. And when taken to committee and the chance to actually give a full mandate to the auditor, that Sask Party, that government that voted down that mandate, which read as follows . . . This was the amendment that would have been added. It would have included that they:

. . . perform a special assignment to fully examine the land purchase, including whether the Premier, Minister Responsible for the Global Transportation Hub, or any other cabinet minister or government official misused public resources, violated appropriate policies and procedures, or failed to negotiate in the best interests of taxpayers in regard to the land acquisition detailed in order in council 44/2014, which was signed by the Premier on February 27, 2014; and further,

if this investigation is too complex to complete before the

election, the Public Accounts Committee requests that the Provincial Auditor provide an interim report . . .

And it goes on. And the Premier says there's no such thing. They could have amended it, but they gutted it. They gutted that mandate. They gutted the investigation and the review of those relationships and the very serious questions that still exist here today.

I guess my question to the Premier: why did his members, why did the Sask Party vote against that mandate? Or why did we not find a workable mandate that'd give full investigation, and why would he hide from an investigation of the relationships and potential flow of information? The question to the Premier: what's he hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — It's an incredible question. At the time of the NDP's [New Democratic Party] proposal for an interim audit, I think it was the Provincial Auditor herself or her offices that said, that really doesn't exist. And moreover, it was this government that referred the matter to the auditor. He said, just before he sits down, he says, what is the government hiding? The government referred the matter to the auditor.

The government, in an unprecedented way, said there'll be open access to everything including cabinet minutes, cabinet documents, interviews with officials, and all of that was provided. And now the auditor has reported that there were challenges, and has made recommendations that we need to respect and honour and implement, and we will.

But she has also said the audit . . . in the press release from the office today:

The audit focused on the GTH's processes to acquire land from the private sector. The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or Board of Directors.

Or the minister. And so what happened earlier was not a threat. It was just simply this: the member has engaged in some drive-by smears. Prior to this day and again on this day he has made some very serious allegations in his questions. There's no threat in simply saying to him, if he has the courage of his convictions to say it outside the House where he does not have the immunity and the protection of the House, he should do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The question's pretty straightforward again. This is a Premier and a government that gutted the scope of the mandate that should have been given to the auditor. Why did they hide from an investigation of the relationships and potential flow of information? What is he hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, page 3 of the report. I would direct my honourable friend to page 3 of the report: "*The Provincial Auditor Act* gives the Provincial Auditor the power

to decide what work needs to be done . . .” The auditor has the power to decide what work needs to be done. “. . . how it is to be carried . . .”

These are the words of the auditor in the report that he was just . . . [inaudible] . . . members to read. I encourage him to do the same thing. It’ll answer his last two questions.

. . . gives the Provincial Auditor the power to decide what work needs to be done, how it is to be carried out, and when. This power to decide extends to special assignments requested of the Office.

In other words, a request that the government made. There is no limitation placed on what the auditor would look at through this report. The report has been made. The recommendations have been made.

Mr. Speaker, the government admits mistakes were made in the acquisition of the land in an environment of escalating prices, and we will accept the recommendations of the report. We also accept the commentary from both now the Provincial Auditor and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. With respect to the minister, with respect to the fact that there was no conflict of interest on the part of the minister, we’ll also accept that, and we hope members on the other side will join us in that regard.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, when the public reads the report, and certainly if the government does as well, they’ll recognize it exonerates no one. And the very appraisal that that Premier has been hiding behind, the one he’s been hiding from the public, was never even reviewed, never even reviewed by that government before they . . . Apparently that was their justification for spending this exorbitant sum on this land. They never even reviewed it. And the auditor says if they had reviewed it, it would have put them in a position, a much better position, and I would hope that would mean they could have stopped a bunch of the waste of millions of dollars.

The reality is, way too much money has been wasted here. Too many unanswered questions exist. Too many potential conflicts. Too many questions about who had information and why. Too many questions regarding the relationship of the minister, cabinet, and government, and land speculators.

The public deserves answers and will demand answers. If the government has nothing to hide, they should have no trouble with a full investigation. Will the Premier finally come clean, ensure we get to the bottom of this, and support a judicial inquiry?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Let’s be very clear. The member now wants a . . . The auditor’s reported. Here’s what the auditor says on page 3 of the report. The Provincial Auditor has the authority to do any kind of investigation she feels is necessary. In her report, it goes on to state, “*The Provincial Auditor Act* gives the Provincial Auditor the power to decide what work needs to be done, how it is to be carried out, and when.” That’s page 3. That last part was a quotation from the Provincial Auditor’s report

that we’re debating. There was no limit to the investigation that happened. The government co-operated fully.

Now the member wants another review. I think the members opposite have made criminal . . . allegations of criminal wrongdoing, and have taken that to the authorities I believe. And so I guess we’ll see where that goes. That process is under way.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say to members that the report deals pretty clearly with the question of wrongdoings, the allegations of fraud or wrongdoing. In fact, it’s in the press release the auditor has just released. I would invite the member to read it. And there was not a conflict according to the auditor’s report, Mr. Speaker, and I think this is a very important point to make.

Also I think it’s important to say that there have been no losses to taxpayers because . . . well, until the land sells. And we’ve seen land selling at GTH for much higher than the government paid. So it is true. And we readily admit that too much might have been paid, even at \$103,000 an acre, but since then, land similar has been selling for \$260,000 an acre. So we have every expectation that the taxpayers will not lose money, even though we readily agree and recognize that there were problems in the process, and we are going to rectify those problems, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Just to explain some basic finances to the Premier, if you are paying way too much for land, then you should be . . . those are dollars wasted . . .

The Speaker: — I would ask the member to direct the question through the Chair, please.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — If the Premier and his government are wasting dollars on spending way more than they should on land, those are dollars that are wasted that are Saskatchewan people’s hard-earned tax dollars. Ludicrous to suggest otherwise. Makes light of a serious situation that’s wasted dollars, and has more unanswered questions at this point than before.

What we have here is a scandal-plagued minister. We have waste on project after project after project from smart meters, from carbon captures, information that hasn’t been shared with Saskatchewan people. And this deal, this deal smells to no end in wasted millions.

[10:45]

But this is no longer, this is no longer about just that minister. This is about this Premier and this cabinet and the culture that they’re presiding over, the waste that they’re accepting, that they’re presiding over. Why has this minister not been canned a long time ago? What’s really going on here?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, a couple of comments I guess. This has been debated, this issue has been debated, and the other issues that the member refers to were subject to debate and very well known to the public prior to the election and very

well known to the people of Kindersley constituency, that returned the member with 70 per cent of the vote, I would point out to the members of the House. And the Finance critic wants to chirp from her seat, Mr. Speaker, and again mischaracterizing the nature of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say this. As Minister of Energy and Resources in the economy over the last eight years, this minister has led the government's efforts to implement a growth plan that has at least contributed to, has at least been helpful to create a period of growth like we have never seen in the province's history, to create 67,000 jobs since the day we were elected, to add population like we have not seen since the days of Walter Scott.

Part of that's been the efforts of government to get the energy policy right, to get royalty policy right, and to deliver on our growth plan. These have been the responsibilities, in part certainly, of the minister. This is why frankly he has the support of members on this side of the House. He has the support of the people of Kindersley. And dare I say, as representative of the government's growth plan and economic agenda, he has the support of the people of the province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, rather stunning here today. A Premier who pretended to enter into question period being contrite about a scathing report that displays waste of millions of dollars, of the hard-earned dollars of Saskatchewan taxpayers. A report that highlights that through the election that he speaks of, the fact that he hid behind a supposed appraisal that was now never actually reviewed by him and his government — and if he had, the auditor cites that, well it would've put government in a much better position — and continues to defend a scandal-plagued minister that's wasted millions of dollars. Quite the culture of a government he's leading.

I guess my question to the Premier is, how can the Premier of Saskatchewan cut meaningful programs, break his funding promise to classrooms, while defending and hiding the facts from Saskatchewan people about this deal that's wasted millions of their dollars?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — First of all, Mr. Speaker, with respect to tone, and with respect to accountability to taxpayers, I do take that very seriously and members on this side of the House take it very seriously. And that's why there has been recognition and an admission that we should've been better coordinated. Notwithstanding escalating land prices, notwithstanding the scale of the project, it's the responsibility of the cabinet to deliver in terms of an effective land assembly. And so in this regard, Mr. Speaker, we made a mistake, and we accept full responsibility for the mistake.

But I'll also make this comment with respect to tone. If a member of this House, if the Leader of the Opposition of this House is going to continue to engage in drive-by smears, is going to continue to allege criminal wrongdoing, notwithstanding the fact that the minister has said there were no

ties to any of the people involved, notwithstanding the fact that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner said there's not a conflict of interest, notwithstanding the fact that the Provincial Auditor today has said the same thing, there are no findings of such, and if that member's just going to continue on throwing mud and smearing hon. members of this House at the same time that he asks for us to treat with respect his colleagues when there's for example a breach of privilege, if he's going to continue to do that, the tone might change.

With respect to the issues he raised in his summation about school funding and the rest of it in the budget, I would point this out again to the member. We campaigned on a platform. We're going to keep the promises in the platform. And then we brought down a budget, subsequent to which there has been a province-wide poll. And in that poll, the support for the Saskatchewan Party, with all of this known, has actually increased.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to earn that support. We will take nothing for granted. We will work hard to earn the support of Saskatchewan people, to deliver effective government, transparent government, a government that recognizes when mistakes are made, and a government that will continue to have a vision for growth, for leadership for this province, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of approach I think that did help earn support on the 4th of April, and that's what people can expect going forward.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — It is my duty to inform the Assembly that in accordance with the sessional order adopted on May 18, 2016, and in accordance with the rule 33(4) for the disposal of final Appropriation bill, the Assembly will now resolve into Committee of Finance to consider financial resolutions.

Clerk: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — I'll call the Committee of Finance to order. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, the sum of \$184,484,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, the sum of \$184,484,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the sum of \$12,888,586,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the sum of \$12,880,586,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — That's carried, on division. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — The Minister of Finance has moved that the committee rise and has agreed to certain resolutions and asks for leave to sit again.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

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

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

The Speaker: — It is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall this committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

The Speaker: — In accordance with rule no. 32(1)(d) and sessional orders dated May 18th, 2016, the minister shall now move first reading of the Appropriation Bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 38 — *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 1)*

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 38, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 38, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 1)* be introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under rule 32(1)(e), I move that the bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 38, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 1)* be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second and third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — I'm advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 11:00 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 18 - *The Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan Act, 2016*
- Bill No. 27 - *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les services de l'état civil*
- Bill No. 3 - *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2016*
- Bill No. 25 - *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016*
- Bill No. 21 - *The Growth and Financial Security Repeal Act*
- Bill No. 22 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2016*
- Bill No. 23 - *The Liquor Retail Modernization Act/Loi de modernisation du commerce des boissons alcoolisées*
- Bill No. 24 - *The Liquor Retail Modernization Consequential Amendments Act, 2016*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has accorded the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour:

- Bill No. 38 - *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 1)*

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:03.]

The Speaker: — I call this Assembly to order.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to question 91.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled answers to question no. 91. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I request leave to make some closing sessional statements.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Expression of Thanks

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As is customary in this Chamber, I'd like to make some session-ending comments. In keeping with the traditions of this legislature, I'd like to do something a little different though. In keeping with the way petitions were put forward, I've got more than one page of notes that I'm going to be speaking from. So, members, I suggest you pit in for a bit.

No in all seriousness, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. And thank you to you, to begin with, for your guidance in this sitting. This was your first time in the Chair and I believe that you have done an outstanding job. I would ask members to join me . . .

I would also like to extend a thank you to all involved in the operation of the Legislative Assembly, starting with the Clerks-at-the-Table: Greg and Iris and Kathy and others. Thank you for your advice, both formally and informally, and also when it's the House Leader saying, what do I do now? So that happens more often than we like to admit, but thank you very much for helping us navigate the procedures and follow the rules of order as we try to do.

From a personal note, I'd like to thank the Premier and all of the colleagues on this side of the House and colleagues on the other side of the House as well for this opportunity. It is certainly something that is a privilege and is a real opportunity to work with everyone in the legislature and to learn a great deal as well.

I'd like to thank members of Executive Council, Jarret Coels, Reg Downs, committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and others who make the committees work and allow us to do our job in this Assembly as well.

On a personal note again, I'd like to thank the Deputy House Leader, the Minister of Immigration, the member from Meadow Lake, the member from Cannington, the member from Biggar, the member from Saskatoon Sutherland-Silverspring — all who I interact with in carrying out the duties of my job, and I'd like to say a big thank you because I believe that it went very, very well.

I'd also like to thank my hon. friend opposite, the member from Regina Elphinstone, the Opposition House Leader. Now he only called me outrageous once, and it wasn't even actually in this Assembly, it was just on paper. But you know, it went really well.

Actually we have a very professional relationship. You know, as all members know, question period and time in this House can be of a combative nature. There is a lot of to and fro, as we saw earlier today, but there also is a lot of co-operation that happens behind the scenes. And for that, I'd like to thank the member from Regina Elphinstone and all members of the opposition and certainly all members of the government as well.

As we all know, and sometimes we take for granted, but we try to remind ourselves the many, many people that work very hard to ensure that this Legislative Assembly runs smoothly. I'd just like to mention Hansard, broadcast services, library services, financial services, the commissionaires and security staff, building staff, cafeteria staff, the Pages, the interns, and custodial staff.

And I want to make a special mention of an individual that I've had the chance to interact with, usually on a daily basis as I come in the legislature, and that's Marlene Crofts. She's just a special hello and a bright smile to all members, and I want to thank her for her job and making our job easier.

Also a special thank you to our Sergeant-at-Arms. We welcomed him here not too long ago, although he's a very familiar face in other roles that he's had in the Legislative Assembly. And I want to congratulate him on his retirement and to assure him that his presence will be missed in this Assembly. I ask the members to join me.

I'd like to thank members of the media for holding the government and opposition to account, to ensuring that the message gets out to the people of Saskatchewan. I understand one of those members has a special day today, a birthday. I hear that she has been suitably recognized by the member from Saskatoon Southeast and the member from Rosetown. So I wish her well with that.

We also want to say thank you very much to members of our families and those that do the work outside of this Legislative Assembly. The CAs [constituency assistant] and the special people that we employ in our office and do work for us and the volunteers as well. That's something that goes without notice sometimes, and we want to say thank you.

On a personal note, we want to say thank you to our families. I don't have an opportunity to say thank you to my family — to Trish and Carter and Paige — often enough, so I'd like to do that at this time.

I think we'll all agree that this was a different type of session, not the regular sessional calendar that we are accustomed to, so it necessitated a lot of negotiation. I believe that that went very well.

If we think back, we remember at the beginning of session, we had the unveiling of the dome and it signalled a renewal of this building. And I think the election campaign and the new members of this Legislative Assembly suggested a renewal of the operations inside this Assembly as well.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, one of the special things . . . yes, we had the Speech from the Throne and the budget, but for me one of the special things was getting to know the new members,

hearing their maiden speeches, and understanding a little bit about them, and what special qualities each of them have to bring them to this place. So I must say that that was a highlight of this Assembly as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to go on and on. I just want to say to all my colleagues, I wish that they have a happy Canada Day, a safe Saskatchewan summer. God bless and we'll see you all in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader has taken the better parts of my speech, so of course it'll be a very short speech.

But I just want to start off the top, and I've referenced this before, but I had the privilege as a young person interested in politics to get to know a fellow by the name of Ed Whelan, who is a six-term CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] out of northwest Regina. And Ed, you know, was very definite in the advice that the two most important words in political life are thank you.

And that's what I'm here to do today, Mr. Speaker, is to say thank you to those outside the building, to friends and family — as the Government House Leader has very thoughtfully and nicely put it — friends, family, neighbours, the folks that keep us all grounded; the public servants that do the work on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan; the constituency assistants that are there to help the people who sent us here.

I want to say thank you to those within the building certainly, and again you know, the Clerk does the best they can with the Opposition House Leader. They tell me, you know . . . I go confess at the Table; they tell me to go and sin no more, and then yet I'm back the next day.

But certainly the Clerk's office and everyone there, the tremendous work that they do and the way that that extends out into the Legislative Assembly Service. And again I couldn't agree more with the Government House Leader around Marlene. She is symbolic of the cast of hundreds that make this work possible, that do this work with us for the people of Saskatchewan. So from the library services, broadcast services, the cafeteria folks, the security, press gallery — it's quite a bunch.

And I also want to say a special word of thanks and commendation to our retiring Sergeant-at-Arms, Maurice Riou. And here's an individual . . . One of the things I always think about when I think about Moe, I had opportunity as a younger minister, my first at bat in committee to do supplementary estimates and, you know, it's a nervous time, to be honest. And one of my officials had a medical emergency before we even got started into the proceedings. And of course, there were different people responding and, you know, members from the opposition, members from the government, and certainly officials coming to bear, to do what they could to help this individual through this medical emergency.

And Moe was steady like the rock through that whole thing, and

that person went on to make a full recovery. And I always like to think that that had a lot to do with the great and steady work of Moe Riou and the work that he does for us all the time. So it's with some sadness that I see his retirement coming up and, you know, that chapter of his life coming to a great end. But again, you know, thank you so much, Moe, for all that you've done on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. It's been much appreciated.

I want to say thank you to my leader who of course is now leaving. Can't take thanks, I guess is the thing, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say thank you to my caucus colleagues and certainly to the caucus staff. And again, Mr. Speaker, we do the best we can. We've come through an interesting election certainly, and we're again sorting out those roles that are key to the work that we do on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. But through all that, I thank my colleagues and the folks that I have the privilege of working with on a daily basis when the session is on. I thank them for their patience, and I thank them for their contribution.

And I want to say you know, moving towards the end here, I want to say thank you very much to the Government House Leader, the member from Silverspring, the Deputy House Leader, the member from Meadow Lake, and everyone involved in the House leadership process on that side and you know, more broadly to all the members.

The Government House Leader's stated it correctly that there's a lot of passion that is involved in this Assembly, and certainly sometimes that leads to some pretty, pretty contentious places and conflict and all of that. But I guess one thing that I appreciate is the co-operative and straightforward way in which those two individuals carry the work and trying to make sure that the procedural aspects are as straight ahead as possible and that you know, the conflict that we'll have on matters of policy, matters of politics, that that doesn't take away from the greater pursuit of serving the people of Saskatchewan.

Lastly or second lastly, I'd like to thank yourself. You know, it's been an interesting session. And certainly I think, you know, it's been interesting, and certainly it's again no small feat. There are very few number of people in the history of Saskatchewan that have occupied that chair, have occupied that office, and I know that you bring to that a commitment to do that job with honour, with fairness, and with fealty to the parliamentary democracy that we all believe in. And I just want to say we wish you well and pledge our co-operation in trying to do that work along with you. So best of luck in the days ahead.

And I guess lastly, I'd say thank you very much to the people of Saskatchewan, and you know, whether they voted for us, or more likely not, in the last election, Mr. Speaker. The Government House Leader is referencing this in terms of coming into the building today, and certainly coming down Albert Street . . . And Canada Day being tomorrow, and the Canadian flags flying across that Wascana bridge, the dome starting to shine, and at the same time, you know, darkening colour on the shore. It's a tremendous job that we have to do for the people of Saskatchewan. It's a tremendous privilege, and that is something that we always try to keep in mind as we set

about doing this work.

I'll end it there, Mr. Speaker, but I wish everyone safe and, you know, enjoyable days ahead. And we certainly look forward to getting back into, you know, the work around committee into the fall session. But for that, I'd wish everyone an enjoyable and happy summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'm going to join in with both House leaders, and I've got a few comments. A lot have been already said. It's even more difficult to go third place in thanking everyone in the building, but I'll give it a shot. And I'm also quite aware that I'm what's standing between you guys and lunch, so we'll make this as quick as possible.

Just quickly I'd like to thank both House leaders. And I think we've been trying to improve the decorum. I think all members in this Assembly have been doing their part to improve the decorum in this Assembly. And I'd like to thank the House leaders for their roles and the individual members that we may have addressed things before they boiled over, and trying to keep the train on the tracks and making sure that we run as smoothly as possible, as effectively as possible as an Assembly. I thank all the members for their role in that.

I'd like to also take the opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work this session. Thank you to the members for their many hours of service to Saskatchewan, for the long hours and days away from their families. And also a special thank you for the families of all members. It's their sacrifice of the members being away from home in the service of Saskatchewan that are the true people that have sacrificed lots for our ability and our honour to serve in this role.

As new role as the Speaker, it's been just a huge honour to be elected the 28th Speaker of this Assembly. It's been a steep learning curve, but I'm sad to say that I'm going to miss this sitting. And it's true, if you love what you do, it doesn't seem like work, and it hasn't seemed like work for the last 26 days. I look forward to coming back and continuing our work in the fall.

To the new members, thank you and congratulations in first winning your seat and completing your first session. It's been a learning experience for all new members. And to the members that have young families — and we've been trying to make this as family-friendly building as possible — and to also members that maybe are caring for their parents, is to realize that the role of Speaker, I will do as much as I can to make this as family friendly for young families and for people that are taking care of their parents. I think that's important.

While this Assembly will likely not sit until the fall, I know the work does not end and committee work will continue throughout the recess period. Now the work that we do in session is probably the most high profile, but it could be argued that more work is put in to when we're out of session. This is the time that we hear first-hand from the true masters, the people of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to thank the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] staff: the Clerks; the officers; the Pages; Hansard; Sergeant-at-Arms, incoming and outgoing; and the interns, the caucus staff, the

cafeteria staff, Central Services building staff. Their hours are often as long or, in the case of Hansard, longer than those of the members.

I'd also like to thank my staff — Sheila and Connie and Cherisse — for their support especially in dealing with the programs and initiatives such as SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] and the education outreach program which ran out of the Speaker's office. And also because of being a new Speaker, they have been just fabulous in bringing me up to speed, and I thank them so much in their ability to make sure things run as smoothly as possible.

So with that, I'd like just to thank the Clerks one last time because they have been so important in my role as the new Speaker in quickly getting up to speed as much as possible, and I do thank them.

So with that, I too would wish everyone a safe summer, and we'll see you shortly.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 19th, at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:25.]

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