



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

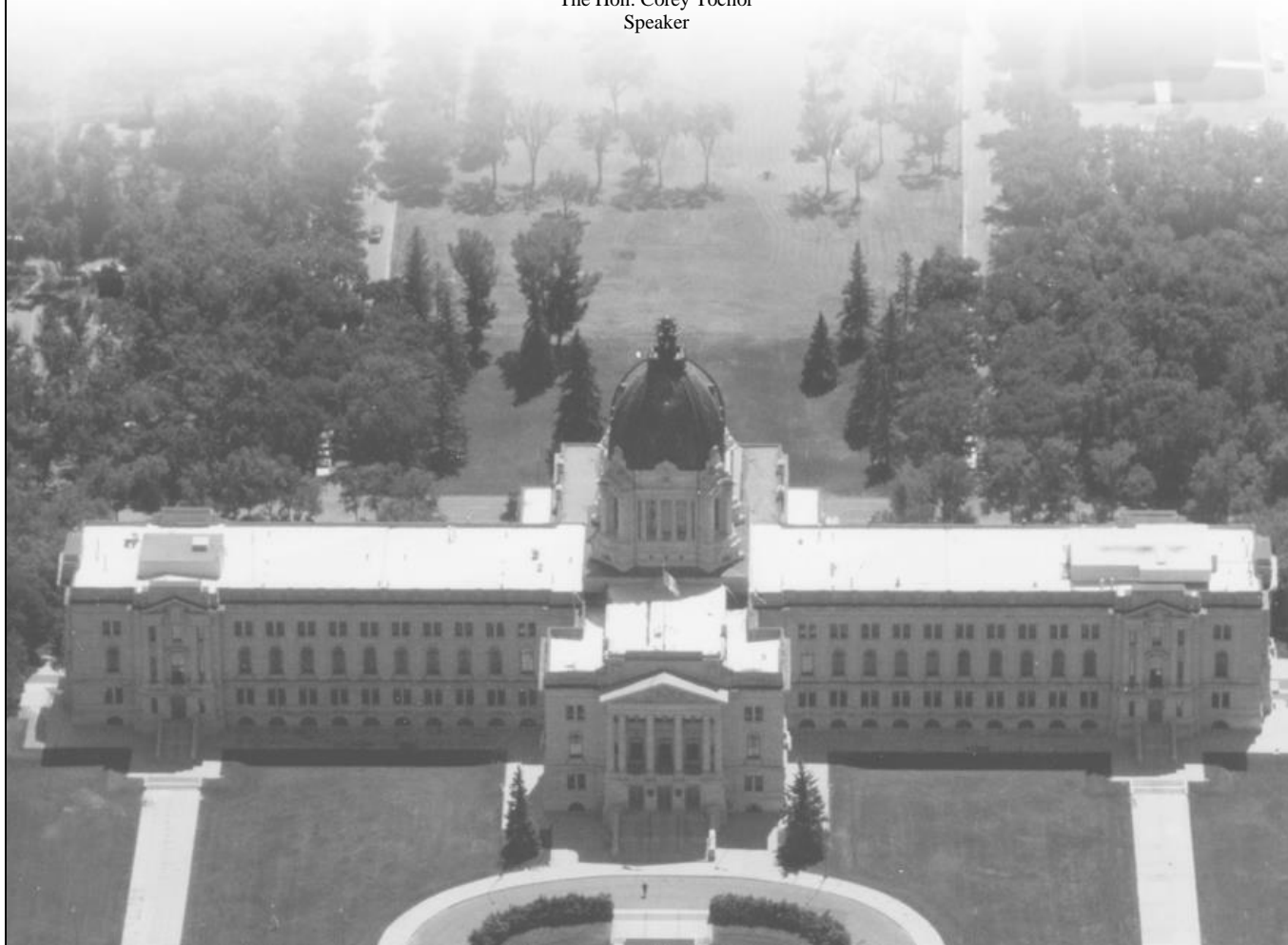
of the

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, Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Boyd, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Brkich, Greg — Arm River (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Campeau, Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

Carr, Lori — Estevan (SP)

Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cox, Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

D'Autremont, Dan — Cannington (SP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Docherty, 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, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Hargrave, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

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

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Heppner, 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, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (Ind.)

Merriman, Hon. 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)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 50; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10; Independent (Ind.) — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/legislative-calendar>

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — Members, I would like to make a ruling on a point of order raised yesterday by the Opposition House Leader concerning a statement made by the Minister of Energy and Resources in exchange with the member from Nutana during question period on October 26th, 2016.

The Opposition House Leader stated that the minister had contravened rule No. 51(f) by using the phrase “false information that was provided by the member from Nutana” and suggested the minister withdraw the comments and apologize. The Government House Leader responded that the minister did not disregard the rule and requested that I review the minister’s comments.

I reviewed *Hansard* and I am prepared to rule on the matter. The minister said, and I quote from page 909 of *Hansard*, “I’m not sure where to start in my response to all the false information that was provided by the member from Nutana.”

Beauchesne’s, 6th Edition, paragraph 494 says:

It is not unparliamentary temperately to criticize statements made by Members as being contrary to the facts; but no imputation of intentional falsehood is permissible. On rare occasions this may result in the House having to accept two contradictory accounts of the same incident.

This was supported by the Speaker Kowalsky on March 8th, 2007 when he stated that the test is whether the words “. . . imply direct intent to falsify.”

I find that minister’s statement did not imply that the member was intentionally falsifying information, but that the information stated by the member was, in his opinion, false. Therefore I find the point of order not well taken.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it’s a great pleasure today to introduce some very special people that have joined us. They’re seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I’ll ask them each perhaps

to give us a wave as I introduce them as I mention their name. We’ll begin with His Excellency Dr. Teuku Faizasyah, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Canada. He is joined by his wife Andis. Also, Christophorus Barutu is the trade attaché of the Indonesian embassy and is here with us this morning. Mr. Yusuf Wiharsoyo is the assistant to the trade attaché. They’re joined in our gallery by someone who is no stranger to this Assembly, Rob Norris. The former Saskatoon member has joined us here this morning. Rob is here today in his role as Chair of the Canada World Youth organization. I’m wondering if soon he won’t be age-disqualified from serving in that.

Mr. Speaker, to say that Saskatchewan enjoys a great and mutually beneficial relationship with Indonesia would be an understatement, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan in fact of all of the Canadian provinces is the leading exporter to Indonesia; in fact 42 per cent of all of the exports from our country, from Canada to Indonesia, come from the province of Saskatchewan. And so it’s important for us on occasions like this to say to the ambassador and through him to his people, thank you very, very much.

There are literally thousands of Saskatchewan families that are gainfully employed, that benefit directly from the fact that our exports in 2015 to Indonesia were \$760 million. They included wheat and potash, wood pulp, and canary seed. So again it’s very important for us to say thank you. I think the partnership will grow. Part of the government’s efforts to diversify our export markets has been to really focus on the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] regions, to focus on countries like Indonesia. And so we’re going to continue to work to develop the partnership and ensure that it’s mutually beneficial because we know that’s very much the point of a trade relationship the likes of which we want to have with that region and with Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, the official motto of Indonesia is “unity in diversity,” similar to Saskatchewan’s “from many peoples, strength.” And we have much in common beyond commerce, and we want to again further the relationship. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly take the opportunity now to welcome and thank His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia to Canada and his wife and officials from the embassy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it’s my honour to join with the Premier and welcome this esteemed delegation, this Indonesian delegation here today to the Saskatchewan Assembly.

The relationship that Saskatchewan has with Indonesia is an incredibly important relationship highlighted in the words certainly by the Premier, exemplified in our very important trade relationship, but one that extends much further through to values that we espouse and live by as well. So it’s my honour to welcome His Excellency, along with his wife; as well as the representative, the ambassador from the embassy; and someone who’s a good friend to many in this Assembly, Rob Norris.

It’s a pleasure to welcome Mr. Norris back to his Assembly. I’d

be interested in fact in what some of his views are on some of the debates that are in front of us here today. But I value his participation here today. I wish him well with his work with both the University of Saskatchewan as well with Canada World Youth. And I just join the Premier here today to welcome not just Mr. Norris but, most importantly, this very important Indonesian delegation to Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I'll take this opportunity to introduce a guest in our Assembly today. On August 3rd, 2016 the Board of Internal Economy recommended to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan that Mr. Corey O'Soup be appointed to a five-year term in the role of Advocate for Children and Youth for the province of Saskatchewan effective November 1st, 2016. Joining us today in the Speaker's gallery are Mr. O'Soup and his wife, Jacinda, and the members of his family and friends. Corey, if you would give us a quick wave up there.

All members are welcome to join me at a come-and-go welcome reception for Mr. O'Soup this afternoon in room 218 from 12:30 until 2. Please join me in welcoming Mr. O'Soup to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would also like to extend a warm welcome and introduction to Corey O'Soup. Corey is Saskatchewan's first Children's Advocate who is First Nations and was the unanimous choice of the Board of Internal Economy for this position.

He's a former teacher, executive director for education, post-secondary ed, and training for the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] and, most recently, the First Nations and Métis adviser for the Ministry of Education.

After the tragic events in La Loche earlier this year, Corey led the government's response and worked tirelessly with the community in the days and weeks following the shootings. I've been told by many people that Corey is positive and passionate for community building and improving the lives of all children. And he and I have already had an opportunity to speak and I can certainly attest to that.

As the Speaker noted, he's married to Jacinda and they have five children. So he's well versed for this position, obviously. He recently said that he hopes his appointment to this role will tell his kids that they can be anything they want to be, which is fantastic.

Joining Corey today, and this list is quite long so forgive me for this. Jacinda O'Soup, Corey's lovely wife; Kayla O'Soup; Rhys O'Soup; Mia O'Soup; Enoch O'Soup; Sophy O'Soup; Allan O'Soup; Carole O'Soup — you guys have your own football team. Eileen Christopherson, Penny Rockthunder, David O'Soup, Grace Beck, Richard Beck, Chief Rodney Brass are here with you. Leah Brass, Greg Miller, Julie MacRae, Chuck Armstrong, and Holly Armstrong are all here to support you, Corey. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the loyal opposition and as a member of the board that went through the hiring process, I wanted to say welcome Corey O'Soup to his new role as Children's Advocate. He's going to provide I think excellent leadership in this role. It's a hugely important one. And I know our critic here as well is going to be looking forward to working with Corey. But being young and fresh eyes and First Nations, this is going to be really exciting to see his approach to making sure all children in this province have a strong advocate in that office.

And so I also want to welcome your family. This is an exciting day. And also the staff of the Children's Advocate's office, because I know they do outstanding work, thank you so much. And I welcome them to their legislature. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to join with you and the Minister of Social Services and the member across to introduce, welcome obviously, the Children's Advocate, a man I've known for a long time and come to really know and love and respect. But to focus on the ones behind him, namely his mother and father, Pastor Allan and Carole O'Soup from the Key First Nation, Mr. Speaker. Had the opportunity to spend last Friday night with them, and we talked a lot about Corey and his family and how very proud they are of them and how proud all of us are of Corey as well.

But to mention that, you know, Carole and Allan are here today, and to focus on the work that they've done in this province, Mr. Speaker, and outside the province, their ministry, their evangelical work that they've done around the world in fact, it's hard to mention the impact that they've had. And they are truly amazing people. They're mentors and great examples to me as well. And I just want to make mention of them in this Assembly, make sure everybody welcomes them as well. And also mention Allan said it was over 30 years since he's been in this building. So welcome back to the building, Allan. Carole, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the members in welcoming Mr. Corey O'Soup to his Legislative Assembly. And just to say *ahneen sikwa*, and to say with all these Brasses and O'Soups here, I don't know if a Key First Nation band council meeting is going to break out or something like that, but it's good to see you here and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

I also, while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to draw attention to folks seated in predominantly the western gallery but some in the eastern gallery as well. These are members of Unifor and in the main, Mr. Speaker, they represent workers from SaskTel. And these are workers that are concerned about the future of that organization which they play a tremendous part in building an institution that has innovation, good service, and good value for the people of Saskatchewan. And these are workers that take a great deal of pride in that work, Mr.

Speaker, so it's a great thing to see them here today at their Legislative Assembly. If all members could join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome these people from Unifor to the Assembly today. I want to thank them for their hard work, the commitment they've made not just to SaskTel but to our province. The one thing that we share with them is a desire and a commitment to keep those jobs well and alive in our province of Saskatchewan, something that is incredibly important to all of the citizens of this province. And we thank them for the great work that they do.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, I want to introduce a couple of individuals in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. We have Mr. Kris Jones and Cally Stephanow there. Mr. Speaker, Kris was a previous constituent of Rosthern-Shellbrook, growing up in the Medstead area with his parents there, Randy and Audrey Jones, on a farm just to the southwest of Medstead.

Mr. Speaker, he had the opportunity to work in this building, in the minister's office of Advanced Education, for a couple of years. I had the opportunity to work with Kris, and we'd sit in there and long about being back home in the Medstead, Shellbrook, and in the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook.

But he has since left and he is off to Queen's University to further his studies, Mr. Speaker, and we hope to have him back here in the province before too long. So to all members, I ask you to join me in welcoming Kris and Cally to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I'd like to welcome all guests to the Assembly today, but I would like to also remind them that they're not to take part in the debate, which includes applause.

With that, we'll move on to presenting petitions.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to stop the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council Inc., NORTEP [northern teacher education program].

As a recent report shows that 94 per cent of the NORTEP grads found employment in the North, and the North has improved teacher retention rates in northern Saskatchewan overall. NORTEP has had a very positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan, and it provides high-quality, face-to-face instruction and services to the students.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, the province's financial deficit cannot be fixed by cutting indigenous education in the North and a program that has served the North for over 40 years. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately restore their five-year agreement to fund the NORTEP program, and to continue funding NORTEP-NORPAC programs in La Ronge.

And we have many petitions signed throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, and the three pages of petition that I'm going to present today have been signed by people from Air Ronge, La Ronge, from Regina, from Fond-du-Lac. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, they, like those of us in this House and indeed I think everyone across this province, were shocked and appalled when Prime Minister Trudeau unilaterally announced his national carbon tax, and at a terrible timing, right when our provincial and territorial Environment ministers were meeting and working hard to find a solution to our carbon emissions in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the people who signed these petitions agree — and I talked to a lot of them as they were signing — with the innovation and technology such as our investment in Boundary dam 3 and the vast investment that we have made, we'll do far more to solve the problems of carbon CO₂ emissions than will any carbon tax. A view, Mr. Speaker, that was also shared by the UN [United Nations] secretary at a COP [Conference of the Parties] 21 last December when they outlined in their report the good work that's being done here in Saskatchewan, and is certainly highlighted in that report the work that Saskatchewan is doing to reduce CO₂ emissions. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that as follows, we respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to ensure the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by the good citizens of Battlefords, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Shellbrook, Speers, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Holbein, Cameo, Canwood, Mayfair, Wild Rose, Leoville and Victoire. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition regarding the protection of wetlands in our system. They serve a very vital function in our ecosystem, and they take the form of marshes, bogs, fens, swamps, and open

water. They're home to wildlife including waterfowl, and they clean the water running off of agricultural fields. In some parts of the prairies, as much as 90 per cent of our wetlands have disappeared, and as they disappear so too do the many benefits that they provide. Sound wetland policy will allow Saskatchewan to provide sustainable development for all sectors of business in the province. I'd like to read to prayer:

We, in the petition 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; and

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

Mr. Speaker, the petitions I present today are signed by citizens from Saskatoon and Delisle. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of Wakamow Valley Authority. And we know that as a result of the passage of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* on June 30th, the Wakamow Valley Authority lost statutory funding of \$127,000 from the Saskatchewan government, in addition to \$30,000 supplementary funding. And this loss of annual funding negatively affects the ability of Wakamow to maintain its lands and repair its facilities and provide services to Moose Jaw. This funding cut resulted in a layoff of one-third of the park staff, which included two summer students and two regular employees. But, Mr. Speaker, on June 21st, 2016 the provincial government, including the members from Moose Jaw, voted in favour of this bill resulting in cuts to Wakamow and subsequent job losses. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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 immediately repeal *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* and reinstate statutory funding to the Wakamow Valley Authority.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert

Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present to you a petition condemning the Saskatchewan Party's cuts to the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program. After nearly a decade of wasting the economic boom and blowing through the savings, the government is now forcing the province's most vulnerable people to pay for the Sask Party mismanagement. The Sask Party's latest cold-hearted cut will take money away from people who are unable to work due to a disability. The many people who are being hurt by the Sask Party cuts live with serious illnesses such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, autism, and many other illnesses. And contrary to the Minister of Social Services's claims, the government underfunds clients in regards to shelter allowance, and shelter allowance should be reflective of the current rental costs. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to stop their plan to cut the SAID funding and immediately restore funding for those living with a disability; that shelter allowance is reflective of the current rental costs; and that the Saskatchewan Party government implement the recommendations of the advisory group on poverty reduction.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions were signed by people living in the communities of Prince Albert, Hagen, St. Louis, and North Battleford. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of sexual abuse prevention curriculum in Saskatchewan. The undersigned of this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: the fact that Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of child sexual abuse in Canada; that Stats Canada data shows that 55 per cent of all victims of sexual offences were children under the age of 18.

Child sexual abuse has lasting impact throughout the child's lifetime, including PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Those impacts also include decreased school attendance and achievement, decreased productivity throughout the lifespan. Victims of sexual child abuse are four times more likely to commit suicide, and currently there is no comprehensive elementary or secondary curriculum regarding prevention and reporting of sexual child abuse in Saskatchewan. As a province, it is our shared responsibility to protect children and youth, to educate them, as every child has the right to be protected and safe. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan take immediate concrete action to develop and implement Erin's law, and that 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 grade 12, along with training school staff on the prevention of child abuse.

Mr. Speaker, those signing this petition today are from Regina. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present another batch of petitions calling for a stop to the Sask Party plan to sell off SaskTel. The petitioners point out that after nearly a decade of wasting the economic boom and blowing through the savings, the government is now forcing Saskatchewan people to pay for Sask Party mismanagement.

They point out that in the recent campaign, Brad Wall . . . Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government promised they would not privatize SaskTel. They point out that instead of looking at their own waste and scandal, the Sask Party is now talking about breaking their promise and looking to sell off SaskTel to make a quick dollar. And we know they're looking at a few different ways to do that, Mr. Speaker. And in the prayer that reads as follows:

The petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to keep their promise, stop their plan to sell off SaskTel, and keep our valued Crown corporation in the hands of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this particular batch of petitions is signed by individuals from Harris, Esterhazy, Rocanville, Drake, Bredenbury, Saskatoon, Grandora, and Swift Current, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to reverse the cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. The Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-2017 provincial budget. And as we know on this side, the Aboriginal court workers play an important role helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases, that Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres, and Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan reverse its short-sighted and counterproductive cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program.

Mr. Speaker, those who signed this petition today come from the Regina area, and I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and the GTH [Global Transportation Hub].

Remembering Jim Prentice

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — On October 14th, I lost a friend. Canada lost a statesman, and a family lost a husband and father. On that day the Hon. Jim Prentice, former MP [Member of Parliament], federal cabinet minister, and Premier of Alberta was tragically killed. Jim was a true public servant in every sense of the term. He was there to serve. He was a gentleman, and he was a leader.

I knew Jim from my time in PC [Progressive Conservative] youth politics in Alberta nearly 20 years ago. We were rookie members of parliament together. We shared a critic portfolio in opposition. After we formed government in 2006, Jim was tasked to chair the operations committee of the cabinet, which in essence made him the deputy prime minister.

I had the privilege to work with him daily during this time. What I saw was a man of truly monumental talents, able to manage the most complex and difficult issues imaginable with dexterity and compassion, a work ethic that drove him to master details and understand nuance, and judgment that allowed him over and over again to make the right decision for the right reasons.

Jim was respected by all those he interacted with in public life, which speaks volumes to his character. He will be deeply missed as a public figure, and Canada will be the lesser for his absence. I will miss the private man I knew: a great person, a dedicated family man, a valued source of advice, and a dear friend. Tomorrow Jim will be laid to rest. We will miss him.

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

Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this week is Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan, as has been noted. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan holds the shameful distinction of having some of the worst rates of violence in the country, two times the national rate. But there are many groups here in Regina and across this province that are doing great work to close that gap and to save lives.

The Provincial Association of Transition Houses Saskatchewan, or PATHS for short, does great work in this province, coordinating and advocating for women's shelters and services across Saskatchewan. They do work to provide training for the workers in women's shelters so they can give the best possible care and support for women who are facing violence.

Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnership Solutions to Violence, or STOPS to Violence, is working hard to make sure that everyone in our province is able to be safe and free from violence. With specific programs and resources to help women, new Canadians, LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] folks, indigenous peoples, seniors, and people with disabilities, STOPS to Violence focuses on the people in our province who are at most risk for violence.

Mr. Speaker, we all need to do so much more to address violence in our province, but I ask all members to join me today

in recognizing Violence Prevention Week and by thanking PATHS and STOPS for the great work that they do to make Saskatchewan a safer place for everyone.

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

Regina Pulse Week

Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pulse crops are important for Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and are a major source of our province's global exports. They're not only good for the economy but also for our health and the environment. Pulses are packed with nutrients. Pulses are one of the best sources of fibre on earth. They contain vitamins and minerals, including iron, potassium, and folate. Pulses can help prevent type 2 diabetes, reduce bad cholesterol levels, and lower the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Mr. Speaker, this week has been designated Regina Pulse Week. It was created by Economic Development Regina and Tourism Regina to bring awareness about the impact of the pulse industry in our local community, province, and the world. It also coincides with the United Nations declaring 2016 the Year of Pulses.

Mr. Speaker, events have taken place all week, and it will culminate with a restaurant contest, media tour, and power lunch and reception, VIP [very important person] dinner tomorrow. As one would expect, pulse crops will be featured in the menu, and I hope all members can check out these local dishes.

[10:30]

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in acknowledging the global value of pulse crops, our local producers who grow them, as well as sponsors and volunteers of the week who are bringing awareness to this amazing crop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Pelagie Maurice Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine who just turned 102 years old.

Pelagie Maurice was born in Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan on October 24, 1914 to Daniel Malboeuf and Marie Jourdain. Her mother died in the spring during the 1918 worldwide flu pandemic. Her father died the following fall. Pelagie's grandmother, Anne Bekkattla, took care of her, and with the help of people like George and Germaine Murray, who provided fresh game from the forest, they never went hungry with their help.

Her grandmother sent Pelagie to a nearby Beauval Indian residential school at a very young age, where she lived until she was married. She married Jacob Maurice, a man that she had not met until she was at the altar on July 12th, 1932. A priest at the boarding school had arranged their marriage.

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

In Cree, Mr. Speaker, I asked how did she feel about meeting her husband on the day of her wedding because it was an arranged marriage. And she said, well when he walked in the church, I found him very handsome, she said.

Pelagie and Jacob went on to raise 12 children and 2 grandchildren. She always loved to knit and sew throughout her life. Pelagie celebrated her 102nd birthday with her family early this week in Beauval, and her memory is incredible. She is continually consulted about many past events in northwestern Saskatchewan. She is a living encyclopedia of historical facts, family trees, and stories, and speaks Cree, Michif, French, English, and some Dene.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of a very fine lady from northwestern Saskatchewan, Mrs. Pelagie Maurice, and wish her a very happy birthday.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Reopening of Choiceland Museum

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to be invited to join with the community of Choiceland on August 20th to celebrate the grand reopening of the Choiceland museum. A dedicated group of volunteers and board members all worked together to make sure that the museum's new location was ready at the former St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Mr. Speaker, the master of ceremonies was treasurer Jan Misselbrook who guided us through the event where the history of the region and the museum was showcased. It was great to see so many of the original founding members present at the grand reopening of the museum, first founded in 1995.

President Thelma Kelsey cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. In addition to the ribbon cutting, there was live music, local art displays, friendly community leaders, and of course, Choiceland and district's rich history on display. The whole community supported this many months of work to get to this celebration, which I can personally attest to as I walked through the museum, visited with young and old, and thoroughly enjoyed the numerous homemade pies on hand.

Mr. Speaker, many small towns across Canada have amazing local museums like the one in Choiceland that are key to preserving our rural heritage. I would like to ask all members to join with me in congratulating the museum association, their volunteers, and community of Choiceland on the grand reopening of their museum. Thank you.

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

Local Entrepreneur Named to Coaches Council

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — One of the great things about my job is getting to learn about all the amazing things that people are doing across the province of Saskatchewan. And as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, it is my pleasure to recognize an outstanding accomplishment of a local Regina business leader.

Many of us are familiar with Forbes, the Forbes company, which is a financial and economic leader. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month Heather Pinay, a business consultant and owner of Authentically: Business & Life Solutions, was invited to become a member of the prestigious Forbes Coaches Council. The honour of joining this invitation-only organization is extended to a select number of business, career, and professional coaches.

At the time Heather was welcomed into the council, its exclusive membership was comprised of just 300 members from North America, including just five from Canada. I think it is just tremendous that a woman and an entrepreneur from Saskatchewan is now on that panel. Mr. Speaker, Heather is the first member of the council from Saskatchewan.

As a member of the Forbes Coaches Council, she and her business will be able to take advantage of exclusive benefits and resources, including having the opportunity to have articles regularly published on the Forbes web page, which has nearly 38 million monthly readers.

Heather started her business, Authentically, in February of this year and it has already achieved tremendous success, making an impact on nearly 35 Saskatchewan-based businesses. I've had the opportunity to work with Heather and her team, and I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Heather Pinay on being named to the Forbes Coaches Council, and in wishing her continued success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Banquet

Mr. Fiaz: — Mr. Speaker, last night the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres hosted their Celebrate Success Banquet. This banquet is hosted by SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres] each year to recognize the achievements of some extraordinary Saskatchewan residents who have done important work improving the lives of individuals experiencing disabilities.

Dutch Industries was honoured with the Employer of Excellence Award, and Ethos Salon was presented the Volunteer of Distinction Award.

Additionally, Greg Sommerfeldt, Aaron Magnus, Ryan Bender, and Trudy Linka received Al McGuire Awards in recognition of enhancements they made to their own lives in life skills, employment, community involvement, and independent living.

Mr. Speaker, SARC does outstanding work furthering employment opportunities for individuals experiencing disabilities and also works collaboratively with the Ministry of Social Services on a variety of projects that benefit community-based organizations, individuals, and families across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our government-wide investment to support people with disabilities is over \$3 billion since 2008. Organizations like SARC and individuals like award winners supporting our vision . . . Mr. Speaker, please join me in

congratulating the winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Privatization of Crown Corporations

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Betrayal. Desperate. Unacceptable. A desperate, damaging sell-off. These are just some of the words that I've been hearing from people all across Saskatchewan since the announcement yesterday that the Sask Party government is moving forward with massive privatization of our Crown corporations.

Our Crowns were built by and for Saskatchewan people. They deliver a massive economic and public benefit. The Premier, the Premier promised not to privatize them. Hand over heart, he took the pledge to Saskatchewan people. Now he's throwing it all away just to make a quick buck.

Why does he think, why does he think he can break that promise and betray Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my honourable friend for the question. I want to say to members of this House and through this House to anybody observing the proceedings that we intend to keep the promises that we made in the election with respect to the Crown corporation. We are going to keep the promises that we've made with respect to the Crown corporation protection Act, Mr. Speaker.

The bill that was introduced yesterday by the Attorney General does not amend the Crown protection Act. It does provide an amendment in the miscellaneous . . . in *The Interpretation Act* of the province of Saskatchewan, and it seeks to simply define privatization. We have this legislation in front of us that prescribes for the protection of Crown corporations from privatization, but the definition is never offered of privatization.

So the definition that we are adopting as a government is the definition used by the World Bank, and that definition is that if you privatize an organization, it means you lose control of it. You lose more than 50 per cent of that company. We're not prepared to allow that to happen, Mr. Speaker.

We want to ensure that Crown corporations continue in the province of Saskatchewan, that they're protected in the province of Saskatchewan, that a majority ownership of all of those assets remains in the province of Saskatchewan. We're committed to the Crown corporation protection Act. We've campaigned on it in three elections. That promise remains, Mr. Speaker, and we will keep that promise.

The Speaker: — I caution the opposition. If you ask the question, please respect the member that is answering it and limit your heckling, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — That Premier's word should matter. This is a complete betrayal of Saskatchewan people. It was this

Premier and it was that Sask Party that made a mess of our finances through scandal and mismanagement. They continue to refuse to come clean on the real size of the deficit, their record debt. They deny their cuts. And day after day they won't come clean on their GTH scandal.

And now they're looking to do an end run, an end run on our Crown corporations with privatization, a massive privatization, just looking to make a quick buck. Let me be clear. New Democrats along with Saskatchewan New Democrats will fight this every step of the way. How does this Premier, how does this Premier think it's right to make people pay for the Sask Party's mismanagement and scandal through this short-sighted and damaging privatization?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition's debating a privatization initiative that doesn't exist. What privatization? To which privatization is he referring?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — A bunch of goofy wordplay and a word that's not being honoured by this Premier, and a change that allows massive privatization — our province deserves much better than that from this Premier. He should be ashamed of himself, Mr. Speaker.

Let me be clear. This is an end run on privatization of our Crown corporations built by and for Saskatchewan people. The Premier's breaking a clear promise, going back on his own word. And he's shutting out the owners of our Crown corporations — the people of Saskatchewan, the shareholders of our Crown corporations. They're the shareholders. They're the owners, not him, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: why doesn't he have the backbone and the decency to go to the people of Saskatchewan on something as big as the privatization of our Crown corporations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the emotions of the Leader of the Opposition. I want to be very clear for the Assembly that what the . . . The change to *The Interpretation Act* actually prevents privatization in the Crown corporations. The definition that has been proposed to this Assembly is a World Bank definition, and it means precisely that the government, this one or a future government, cannot privatize the Crown corporations.

What it might allow for though . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well if members are interested in the answer, I would share with them what the definition might allow for. Today, today we have a couple of major government . . . Today we have . . . Well the member from Athabasca might be interested in this. Today in Saskatchewan we have a couple of major government investment funds: the Sask Auto Fund and the Workers' Compensation Board. Those funds make major investments on Bay Street. They make major investments in Canadian corporations. Those funds, those Saskatchewan public investment funds cannot make an investment in their own

companies. They couldn't make an investment in SaskTel in this province. They couldn't make an investment in any of the Crowns.

This legislation would allow, would allow for pension funds, public pension funds in this province; it would allow for Workers' Compensation Board in this province, for the Saskatchewan Auto Fund to make an investment in those Crown corporations rather than investing in Bay Street in Toronto, Mr. Speaker.

What it will not allow, what this change will not allow, is the privatization of Crown corporations.

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

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transaction

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Privatization is privatization is privatization, and that Premier is selling out Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. And the people have a tough time matching the Premier's words with his actions lately.

They have a lot of questions about the Sask Party's refusal to stand up and own up when it comes to the Sask Party's GTH land scandal. We know that cabinet discussed it twice, at least twice. And we know that the Premier . . . Well we know who the Premier is. And so, Mr. Speaker, it seems clear that either the Premier is in on it or he was incompetent. And I don't think it's the latter. Which is it, Mr. Premier?

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the Leader of the Opposition is inferring. He just used the words, in on it. Mr. Speaker, he just used the words, in on it. His context, his preamble was about a scandal that doesn't exist, so I would just ask my honourable friend, in the interest of debate in this Assembly, I would ask my honourable friend to clarify what he meant by, in on it.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I'd ask the Premier just to answer the question. We have a scandal that wasted millions of dollars. We have a Premier that won't answer simple, basic questions day in, day out.

My question to him: what is he hiding? Or is this just a question of incompetence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, let's revisit history here with respect to the NDP's [New Democratic Party] position on the Global Transportation Hub. That member that just asked the question and the NDP raised concerns and questions about the Global Transportation Hub. They said the Provincial Auditor should look at this particular deal. They said the Provincial Auditor should have access to all of the documents.

What happened, Mr. Speaker? I asked . . . Together with the cabinet, we passed an order in council to have the Provincial Auditor look at every aspect of this deal, every single aspect. Mr. Speaker, we were asked by the auditor if they could have access to cabinet documents, which is not always done in our system of government. We said, absolutely. You can have access to every minute, to every cabinet document. Her report's complete. She highlighted concerns around communications between ministry. But here's what she said, Mr. Speaker, in the press release that attached to her report — that there was no evidence, no evidence, no evidence of fraud or of conflict of interest by the board of directors, which includes the minister who was involved in those cabinet discussions.

She went on to say in the media on July the 4th, 2016, in the public media of this province, she said very clearly, there were no red flags. That doesn't fit his conspiracy. That doesn't fit his particular agenda, but it's what the auditor said. Now if he thinks the auditor is wrong, he should stand up and say it, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier plays fast and loose with the facts, Mr. Speaker. We called for a judicial inquiry of this GTH land scandal. The auditor's report exonerated no one and was scathing, Mr. Speaker.

Let me try another one to the Premier. He hasn't been answering any questions on this front. Why did the cabinet, why did the cabinet work so hard, so hard to keep the name of the Sask Party-supporting Alberta land baron, who also happened to rent land from the then minister, off that transaction?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and the GTH.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Here are the facts, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Auditor had full authority to look into every element of this transaction that she felt appropriate. She had access to every document to which she asked, including cabinet documents. She had access to every individual to whom she wished to speak. She made a very thorough report based on a very thorough audit. And her conclusion, Mr. Speaker, was that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and that there was no conflict of interest. She further indicated that there were no red flags that would require further inquiry on her behalf.

The Leader of the Opposition has had a night to think about his position on this matter. He was asked about three or four times yesterday whether he agrees with the conclusion of the Provincial Auditor, whether he has confidence in the Provincial Auditor and her work. This is a very serious matter, Mr. Speaker. It's a very serious parliamentary issue, whether he does or doesn't have confidence in an independent officer of the Assembly. Does the Leader of the Opposition have confidence in the Provincial Auditor?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Full stop. We certainly have trust in the Provincial Auditor. But we have no confidence and no trust in

the government. That was not a forensic audit. There's been no judicial inquiry, and that audit itself was scathing and exonerated no one.

The question once again. We know that the fact was that that Sask Party-supporting Alberta land baron that rented land to the then minister made a sweet 6 mil or so on this deal, all while the nuns were ripped off, being threatened with expropriation. My question to the Premier: why did the Sask Party work so hard, work so hard to keep his name off the deed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and GTH.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I just heard the Leader of the Opposition express his confidence in the Provincial Auditor. I would assume that would extend to the work that has been done by the Provincial Auditor.

This side of the House, the government has accepted the report, has accepted the recommendations from that report, all 10 of them, and are working to implement them. And the government has accepted the conclusion of that report done by the Provincial Auditor. That conclusion, that conclusion as related in the press release attached to the report was that there was no wrongdoing, that there was no fraud, and that there was no conflict of interest. Does the Leader of the Opposition accept that conclusion?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Day after day we see this government try to find some sort of cover. The report of the Provincial Auditor was scathing, and it merits answers from this government — something that day in, day out we'll press for, but aren't coming from this government. The question is simple. There's the land baron that supported the Sask Party that has a relationship with the government, that made a sweet 6 mil. I think his name was on the . . . Well it actually wasn't even on the title. Why did the Sask Party work so hard, so hard to keep this individual's name off that title?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and GTH.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The fact of the matter again, Mr. Speaker, is that the Provincial Auditor had complete and total authority to look into every element of this transaction to which she felt appropriate. She looked into the issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition. Her conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing, there was no fraud, and that there was no conflict of interest. She had access to the entirety of documents with respect to the matter. She had access to every individual with respect to the matter. And what her conclusion was after that very thorough audit, to which she had access to every document and individual, was that there was no fraud, that there was no conflict of interest, and that there was no wrongdoing.

And again, again the Leader of the Opposition . . . I think it's important that he answer the question as to whether he, whether he has confidence in the work that the auditor did, whether he has confidence in the work that the auditor did, who obviously did a very, very thorough audit with respect to all of the matters

that he is asking questions about. The auditor answered those questions and her conclusion was that there was no wrongdoing.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is pathetic, Mr. Speaker. The question was to the Premier. Not a single answer. I think it's time that the Sask Party answer a question in this Legislative Assembly, not this opposition.

That report of the auditor's was not a forensic audit. But what it was, was scathing. It exonerated no one. And it showed, of course, that the then minister had his hands all over this thing. And it also showed that the Alberta . . . Sask Party-supporting Alberta land baron that has a relationship to government, that he had a . . . that he was . . .

An Hon. Member: — Who's that?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It would seem that his name never showed up on that deed. My question . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The Premier's saying, who am I talking about? I think it's time this Premier dig into this file, get to the bottom, then come clean to Saskatchewan people. Why did the Sask Party work so hard to keep that individual off that title?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Economy and the GTH.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor has got to the bottom of all of the questions being raised. They just don't like the answer, Mr. Speaker. The Provincial Auditor had full authority to look into every element of this. Cabinet did not prescribe what sort of audit that would be done; that was up to the Provincial Auditor.

She chose to proceed on the basis of which she did, which was a very thorough audit of all documents of all individuals involved in the transaction. She got to the bottom of this. And what she said was that there was no wrongdoing, there was no fraud, there was no conflict of interest, and in a later interview said there were no red flags that would merit follow-up.

Does the Leader of the Opposition have support, have confidence in the conclusions of the Provincial Auditor? Yes or no?

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

Second Bridge for Prince Albert

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, sometimes that government refuses to provide answers. Sometimes, like when it comes to managing the economy, they obviously just don't have them.

Mr. Speaker, all movement of goods and people across the Northern Saskatchewan River is restricted to a narrow, dangerous, and poorly maintained bridge. We are talking about a key artery in and out of northern Saskatchewan. A second bridge will benefit all points north and provide an alternate route in the event that the Diefenbaker bridge needs to close. A

second bridge is good for the economy, and it's good for northern Saskatchewan.

So will the new minister show a new tone and commit to the newly elected councils in Prince Albert and all of the northern communities that this government will build that second bridge?

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

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. We've had a meeting in September with the city officials from P.A. [Prince Albert] and the RMs [rural municipality] around that. We're working with them. We've agreed to do a study on the bridge that we're going to do. As we speak now, it's going to tender, and that's going to be done by an independent. And we're working with the city and the RMs on the bridge that we have and the structure that we have.

In regards to the second bridge, I wanted to say this, Mr. Speaker: that we are the first ones, the province is the first ones that we've come to the table and said, we will be there. Now we need the city and the federal government to come to the table. Thank you.

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

Role of Government in Delivery of Education

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, that clearly shows a lack of respect for my city and for my democratically elected city council. It also shows a lack of understanding for the needs of municipalities across the North. That is exactly why rural and local voices are so important and why local democracy matters.

Yesterday, even though he was given a bunch of chances to change his answer, the Education minister refused to rule out removing democratically elected trustees and replacing them with Sask Party appointees. Last spring the Advanced Education minister refused to rule out the same thing. So will the Minister of Government Relations split from her colleagues, stand up for democracy, and commit to supporting and defending the democratically elected municipal councillors?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite made a wide-ranging statement regarding democracy in a general sense, elected trustees, elected councillors. Mr. Speaker, this is part . . . the side of the government that strongly believes in government, strongly believes in the . . . [inaudible] . . . input of our officials. And, Mr. Speaker, we intend to work with all of the new people, whether it be a mayor, a councillor, a school board trustee. Those are all people who have put a lot of time and their own credibility at stake to have run, and we thank them all for the work that they've done in having run for the election, whether they were successful or whether they were not.

I instructed my office earlier today to send a letter to each

successful school board trustee, thanking them for having run and looking forward to working with them. Over the next few months we will be dealing with issues of transformational change, how best to ensure that we deliver the best quality education to the students of our province.

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

Coroner's Inquests

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, hopefully that minister can convince his colleagues that democracy matters too. Yesterday there was another troubling new piece of legislation put forward. After increasing the personnel in the coroner's office, we had high hopes that it would make more positive changes that would help families get more answers in a timely manner. Instead, now they're removing the requirement for the coroner to hold an inquest into a death in custody.

Mr. Speaker, that's the whole point. Those inquests are meant to provide transparency and justice, and they give the family some answers. Some of those who died were in remand or police custody and had yet to even been convicted of a crime. Why does the minister think it is necessary to repeal this section? I know they don't like giving us answers, but the families who've lost loved ones deserve nothing less.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, these amendments that we brought forward in the draft legislation, in the legislation yesterday, were thoroughly canvassed with the coroner's office, Mr. Speaker. And make no mistake, if there's an in death . . . death in custody, Mr. Speaker, they will still be investigated by the coroner's office.

The latitude given to the coroner now with respect to the changes that have been brought forward, he will decide whether or not a coroner's inquest is appropriate in the circumstances. But they'll still be investigated, Mr. Speaker. There's oftentimes, when there's a regrettable death in custody, it may be a natural cause, Mr. Speaker, and the chief coroner has advised that there does not need to be an inquest in respect of every death in custody. But I can assure the member that they will be investigated, and the coroner will make the appropriate determination as to whether or not an inquest should be held.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the change removes the requirement and leaves the discretion up to the coroner and the minister. That is not appropriate. In August last year, Breanna Kannick died in custody. In December last year, Shauna Wolf died in custody. In February, a 38-year-old man died in custody, and at the beginning of this month, yet another man died in custody. And on top of these deaths, a scathing report was put out just a few months ago by the child and youth advocate, highlighting many issues with Corrections that contributed to a youth death in custody.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker, currently, unless the coroner is satisfied that the person's death was entirely a result of natural causes and that it was not preventable, an inquest is required. That is no longer the case. With so many deaths and a report highlighting the issue, why is the government now choosing to remove the need for investigations?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. We have full confidence in the chief coroner with respect to the decisions that he makes when it comes to calling an inquest. And when we do have a concern about that, Mr. Speaker, we're more than willing within the Ministry of Justice to direct inquests be held, Mr. Speaker.

But I can assure the member opposite and the people of this province that investigations will be done with respect to every in-custody death. They're all regrettable, Mr. Speaker, but not each one needs to have a coroner's inquest.

The chief coroner has shown his professionalism with respect to the conduct of his office, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to have confidence in the coroner's office with respect to the decisions that he makes.

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

Changes to Workers' Compensation

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, more than a year ago, this government struck its workers' compensation committee of review. They toured the province listening to employers and workers about how we can improve workers' compensation here in Saskatchewan.

This week the legislature took an important step. Showing how important it is, both sides of this House came together; we collaborated, and passed legislation to include psychological injuries for all workers. But there still is plenty of room for improvement when it comes to workers' compensation. People still feel like they're being put on trial for getting injured at work, and the benefits they get don't allow people to live with the dignity they deserve.

This report should hold some important solutions, so people want to know a definitive answer: when will this government release the committee's report and when can we expect changes for workers here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I met with the committee of review in June of this year and had discussions with them about their recommendations as they were finalizing the report. They indicated to me at that time that one of the recommendations was going to be that we look at and do a careful analysis of where the province was on post-traumatic stress disorder.

In response to that, without waiting for the report, we did some canvassing of the various professions that would be affected by this. And I would like to thank the members opposite for their support for the bill that was passed yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I can advise that I have followed up with the ministry officials and I understand that the report will be released in November of this year, so within a few days from now. And I look forward to working with the members opposite on whatever other recommendations are in there.

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank the people that worked on the committee of review, did their consultation, travelled around the province. The safety and security of our workers is something that we should all value.

The Speaker: — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I ask leave to move a motion regarding the Advocate for Children and Youth.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Appointment of Advocate for Children and Youth

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move the following motion:

That pursuant to section 3 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, Corey O'Soup be appointed to the position of Advocate for Children and Youth.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved the motion:

That pursuant to section 3, *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, Corey O'Soup would be appointed to the position of Advocate for Children and Youth.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Rural and Remote Health Care

Mr. Steele: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to stand here in front of you, this government, and the people of Saskatchewan to speak on health care, specifically in rural and remote areas today. At the end of my remarks, I will make a motion that will support the continuation of the government's support, funding, and innovation in areas of rural and remote health care.

I want to start by pointing out that this government has been a leader in the field of health care since we've taken office in 2007, including reduction of wait times and increase in health care spending. The leadership has been shown not only in the benefit to urban care centres but also those in rural and remote areas of this province. Mr. Speaker, we have made significant improvements towards recruiting health care professionals and creating facilities and pioneering innovative services throughout the rural and remote areas of this province.

In the area of physician recruitment for the province, the numbers speak for themselves: a 37 per cent increase in physicians from the previous government's time in office. That is nearly 650 more licensed physicians. It is not just general physicians. Since 2007 the number of specialists in Saskatchewan has grown up to 35 per cent. The Canadian Institute of Health Information even recognized Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as one of two provinces with the highest physician growth rates the past five years.

Looking more specifically at rural and remote physician recruitment, there is no shortage of this program, aimed to ensuring citizens have access to health care professionals in their communities. It started with the increase of the number of available seats at the College of Medicine in Saskatoon from 60 to 100, doubling the number of medical residence seats. Almost immediately these medical students have an opportunity to participate in rural health care and programs such as physician rural externship program, or PREP. PREP provides to second-year medical students an opportunity for gaining work experience in rural communities while under the direction and supervision of licensed physicians.

We then went a step further, Mr. Speaker, introducing programs like the rural family physician incentive program which is a grant of 120,000 given over a five-year period for recent medical graduates participating in communities of 10,000 or less. This program has been highly successful with 36 physicians already benefiting and the Saskatchewan Physician Recruitment Agency already receiving 15 applications this year, an increase from last year. Moreover these physicians tend not to leave these rural or remote communities after they begin these practices. Our rural physician turnover rate still remains lower than the last years of the NDP was in office.

Mr. Speaker, it's not just physicians that we have seen in this increase either. There are more than double the amount of nurse practitioners working in the province since 2007, and 60 per

cent of these nurses are working in our rural communities.

Although we're looking hard at home for health care professionals, the province is already benefiting from innovative successes such as Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment, SIPPA. Over 190 doctors from abroad have been assessed, passed, and hired through SIPPA. This is made even more incredible by the fact that nearly 80 per cent of those SIPPA physicians' practices are located in rural communities of Saskatchewan.

Another highly successful initiative presented by this government has been the rural physician locum pool. In 2015-2016 we spent nearly 3.8 million to support 20 rural locum physicians. There are now around 40 positions in locum pools which help to stabilize rural communities like Canora, La Ronge, and Shaunavon, a community in my own constituency of Cypress Hills. Those are not the only communities who have benefited from the efforts to increase the number of physicians in rural and remote Saskatchewan. Broadview, Maidstone, Leader, Wakaw, Fort Qu'Appelle, Rosetown, Kelvington, Redvers are just a few of many communities in this province who have reached physician stabilization because of this recruitment efforts.

Recruitment of these talented and skilled health care professionals is not only the thing that government has done to support rural and more isolated health regions. Creating facilities in which citizens of these communities can access health care has also been very important to us.

Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to the great facilities such as the Southwest Integrated Healthcare Facility that is situated right in my home constituency, in the town of Maple Creek. This facility is equipped to deal with different levels of care as it is equipped with 24 acute care beds, 48 long-term care beds, and is able to handle emergency aid as well.

This project is a source of pride for this government, but also for the community in which it serves, as 20 per cent of the project was funded by the local community with this government contributing another 80 per cent needed to create a modern, effective care centre.

Mr. Speaker, although the Southwest Integrated Healthcare Facility is particularly important to me and my constituents, it is far from being the only great rural health care facility that this government has supported and funded. Another excellent example is the Kelvington and area hospital, which has opened this past spring.

Last year we also saw the opening of many rural health care facilities in this province, including health centre in Biggar, the health and wellness centre in Canora, the Tisdale long-term care centre, the Kipling integrated health care centre, the Radville Marian health care centre, the Kerrobert and district health care centre, just to name a few.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, since 2009 we as government have spent over 200 million in investing in 13 long-term health care centres in our communities, and most of which are located in rural areas of this province. There are even facilities on the horizon with more rural health care projects in the early stages:

Weyburn, La Ronge, and Leader.

Additionally there is over \$19 million invested in improving our eight primary care facilities throughout the province, another \$8 million invested in collaborative emergency centres and in five of our rural communities. We feel that these investments pay back twofold for the citizens in which these facilities serve.

Now many rural and remote citizens not only have the access to modern, well-equipped care centres but also in many cases are able to get to these facilities more quickly, as it has been a priority to strategically locate these central locations so that they will be accessible to most people.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I am able to tell you about all of these great rural health care facilities in different reaches of our province because since 2007 this government has increased funding to rural health regions by 57 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, next I want to speak on STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society], the shock trauma air rescue service which has been operating in Western Canada, providing highly specialized air medical services to our people, over the 30 years. STARS offers a lifeline anywhere in our province, offering advanced, quick health care services.

STARS and the Saskatchewan emergency medical services system together provide efficient, effective time and services with quick emergency response time across the province. Mr. Speaker, it is a critical link to rural and in isolated areas, hope and life-saving transportation in quick time frame to those that are injured or ill.

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has provided 48 million in funding to STARS since 2012 for its annual operating fund. This government makes the level of health care to be provided to those in remote and isolated areas a priority.

STARS has provided care to 2,200 patients in the province since it started in Saskatchewan; 757 of those were injured in 2015 and 2016 alone. The STARS flight team consists of advanced care paramedics, critical care nurses, physicians' oversight, which are always also available on flights if required.

Mr. Speaker, this government appreciates rural fire departments and their staff and volunteers who help assist STARS teams with landing and taking off. Mr. Speaker, we are constructing new helipads to help service the new Moose Jaw and Children's Hospital. We need to continue to meet needs of the Saskatchewan people as the services for STARS continues to grow.

I want to finish by saying that STARS and all of the air ambulances are a key part of the provincial network of emergency medical services that include our ground and water and air first responders.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn your attention to technology. Technology and technical innovations are going to be tools that we as a government can implement to ensure that long-term sustainability of health care services in rural and remote

communities in this province. One such technology I want to speak of is the one robotic health care pilot project that was conducted in Pelican Narrows due to the remote nature of the large number of youth in this community. This project showed a significant potential as a remote presence. Technology allowed the health and care professionals to perform real-time assessment and diagnosis of patients.

This technology has been said to have the potential to transform access to health care services in rural and remote communities because it allows citizens access to medical professionals without having to leave their respective communities. Mr. Speaker, it was found in the pilot project that 63 per cent of acutely ill children received effective treatment in their communities of Pelican Narrows through this technology. Before this, they would've had to travel to Saskatoon for treatment, a journey of over 500 kilometres.

In fact, this pilot project allowed, saved residents of Pelican Narrows over 240,000 in transportation costs because they were able to be treated locally. Because of this, Mr. Speaker, this government has dedicated even more money to the project — 500,000 to be exact — to continue this remote presence technology in our northern communities. This technology has potential to be in all of our isolated rural communities and assist communities to do . . . and that have fewer medical professionals, provide speedy and effective care.

So, Mr. Speaker, because of the continued diligent work done by this government since 2007 in the area of health care in our rural and remote Saskatchewan communities, I would like to make this following motion:

That this Assembly support the continued efforts of this government and health regions to improve access to health care in rural Saskatchewan, including their ongoing efforts to recruit physicians and to stabilize hospital services in rural and remote communities.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cypress Hills has moved:

That this Assembly supports the continued efforts of the government and health regions to improve access to health care in rural Saskatchewan, including their ongoing efforts to recruit physicians and to stabilize hospital services in rural and remote communities.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really honoured today to stand up here and talk about health care in Saskatchewan. And when I'm going to be talking about health care I'm going to be primarily focusing on the issues within Prince Albert. I'm well aware of a lot of the issues in Prince Albert, being a former health care employee, but also a resident of the area for I don't even know if I want to say how many years, but most of my life. So even though I recognize that a lot of the issues that are happening in Prince Albert are reflective across the province, when I make reference to these issues it

will be primarily what's going on in the Prince Albert area. So I really want to make sure that you guys realize that.

And there's a long list of issues, health care issues in Prince Albert, but I'm just going to highlight a few. I don't want to seem remiss that I'm not acknowledging some of the other areas but it is a long list, unfortunately. And when I think about Prince Albert health care being part of the rural and remote health care portfolio, it's really surprising for myself because Prince Albert is the third-largest city in the province. We deal with a lot of the issues within the province, especially around the surrounding areas and the northern area, so we're a hub for a lot of the services that are being provided. So to consider us as being rural and remote it seems surprising for myself because we serve such a great large area.

And I also want to start off by acknowledging that although we do have a long list of health care issues in Prince Albert, it is not due to the fact of the health care workers that we have working in that industry. We have amazing health care workers in our city, in our surrounding areas as well, and they are very overworked. They do as much as they can, and they have a lack of resources. And those are some of the issues of why there's struggles in the health care system. So I want to make it very clear that when we talk about these issues that it's not a reflection of their hard work.

So first of all, I think the members across would be surprised if I didn't mention the fact that we need another hospital in Prince Albert. We either need a second one or we need a larger one, whatever. We need something because our capacity in Prince Albert . . . Just in 2015 and '16, we had 80 days that we were a code burgundy, and a code burgundy, Mr. Speaker, is over capacity. And that is astonishing because when you have over capacity in the hospital, it really puts a lot of stress in all the areas in the hospital, and I think particularly in ER [emergency room] because what are the doctors going to do when they have people who are coming with these serious issues and they can't place them in other departments? And so we get a backlog there.

And the reason why I say that we need a provincial hospital, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because we service surrounding areas and the North. And they say that Prince Albert Parkland Health Region statistics show that between 20 to 23 per cent of those admitted into the in-patient unit and who get the day surgery in our hospital are from outside the region. And so we need to look at that when we're talking about providing that health care service in Prince Albert.

And approximately 30,000 visits were made to the Victoria Hospital and 5,700 surgeries were performed in 2014. That was two years ago and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suspect that those numbers are probably higher now due to the fact that we have a higher population. And a lot of people are utilizing the services at the hospital, which is again a good thing, but we need to accommodate for that.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know the previous Health minister, Mr. Duncan, he went to — previous Health minister — he went to Prince Albert in 2013 and he talked to the media there. And he himself said like this was an eye-opener for him, the number of services that Prince Albert Parkland Health

Region delivers to other health regions and what that means in terms of the pressure it puts on our Victoria Hospital. Because like I said, we serve all of the surrounding areas, and that includes other health regions and the people that live in those areas. And we're always wanting to help, so that's not something that's an issue. But the issue is that it puts a big burden on the services provided there.

So when he talked to the media there, he talked about the increased number of births in Victoria Hospital. And you know, more recently I realized how much our obstetrical ward is being utilized in Prince Albert. I have two young grandsons and so I spent some time there, and I have some nieces who are working in that department. And it's amazing how many people utilize the services there. And the health regions around Prince Albert, a lot of them, they have health services but obstetrical care isn't one of them that they oftentimes provide. So they will come to Prince Albert, and they will stay there around the time that their baby's due and they will have their baby there. And so we have thousands of births per year just in Prince Albert, and more and more these births are being high-risk births. And so they're providing some challenges to our health care workers, and they're needing specialized services.

And more and more the surgical unit is being utilized. And they made some advancements in our obstetrics ward so that they are able to accommodate for the surgical team right there because when you have thousands of births per year . . . And that's incredible. And again those workers, the health care providers in that department, are amazing. So even like the Health minister here says, more babies are delivered here at Victoria Hospital than it was designed for. And there's an over capacity in the maternity ward, and it's a cascading effect on the other operations of the hospital.

And so I'm happy that the minister acknowledged that issue. And I hope we can work to resolve that because we need to put some more investment within, again, the Victoria Hospital and meeting that need.

And so one thing: there was a rally earlier this year about having midwife services provided in Prince Albert, in the region, and possibly in other health regions surrounding Prince Albert. And so we know that only three of the 13 health regions provide midwife services. And when you have midwives in health regions, they really save the health region money. It could be into the multiple thousands of dollars. And so I think that, given the large size of the North, northern Saskatchewan, and the number of smaller communities that are surrounding there, that could be an option to help out the ease of services within Prince Albert and area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know oftentimes the members across say that we're looking for more money, but we're also looking for other options and some of these other options aren't also . . . They could be cost effective, you know, and so I'm hoping the Health minister looks into this a little bit.

I know in Saskatoon there is a wait-list for the midwife, and only about 50 per cent of the women actually eventually get one, you know. And so it looks like that's an issue across the province, so I hope that is addressed.

And my time is coming near, which I can't believe. I've already almost talked 10 minutes but I didn't even get to the issues of mental health and addictions within our city of Prince Albert.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was a report that came out that talked about how Prince Albert was ranked the unhealthiest region in the country, and that is not a proud statement to accept. So there's a lot of reasons why we are deemed as one of the most unhealthiest regions, and a lot of it is the fact that there's an overweight problem, smoking, and they say that about 40 per cent of the people are not considered in good perceived mental health. And so there's a lot of issues here that need to be addressed, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[11:30]

We had a health care rally in Prince Albert a few weeks ago, and we had all four of our critics: the critic for Justice, the critic for Health, the critic for Social Services, and the critic for Education. And we talked about that's how decisions need to be made at the table, with all four ministers sitting at the table. All the ministers need to get on board and work on these health care issues. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a bit of a touchy subject, and I really don't know where to start when I think of the motion that's on the floor. And knowing that, I'm wondering how the NDP can actually talk to it because in their record I'm not sure that they have a good definition of health care. And I'm sure even their record of knowing what rural is, is even more decimating.

But anyway, we'll carry on. When the Saskatchewan Party came, had the opportunity to govern the province, Mr. Speaker, there was a drastic shortage of health care providers. There was a doctor shortage, a nurses shortage, and we inherited a health care deficit on the brink of really what we'd call total disaster.

The NDP record of health care was indeed dismal, especially, Mr. Speaker, in rural Saskatchewan. During their tenure there was no priority given to Saskatchewan health care. They closed 52 hospitals — 52 hospitals. That was even more devastating than even looking at any kind of other health care facilities. Fifty-two hospitals were closed. Doctors were laid off. Nurses were terminated. And, Mr. Speaker, to complement that, they closed 19 long-term facilities, eliminating 1,200 long-term care beds.

Of course you can see why this would lead to Saskatchewan having the longest surgical wait time in Canada. Now isn't that a record they'd be proud of, the longest surgical wait time in the Dominion.

Now I don't want to dwell on the past but it's important to realize where the province was in terms of health care and at perhaps its lowest point in Saskatchewan history. It's important to remind ourselves of the NDP care record of the province as they had no plan to correct the situation or even make improvements.

I recall in 2009 one of my constituents, Catherine, was working with me and she indicated that she wanted to go into the nursing practice but she was told that she would have to wait six years to get into the nursing program in Saskatchewan. Her options were simply this: either six years that you had to wait or you had to leave the province for your nursing education or simply change your career option altogether. A nursing shortage and yet no desire to improve the nursing program. That was the NDP approach and a further disrespect to rural Saskatchewan health care.

Well, Mr. Speaker, over the past nine years there have been great enhancements to Saskatchewan's health care. One of the first improvements was to increase the medical training seats at the College of Medicine. It went from 60 to 100. The number of residency seats was also doubled to a number of 120. Our government invested millions every year into Saskatchewan's international physician practice assessment, changing the international hiring practice from somewhere around six countries to a global focus. This initiative has attracted more doctors to serve the province with about 80 per cent of them practising in rural Saskatchewan.

The investment into health care has proven to be successful, with nearly 650 new doctors in the province and over 3,000 new nurses. We have proven that the physician numbers practising in rural Saskatchewan has increased with the introduction of the rural family physician incentive program. It has provided incentives in rural Saskatchewan. There are more doctors coming to Saskatchewan. There are more doctors being trained in Saskatchewan, and there are more doctors looking at rural centres as a setting to set up their practice and to become part of those welcoming communities.

Saskatchewan went from the longest wait time under the NDP to the shortest wait time in Canada. The expression of rural family medicine seats is working in Swift Current, in La Ronge, North Battleford and, yes, in Moose Jaw.

In 2014 four medical students were selected as part of the training program and continued their medical studies in Moose Jaw. That was in 2014, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to say that all four of those students received their certificates and all four have plans to stay in Moose Jaw. The program works.

You know, perhaps Moose Jaw is the epitome of good rural health care. You know, back in the spring of 2007, Dr. Miller, who was then head of the medical staff, had led a . . . [inaudible] . . . to ask for an expansion of the then hospital. At that time we had two cabinet ministers and a premier from Moose Jaw, but they were told that there was no plans for the medical services to be improved in Moose Jaw. That was with two cabinet ministers and a premier. Well that all changed when we took government, and there was announcement for a new state of the art hospital that was announced in 2011. And last fall, in the fall of 2015, the new state of the art hospital began serving the community and the Five Hills Health Region.

Mr. Speaker, this is a rural health success story, but it doesn't stop there. An MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] was added to the hospital. It's the first MRI located outside the two major centres of Regina and Saskatoon. You know, this added service of an MRI into the newly named F.H. Wigmore Regional

Hospital is an important step toward meeting increased demands and ensuring that patients can be diagnosed and treated sooner and closer to home. Just part of the improvements of health care in rural Saskatchewan.

At this time I'd like to acknowledge the Moose Jaw Health Foundation and the community of Moose Jaw, as well as the other communities and RMs in the health region for their overwhelming support of the hospital and the added support of supplying the MRI. It's just a great asset to the community and a great asset to the health care for rural Saskatchewan. Our government has placed particular attention on rural health care in many different facets. We're building 13 long-term care facilities throughout the province. There are projects planned: \$500,000 for the Weyburn hospital, \$500,000 for a La Ronge long-term care, and 2 million for renewal of the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital, which is much needed.

Let's talk a little bit about STARS, a new initiative that was brought in by our government and a vital service for provincial health care service in rural and northern Saskatchewan. STARS is a valued partner in Saskatchewan emergency measures services, collaborating with the Saskatchewan air ambulance and the ground ambulance as well. It was established in April of 2012 and launched in Regina in October 2012 and a base in Saskatoon shortly thereafter. Last year in 2015-16, STARS provided care for 757 critical injured patients across the province and, since its inception, has flown or provided care to 2,200 patients in the province.

Along with STARS, there's been the construction, as my learned friend from Cypress Hills had mentioned, for helipads to be constructed. And yes, there was a new helipad included when they built the new hospital in Moose Jaw — forward thinking for better health care for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there's a lot that could be said — and I'm going to be out of time — but the improvements to health care in this province are many, and our commitment to health care in the province certainly continues. Let's talk about long-term care: 200 million to replace 13 outdated long-term care facilities in 13 rural communities. There are 225 long-term care facility on a P3 [public-private partnership] model, delivered on time and on budget in Swift Current. And we can talk about the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment: over 300 physicians have been assessed, and more than 190 of those doctors are now providing service in Saskatchewan.

There's the story about the Saskdocs, a one-stop point for physicians seeking to practise in Saskatchewan. The rural physician local pool helping rural Saskatchewan physicians. Let's talk about the collaborative emergency centres, an innovation way to improve health care and primary care and emergency care on a 24-7 basis as required. And we can also talk about the innovation sites, a primary health care service which there is a centre in Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, I've touched on a lot of points. The bottom line, I haven't said as much as I would like to, but the bottom line is the improvement to health care we've had in this province since this party formed government back in 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise today to join in the debate around rural and remote health care. Now I want to take this opportunity to mention our Health critic who's done some very great work in this area and especially in the last few months, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

When we heard about transformational change and the fact that it was going to apply to health care, we were curious to see how that's going to play out. And I suppose we're still very curious to see how that's going to play out because we haven't quite heard the outcome of that yet. But what we did know was that the consultation surrounding transformational change was a very short period, and we heard a lot of concerns about the actual consultation that was happening. There was issues with, from what I understand, submitting documents to the website.

So what we did in particular, our Health critic spearheaded sort of a road-trip consultation, in particular targeting rural locations. And I may not actually hit all of the locations that our Health critic went to, but I know she went to La Ronge, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Preeceville, The Battlefords to speak to people and to hear their concerns and hear what their thoughts were, and not just concerns but what their suggestions were for solutions to address health care challenges in the province.

The Health critic invited not only members of the public but also members of her opposition caucus to join her. And I had the opportunity to go in Prince Albert with actually my other colleagues from Prince Albert Northcote and Regina Lakeview, and then myself and the Health critic, which was a really great opportunity. We had essentially the critic for Justice, the critic for Health, the critic for Education, and the critic for Social Services all there together hearing the public's concerns and suggestions with respect to improving health care in a difficult financial time.

And that's how we see health care, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We see it not a siloed issue. We see how it spills over into all the other ministries. And when it's not addressed properly, for example, it can bleed into other ministries, like Justice for example, which essentially kind of becomes the catch-all when all the other ministries fail, unfortunately. So we had the opportunity to speak with people. And our Health critic, if she had been here, she would attest to the great consultation and the great feedback we were able to get with respect to that.

So when we did those, we heard from many rural community members who said that their families and their neighbours are struggling to get the health care that they need, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Their community health centres are closing or they're reducing their hours. Their communities are struggling to retain health care practitioners, partially because those who are working in the community . . . And there's some very, very great nurses and nurse practitioners and those in the health care field who are working in these communities, but are essentially run off their feet and are struggling to maintain a balance and be able to continue on with their careers.

Other community members have expressed concerns that their

parents and grandparents are struggling to access long-term care, some of them moving out of their hometown they have lived in all their life. I know that. I can attest to this personally, Mr. Speaker. So I take some offence when the member from Moose Jaw North says that we don't know what the definition of rural is.

[11:45]

My grandfather who lives in Humboldt, when he was unable to live in his home anymore, had to stay in the hospital longer than he needed to, longer than he should have, because the long-term care home in Humboldt was booked up. And then he had to be moved to Watson, the long-term care home in Watson, while he waited for space in Humboldt. So he had to move out of his home community and had to spend about eight months in the long-term care home in Watson, where there were very, very good, hard-working care home workers there who provided him absolute impeccable care, but he was far-removed from his family. He was far-removed from his friends. And he wasn't able to get that level of social interaction that he needs and he should have and he deserves, not only as a farmer for 80-plus years, but as a World War II veteran, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I'd like to see, when we're talking about successes in the rural health care area, I'd also like to not forget those people who have to wait for months on end just to get a long-term care space. Thankfully, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my grandpa is now in the long-term care home in Humboldt. He is across the hall from his brother. He has lots of family and friends who can visit him. So we're very grateful for that, and we're very grateful he was actually able to make it from Watson to Humboldt. So not only can I attest to that personally, that as a challenge in the rural and remote locations, but I know we heard it from many different people when we were doing our consultations.

Another concern we were hearing is that specialist care is getting further and further away and much harder to access. Again that's another one that I can also attest to personally. I had another grandfather that was very sick who also lived in Humboldt who had to travel back and forth to Saskatoon for his specialist appointments because the specialist doesn't come to Humboldt often enough to get the treatment that he needed, which is very difficult. He had to rely . . . And thankfully for my parents and my uncle they were able to travel him around and get him to the appointments that he needed to get to. But when I think about that, I think about the people who are in rural areas who don't have family who can, you know, take a day off work or take some time away from their children and drop everything to essentially help their elderly loved ones, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And that kind of goes into another concern that we've heard a lot, which is that ambulance services are not always available. They're spread thin and they can be incredibly expensive. And the members opposite like to talk a lot about STARS, but they don't seem to want to talk a lot about rural ambulance services, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The reality around ambulance services is that Saskatchewan is the only province to charge for medically necessary ambulance transfers between health care facilities. And we're also one of the only two provinces that don't cap ambulance fees, which allows them to charge taxi-like per-kilometre rates, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which creates a lot of

problems.

And I know that my colleagues and former colleagues last session spent a lot of time talking about this and highlighting this concern, and how bills were piling up essentially for people who had no choice but to take an ambulance but then also were faced with astronomical bills, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And when budgets are thin, you don't exactly, people don't necessarily plan for becoming ill or becoming injured and requiring to use an ambulance service. So when that situation happens and then there's an exponentially large bill that they have to pay for afterwards, it certainly impacts families in an extremely negative way.

From what I understand, there's a pick-up fee even for road ambulance fees that falls between 245 and \$325, and then there's a per-kilometre rate that gets tacked onto that, which I believe is \$2.30. And I don't think it takes a rocket scientist to figure out that this per-kilometre fee disproportionately affects rural residents because you have to be transferred to city hospitals for care when the hospitals maybe don't have all of the services that they should have or that they need for these communities.

And we're dealing with an aging population, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I don't think that's controversial to say. We know full well that there's an aging population in this province and we need to make sure that we're addressing this, not only in making sure that they have access, and timely access, to care that's occurring in or that's in their home location that they can actually get to. And if they do have to travel to a larger centre, they shouldn't have to bear the burden of having to deal with that travel. And that the long-term care homes are not only adequate, that the infrastructure . . . And I didn't even get the opportunity to talk about some of the infrastructure issues unfortunately, with respect to long-term care, care homes in the province, and particularly in rural and remote locations. And that they're adequately staffed, that our staff members that work very hard there are being respected and treated in a way so that they can fulfill their role and they can do their job.

And it's really unfortunate that I can't add to this debate any further. I didn't think that I would run out of time but I suppose I am. So I know other people are going to want to join in this debate as well, so with that, I will end my comments.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very pleased to rise in this debate on this motion. I find it quite amazing that the opposition would talk about this when, you know, they have such a rural contingent here. The only time they've seen rural Saskatchewan is when they stop on their drive between Regina and Saskatoon at Davidson for a coffee. And they actually wanted to talk about rural health care.

Well I can tell you a few things about rural health care because I actually do live in the rural . . . And you know, Mr. Speaker, I guess I kind of want to go back to what was going on at their convention. And you know, they had some really, really, strange resolutions come up at their convention, like right out in left field, Mr. Speaker. But the one that they did have, and I

wanted to speak on this one, and I'm going to read it into *Hansard*. On a BH-01, and this passed at their convention, whereas the Sask Party . . . And I'm quoting from their resolution:

Whereas the Sask Party has made big promises about its ability to deliver quality rural health care and have appointed a minister, paid through taxpayer's dollars, that is solely responsible for rural and remote health;

Whereas Northern communities are continually faced with barriers to accessing health services, including preventative measures; and

Whereas underfunding by the Sask. Party has resulted in rural communities across the province being forced to face more and more facility closures and disruptions in health services; and

Whereas Saskatchewan has the worst ambulance fee . . . in the country, and rural residents are disproportionately burdened by high ambulance bills, based on a per kilometre charge, and

Whereas more and more often, rural residents do not have the option of accessing health services in communities close to their home; and

Whereas the Sask. Party has appointed a minister, paid through taxpayer's dollars, that is solely responsible for rural and remote health, but it is unclear exactly what actions he has taken to improve rural and remote health care,

Be it resolved that the NDP members of the legislature continue to expose the Sask. Party's failings in rural and remote health care,

Be it further resolved that NDP members of the legislature continue to highlight Sask. Party's complete failure to ensure that rural and remote residents of the province have timely access to appropriate and quality health care.

Be it resolved that the NDP members of the legislature call on the minister to either do his job competently and stand up for rural and remote health care or step down and have his ministerial bonus as well as all other expenses related to his ministry directed to improvement of rural and remote care.

This was put through by — needless to say they don't have any rural members — Regina Gardiner Park NDP and Regina Wascana Plains NDP. Mr. Speaker, that is pretty rich coming from an opposition that, when they were in government, when they were in government, closed down 52 hospitals — two in my constituency alone.

Mr. Speaker, you take a look at what this government has done. While they were shutting down 19 long-term care facilities, take a look at what we did. We're building 13. The fact is Tisdale has a new long-term facility there. It has opened up now and, Mr. Speaker, that is the first long-term facility that was built in the Carrot River Valley constituency since back in the

Grant Devine days. And they sit there and try and say that we aren't doing things for rural Saskatchewan.

When I was first elected, we had the grand total of four physicians in Nipawin — four. We're up to 12 now, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they always talk about, and especially the member from Athabasca says well, you guys will be out next time. He's been saying that since 2007, but he keeps on saying that. Well, Mr. Speaker, as the member from Nutana likes to say, she likes to say past performance is a good indicator of future performance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, heaven forbid they ever got back into government again because what would they do to health care in rural Saskatchewan? Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I think it would go down. It would go down big time because they never really did care about the things in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, you know, you take a look. Since we have been fortunate enough to be in power, there's 3,000 more nurses working out there, 650 more physicians. Is there work to do in health care? Absolutely. But it has gone up tremendously. We went to the longest wait times in the whole country, the longest wait times, Mr. Speaker, down to very close to being the shortest on surgical wait times.

Now these are things, these are facts, Mr. Speaker. These are simple facts that the NDP does not want to admit of their disastrous failure of providing health care to rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, they start talking about our minister of remote and rural health and they say that well, you know, he's really not doing anything and it's a waste of money.

Well let's just take a look at what we've done. Let's take a look at what we've done. Here is . . . and I'm going to quote a little note that came from the Preeceville integrated health care action committee. It came on October the 19th of 2016, just a few days ago actually. Now listen to this, Mr. Speaker:

Your efforts to not only listen and answer questions but also receive and look into names of potential physicians put forth by you, by our committee has been invaluable.

That's how people in rural Saskatchewan look to the minister.

And then they talk about his expenses. Well you know what? Let's go back to when Judy Junor used to be the second Health minister. And she wasn't really all that interesting to travel around. She didn't want to listen to the individual communities. They talk about the costing of travel. Our Health minister, our rural Health minister spent way less than Judy Junor did on travel. But yet would she go out there and listen to the communities? No. She never went out and listened to one of our communities.

The problems we were having, and I can still remember, Mr. Speaker, when they shut down the hospital in Arborfield. When the NDP was in power and they shut down the hospital in Arborfield, and they said, well don't worry; Carrot River is only 15 miles away and, you know, we don't plan on, we're not going to shut down Carrot River. So they shut down the hospital in Arborfield.

What do they do a couple years later? They went to Carrot River and they shut down that hospital in Carrot River. And it's pretty hard to put the toothpaste back into the tube. And they shut down the hospital in Carrot River. They said, well don't worry; Nipawin is only another 25 miles away.

Mr. Speaker, I can pretty well guarantee you, had they stayed in power, with the shortage that they were giving us on physicians in Nipawin, pretty soon they were going to shut that one down too. And they'd say, well don't worry; Prince Albert is only 117 miles away from Carrot River.

Mr. Speaker, they . . .

An Hon. Member: — On bad roads.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Yes. And it was brought up, it was brought up, on bad roads.

Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of money . . . We have put a lot of money into health. Here's one thing actually, Mr. Speaker, that we could cut costs on health, if we had the support of the NDP. You have to realize that all these hospitals have to be heated in the wintertime. Now we're going to have to pay a carbon tax on that heat that's going into there, and they won't even support that end of it. Mr. Speaker, I just had to get the carbon tax in.

[12:00]

Anyway I have to say that what that government did when they were in power to rural health was a disaster. And I'm going to say it again. Past performance is a good indicator of future performance. And, Mr. Speaker, if, if by some silly reason they ever got into power, I would be desperately, desperately concerned about what kind of health care we had in Saskatchewan. Heck, we wouldn't even have any roads to be able to get to one of their hospitals in the city, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this motion, and I know that all of the members on this side of the House strongly support the motion also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. I'm pleased to enter into the debate on the proposed motion by the Saskatchewan Party caucus. And I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, just to preface some of my comments as it relates to health care based on the last point raised by the member from Carrot River in which he said, past behaviour dictates future activity or future actions.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen this time and time again. Now we look at Saskatchewan as a province. Is the province now going into deficit? Is there a crisis in health care? Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is. And the bottom line is that that's compliments of the Saskatchewan Party Tory caucus, and I think it's really, really important that people understand that.

Now going back to the member's comment about what the NDP did. But what people ought to know is that the NDP didn't enjoy record revenue like the Saskatchewan Party did. They

enjoyed record revenue and a booming economy, and it is all gifted to them by the people of Saskatchewan. It was not because of their strategy or because who they are that the activity occurred, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan was on a roll, on an exciting roll, and the Saskatchewan Party, by opportunity and timing, Mr. Speaker, they all of sudden think that they developed and they perfected and invented sliced bread, Mr. Speaker.

But this for the history folks that might be watching this debate. When the NDP took over office from the Saskatchewan Party, or sorry, the Conservative Party under Grant Devine, the interest . . . I'm not talking about the debt, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the interest. In my recollection, Mr. Speaker, the interest on the debt alone left behind by Grant Devine and many of his supporters across the way, the interest alone, just the interest — we're not talking record revenue — the interest alone was almost three times our full budget for Education just on the interest, just on the interest. And it's amazing that the conservative storytellers and the historians from across the way refuse to even acknowledge that, Mr. Speaker. They never acknowledge that. And I want to make that point out.

Whenever they talk about the NDP, their world was created in 1991 when we took over government, Mr. Speaker. Prior to that, Saskatchewan and the problems, they don't want to talk about that particular era, Mr. Speaker, because they are ashamed. Truth be told, if the member from Carrot River wants to go down this historical path that he's going down, then the question that I would ask him is that, is it true that the interest left behind by Grant Devine, just the interest payment alone on the debt, was almost three times the budget for Education? And if he gets up and answers that question, Mr. Speaker, and doesn't answer it correctly, then it proves my point that they refuse to recognize the full story behind what they've done when they were in government last under Grant Devine.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, the past activities do dictate future behaviours, and I think the Saskatchewan people will see very quickly that they've had enough of the Saskatchewan Party. They've given them their third mandate, Mr. Speaker, and the voters are always right. And the voters will come along, and they'll say well, enough of that charade. These guys got to go. We need a new government. And I think, Mr. Speaker, the future activity will certainly show that the NDP will be back, Mr. Speaker. The only problem is, we got such a mess in 1991 to clean up, and then we're going to have another mess in 2020 if not sooner.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to quickly talk about health care because we've got a short 10 minutes. And I want to point out one of the things that's really important, Mr. Speaker. As you go into our facilities today, as you go into the hospitals today, you will find — which is really, really amazing — there's people out there in hallways, Mr. Speaker, lying on emergency cots in hallways. And when you see places which are really important to the health care system overall, as an example I would use the Lighthouse, where the public fire inspectors are going in there saying we can't have people in hallways because they're a fire hazard . . .

Now, Mr. Speaker, you look at all that particular challenge throughout our health care system. Spend some time in the

hospitals like I do. I visit a lot of people, Mr. Speaker, and I can see the wear and tear that the health care system has on many of our point-of-care personnel. And I like that phrase, point-of-care personnel, because you're talking about nurses; you're talking about doctors; you're talking about lab techs; you're talking about maintenance people. They are a health care team. And many of these point-of-care personnel, you can see the stress and strain on them, Mr. Speaker. They obviously know that this government has not done enough for health care. And despite having record revenue, they have so badly underperformed, Mr. Speaker, and you can see this in evidence all throughout the province.

And the evidence that I want to refer to, Mr. Speaker, as I can go on and on about the provincial evidence, but I want to talk about the northern part of Saskatchewan of where I am from, Mr. Speaker. We often see that many of the older people will talk about health care overall. They will talk about environmental health. They will talk about physical health. They'll talk about emotional health. They'll talk about mental health, Mr. Speaker. And when you hear this government talk about all these different points on health care, Mr. Speaker, no more telling, no more telling is their failure to recognize health of the people of Saskatchewan in rural and urban and, you know, in the far northern parts of our province where mental health is certainly becoming a major problem for many of our young kids.

When you see the level of suicide in northern Saskatchewan where you have 10-year olds now committing suicide, 12-year olds, 14-years old committing suicide. That is a mental health issue and yet despite the record revenue, none of those members across the way have spoken about that particular issue. They'd much rather talk about something that happened 20 years ago, and they don't even tell the full story on that particular aspect of the history of Saskatchewan.

And that's why it's shameful, Mr. Speaker, to see them sitting here, playing politics with motions of this sort because we all know everybody in Saskatchewan ought to have access to good, decent health care, and we need the proper dollars and support mechanisms in place to ensure that happens.

We all know that on this side of the Assembly that Saskatchewan health means everyone in Saskatchewan enjoys those benefits. So when I hear them talk about some silly historical reference to what happened 20 years ago and not begin to address the real issues that are plaguing our province, whether it's emotional health, whether it's physical health, whether it's mental health, or environmental health . . . Mr. Speaker, this is a whole new ball game for the people of Saskatchewan when we're talking about health overall.

And the Saskatchewan Party just doesn't get it. They never have. They never will, and that's why I think the people of Saskatchewan are going to make up their minds over the next several years showing that these people across the way simply have dropped the ball. They've had the great opportunity under record revenues and a booming economy. and they simply can't figure it out.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, as the member was talking about a trip on our way to Saskatoon, and one of the

points I would raise ... And when you're driving down Highway 11, he made the reference that we'd stop in for a coffee at Davidson. Well, Mr. Speaker, what the member ought to know, and I think he does know but doesn't want to make any comments on that, as you pass Craik — and I pass Craik quite often — there's a sign that advertises 24-hour emergency care. However, as a result of the Sask Party cuts, as a result of their cuts, Mr. Speaker, this community no longer offers 24-hour care and that sign is very dangerous. Why is it dangerous? Well some people might pull off the highway to try and seek medical attention if they need it and to only end up to a closed emergency room sign. Now, Mr. Speaker, that's the danger.

So for him to talk about the fact that they have all this commitment to rural Saskatchewan, I'm going to ask the member from Carrot River: when will he be taking down that sign? Because they've shut down that 24-hour designation, Mr. Speaker. It's the Sask Party with record revenue have shut down the emergency service in Craik, and the sign still is there. So for the member to stand up and talk to us about commitment to health care in rural Saskatchewan and the remote parts of our province which I think the North is included, Mr. Speaker, they have dropped the ball time and time again.

Finally I'll say this. In northern Saskatchewan, many elders tell me, many elders tell me that we do need some supports around education, around drugs and alcohol, in particular drug abuse, Mr. Speaker. In northern Saskatchewan families are crying to get help for their young members of their community to try and get into a drug centre. In northern Saskatchewan those services are severely lacking. They are severely lacking, and they're hurting families. They're hurting communities. We need to have our own strategy in the North to try and rebuild the lives of people that have been ravaged by chronic illicit drug use.

So, Mr. Speaker, we don't sit here, we don't stand here in the Assembly and listen to the bafflegab coming from the Saskatchewan Party, because they just haven't figured it out. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more to say, and we certainly will be talking about these issues as time progresses. And on that note, of course we're going to oppose the motion being presented. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We know in more than one year the Minister for Rural and Remote Health only visited the North three times. To the member from Moose Jaw North: when will the Rural and Remote Health minister get serious about the health of northerners and actually make this a priority?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know the question almost should be called out of order because our rural and remote minister has done extensive travelling throughout the province to improve the health care system in every corner of this province. And if we look back at what they

did when they had a second Health minister at that time, when Judy Junor was the minister, they spent about \$35,000 in travelling and didn't go anywhere.

And our Rural and Remote Health minister has been very active in this regard. He's been in every corner of the province and his travel costs were considerably less at \$24,000 in the last year. So you can see just by the action that he's been doing and where he has been that it is a priority for this government, and he is very busy at it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard quite a bit from the members opposite about how somehow they seem to know what's best for the people who live in rural Saskatchewan. This is interesting since, in the recent election, the people of rural Saskatchewan soundly rejected them. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Prince Albert Northcote: how can you criticize our government's step forward in providing high-quality rural health services when the good people of rural Saskatchewan so overwhelmingly rejected your plan in the last election? Thank you.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the question. But one thing we know is that this government hid a lot of things from people from rural Saskatchewan, and if they knew exactly what you guys had planned for them, the election results would be completely different. And we haven't heard what are you guys going to do with regards to the high cost of the fees that people in rural Saskatchewan have to pay. So be truthful to the people in rural Saskatchewan, and the results will be different.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, unfortunately this province has the worst record when it comes to ambulance fees in Canada, absolutely the worst. And we saw in last session, both ministers, both ministers of this file fumbled it completely when we had people come here. In fact they even suggested maybe they should consider fundraising.

Will the member from Moose Jaw North say enough is enough is enough and say, it's time to change the ambulance fee structure? It's hitting people in rural Saskatchewan really too hard.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me an opportunity just to expand a little bit on what the member is referring to because the ambulance fees that this government has provided have almost doubled from 2006-2007 when they were in power.

Further to that, our commitment to rural Saskatchewan for ambulance fees, we introduced more than air ambulance, STARS ambulance that has the capacity to service all of Saskatchewan into the far North. That side of the House, when they were in government never even considered . . . they wouldn't have STARS ambulance. I think what we've done for the ambulance service in Saskatchewan is a far improvement from whatever was proposed by the members opposite when they were in power. Thank you.

[12:15]

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, earlier this week the member from Saskatoon Nutana was railing about, and I quote, “. . . the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour.” I couldn't agree more. While we have made record investments in health care infrastructure, record doctor recruitments, and hiring of nurses, we can easily compare our behaviour against the NDP, who closed 52 hospitals and refused to bring life-saving STARS to the province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a former citizen, I was not the least bit surprised that our neighbours in Medicine Hat reduced the federal NDP to the new one-percenters in the recent federal by-election, barely squeaking past the ever-competitive Rhinoceros Party.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the member from Regina Douglas Park. Why would the people of Saskatchewan ever expect the NDP to change from their past behaviour given their miserable record in health care in Saskatchewan?

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite really like to talk about things that happened when I was, frankly, six or five years old. It's quite ridiculous and I'm pretty sick of hearing about it.

The people of Saskatchewan want to talk about the issues in health care that are happening today, decisions that are happening from that government. And they're sick of talking about things that happened 30 years ago. And if we really want to talk about history, then we can go back to the '80s and some other problems that happened back then, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Belanger: — You know, Mr. Speaker, this is a really important question from the member from Carrot River. Now, Mr. Speaker, to the member from Carrot River: when will this government commit to meaningful work in the North to ensure holistically healthy lives — and this is a very serious question — holistically healthy lives to effectively begin to address the devastating epidemic of suicides in the North?

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, this is a tragedy. And I'll be the first one to admit that it is a terrible tragedy, what has happened up there. And we certainly feel for the families who have lost loved ones and the suicides that happened. And we are working hard to try and alleviate that problem in various different ways. And it's something that nobody, I don't care what political stripe you are anywhere wants to see happen.

This is a tragedy. And the member brought up a very good thing. And this is something that our government is going to be working towards to try and help alleviate these problems. And I wish I could . . . I wish that this would never happen. It should never happen to anybody, any family, anything like that. It is a tragedy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP made only one reference to rural Saskatchewan in their entire election platform, and that one reference was to promise to come up with a strategy later. They have no plan for the health care in rural Saskatchewan, and rural citizens are just an afterthought.

My question is to the member from Regina Douglas Park. After three elections, do not you think it is time to realize that the people of Saskatchewan are not just giving our party “a chance to govern” — as the member from Athabasca said on Monday — and that the members opposite are not owed the right to govern but have to earn it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, the premise of that question is so ridiculous, I don't even know where to start. We are the party that has been going around for the past two months, going around to different locations and speaking with actual public, asking them what they think they would like to see happen to their health care system, where they would like to see improvements.

This government has not done that. Their transformational change agenda has included consulting, which is the most narrow consultation process I've ever seen. So frankly, Mr. Speaker, that question is absolutely ridiculous. We are the party that consults. We are the party that listens to people. Whether they vote for us or not, we still listen to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we will continue to do that and stand up for those people.

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Between 1991 and 2007, the NDP closed 52 hospitals in rural Saskatchewan. The Fyke Commission called for the closure of 50 more hospitals in rural Saskatchewan. The Leader of the Opposition spoke about this report on May 25th, 2016, saying to our government “. . . wasted their opportunity to implement the expert recommendations and bring meaningful and positive improvements . . .” My question to the member of P.A. Northcote: how much out of touch with rural Saskatchewan can you be that the party believes in closing 50 more rural hospitals that would result in meaningful and positive improvements?

The Deputy Speaker: — The time has expired for the 75-minute debate.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 2 — Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Belanger.]

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to this important motion, a motion that calls upon this government to fulfill those calls to action contained in the Truth and Reconciliation final report that pertained to the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

Mr. Speaker, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was launched at the request of those who were found to have been caused injury in the residential school system. In fact the commission was part of the compensation. Survivors of that residential school system used part of their benefits to launch this commission to get at, first of all, Mr. Speaker, having a real national discussion, a truthful discussion about the past in Canada with regard to First Nations people and the residential schools. And also, Mr. Speaker, the last part of it, the reconciliation which must necessarily come after the truth has been told, and at the end of that commission they launched a number of reports, including 94 calls to action which are incumbent upon people across this country if we are to truly heal from the past in this country, Mr. Speaker.

The mandate for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission noted that “There is an emerging and compelling desire to put the events of the past behind us so that we can work towards a stronger and healthier future.” Mr. Speaker, I think that we should all share that goal, to look at our past in an honest and open way and then set about the goal of reconciliation, of making things right. And I do hold some hope in that we are talking about issues that perhaps even a decade or certainly two decades ago we simply didn't talk about in this country or in this province, and I do see that as hopeful.

As the last sentence in the mandate introduction noted, “The truth of our common experiences will set our spirits free and pave the way to reconciliation.” And, Mr. Speaker, I do sincerely hope that we are on that path to reconciliation, and we certainly do need to be, and I hope to outline some of the reasons why.

Some of the goals of the TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] were to acknowledge the residential school experiences, to call witnesses, to “support and promote and facilitate truth and reconciliation events at both the national and community levels” and to promote the awareness and public education of Canadians. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, we are

down that path, but we have far to go.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission formally recognized 19 residential schools that operated in Saskatchewan from the early 1880s up until the closure at Lebret, Mr. Speaker, which was the last residential school in Canada to close. So in some ways we're speaking of a time long ago, but certainly the closure of Lebret is something that is within the lifetime of, I would dare say, perhaps with the exception of the pages, all of us in this legislature, Mr. Speaker.

A little information about the TRC. During the six years of its operation, the commission held events in all parts of the country. Some of the most visible and largest events were held right here in Saskatchewan, and I think specifically of Saskatoon. The commission estimates that there was as many as 155,000 visits at seven national events, and over 9,000 residential school survivors were registered to attend them, Mr. Speaker. These are people — 9,000 — who gave testimony at the commission. The commission made an offer to everyone involved in the residential school system to have the opportunity to speak about their experience.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if anyone here had the opportunity to hear some of that testimony that was given over the five years that the commission went across the country. I know that the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] did a good job in reporting on the commission and bringing some of those stories forward, and we see that work continuing today.

I noted on the way over this morning to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, that there was a young student at the University of Regina who is going to be screening a film, recounting the stories of residential school survivors. And it is heartening to see how young people have taken up the goal of reconciliation in earnest and are doing their part to ensure that we don't see this commission as, you know, a five-year commission, a table, some reports to collect dust. This is a document that really, really demands that we understand our history and that we all set about the work of reconciliation.

And so I commend those people who have taken up the calls, the 94 calls, and who have set about implementing them at the best of their ability. And certainly as legislators, we have a special responsibility here, Mr. Speaker, to do what we can to set us on the path and continue down the path of reconciliation in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there certainly have been things that have changed since the 1880s when residential schools were first established in this country. In fact, much has changed. But I think it's important that we remember that history and we go back and revisit some of that.

In the 19th century, the Canadian government believed the best chance of success for indigenous children was to learn English and to adopt Christianity and Canadian customs, Mr. Speaker. Sir John A. Macdonald, prime minister at the time, commissioned journalist and politician Nicholas Davin Flood, who a school in my neighbourhood is named after, to study industrial schools for Aboriginal children in the United States. Davin's recommendations were to follow the US's [United States] “aggressive civilization” — in quotes, Mr. Speaker —

agenda, and noted, "If anything is to be done with the Indian, [then] we must catch him very young." And "The children must be . . . constantly within the circle of 'civilized conditions,'" Mr. Speaker.

It's difficult for us today, I think — certainly I have difficulty even in speaking those words — but we have to understand our history if we are to heal from it. And so I think it's important that we understand the context in which these schools were established and what their aims and goals are.

Part of the strategy of the residential schools was to alienate children from their families and familiar surroundings. It became mandatory in 1920 for every Indian child to attend residential school and illegal, Mr. Speaker, for them to attend any other educational institution. The government felt that children are easier to mould than adults and the concept of a boarding school was the best way to prepare them for a life in mainstream society, Mr. Speaker.

[12:30]

Sometimes I hear people in the community, people that I see on social media, who say, you know, why don't they just get over it? Why don't we just move on? And I think, Mr. Speaker, those are comments born from a lack of understanding of the history and just the very, very significant impacts of the residential school system. So I'm going to speak at a little more length here about what exactly that looked like from an outsider's perspective.

In 1931, at the peak of the residential school system, there were about 80 schools operating in Canada, and the last of which of course was Lebret, which closed in 1996. In all, about 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children were removed from their communities and forced into the schools.

Mr. Speaker, I've noted some statistics here today. But I think it warrants . . . You know, statistics are important. They provide some context. But I think in order for us to really understand what that's like, we should think of, as parents and grandparents sitting here today, what that might have been like, might have been like to, by force, officials show up and tell you that by threat of law you have to put your children in a car with strangers or on a plane, in some cases, with strangers and ship them off to a school that's very far away. And I think if, you know, we just sit and contemplate that for a minute, I think all of us can recognize how horrifying that must have been — how horrifying for those parents and those communities and how horrifying for those children who were scooped up by strangers and taken somewhere far away.

And if that had been the end of it, Mr. Speaker, I think that would have been bad enough, but we all know that that wasn't the end of it. Residential schools were established with the assumption that Aboriginal culture was unable to adapt to a rapidly modernizing society, and students were discouraged from speaking their first language and practising their traditions. If they were caught, they would experience severe punishment, Mr. Speaker, severe punishment for doing what you grew up with, what you knew, for speaking your own language, Mr. Speaker.

Throughout the years, students not only experienced that type of treatment but they also were subjected to substandard conditions. They endured physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, Mr. Speaker, and they rarely had the chance to see opportunities of normal family life. Most children were away for 10 months of the year; some stayed year-round.

Correspondence that was sent home from those schools, Mr. Speaker, was written in English, so even when they were allowed to send letters home, often their parents wouldn't be able to read those letters. And even if you went to school with your brothers and sisters, there was segregation by gender, and you wouldn't even be able to talk with your brothers and sisters, Mr. Speaker. And I think we can all imagine the type of devastation, the loneliness. I'll never forget one of the survivors talking about how he cried himself to sleep and the loneliness, and the pain in his voice. And this is a grandfather, perhaps even a great-grandfather talking about how lonely, how deeply lonely he was being in that school.

And, Mr. Speaker, those stories are hard to hear, but imagine, imagine living those stories; imagine that that happened to you and your family. And I think people live those stories. They live those stories because of deliberate policies set forth by governments, so at the very least it's incumbent upon us to listen and to truly take it in and try to understand with empathy what that might have been like.

Of course the purpose of the schools was to eliminate all aspects of Aboriginal culture, or more succinctly put in some instances, kill the Indian in the child, Mr. Speaker. Hair was cut short. Uniforms were imposed and days were strictly regimented. Now remember this was all done under the guise of education, but even the education was substandard. Often by the end of turning 18, many students in those schools only had attained about a grade five level of education. Much of their day, in some cases more than half their day, was spent in classes. The other half was spent doing menial tasks and basically labour without pay in those schools, Mr. Speaker.

Of course the damage didn't even end there with the abuse, the loss of culture, the lack of a quality education. It also posed a very significant health risk, Mr. Speaker. We know now that some of these children were subjected to experiments around malnutrition. They were deliberately starved in these institutions. A Bryce report in 1907 noted that 24 per cent of previously healthy Aboriginal children across Canada were dying in residential schools when . . . And this doesn't include the figure of those who were sent home to die when they became critically ill, Mr. Speaker.

I've gone into some length in painting a bit of a contextual picture here because I think it's important. And I think that's the first part, as we noted, of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was that we all need to hear the truth. We need to hear it. We need to understand, because that sets us up for really earnestly going about the business of reconciliation. And that's what we're called to do with the TRC calls to action.

One of the other things that I want to talk about a little bit that sort of runs a thread through all of that is the sense of shame that was imposed, that was elicited in First Nations communities and within those children. Survivors talk about

going home and not having the skills really, only grade 5 education, but then also not having the traditional skills, not having the skills, the trap line skills, and the traditional knowledge, the ability to speak to their parents and their grandparents, Mr. Speaker. And this set in a very deep, deep level of shame that I think has been, I don't want to say more damaging, but has caused great damage. That sense of . . . not guilt. Guilt is something that we experience when we've done something wrong. Shame is a sense of being wrong, being wrong as a human being. And, Mr. Speaker. I think that many of the issues that we see today, be it with alcoholism, with suicide, with rates of violence, has to do with that very deeply embedded sense of shame that has been passed on as well as the intergenerational trauma that has been passed on.

Of course residential schools operated well into the '90s, but there was a bit of a shift in the '60s. And we also saw a deliberate policy that's been deemed the Sixties Scoop which also has had very real impacts in communities, Mr. Speaker. So I think I should move ahead a little bit. But I did think it was very important that we remembered why these calls to action and why they're so important, Mr. Speaker.

And I don't want to lose sight of the hope, the sense of hope, certainly talking to Justice Sinclair the sense of hope, determination and hope, the good work that is being done. Hearing talk of reconciliation is something that I don't think we did hear when we were going to school, so I think that that is hopeful. And we have to keep that hope alive, and note the very good work that's going on in communities around this country and around this province, but also not be shy about the work that's ahead of us, Mr. Speaker.

Today in Saskatchewan, 67 per cent of children in care are First Nations children. The national average is 48 per cent. In Manitoba or in Saskatchewan, 64 per cent of children who are First Nations live below the poverty line. That number for non-indigenous children is about 16 per cent. So these impacts exist today. Off-reserve First Nations employment in Saskatchewan is 21.7 per cent, and the North lost over 2,200 jobs since last September. Mr. Speaker, this is where the past meets the present. Those impacts continue today.

It was noted . . . I brought up in June when we stood here in this legislature, you know, certainly the social impacts, but the economic impacts as well. And I deliberately put them second and a bit down the line, but they are important as well.

A recent study that showed that closing the First Nations education gap would provide massive economic benefit to all Saskatchewan people. According to that study, closing the gap would bring about an additional 90, nine zero, billion into our economy over the lifespan of the current population, Mr. Speaker. So this is, I think, a social, a moral, and an economic imperative that we get this right, that we start about the path of reconciliation.

So certainly, many of the recommendations that were brought about in the calls to action were aimed at the federal government. Many of them are aimed at every individual, every person who resides in Canada. And some were aimed particularly at provincial governments, Mr. Speaker.

So my goal now with the remainder of my time is to go through some of those goals. I know that it has been stated that the government is working on about 22 or 23 of these goals. I want to instill a sense of urgency about really going after those goals and also raise an alarm that not only do I fear that we've stalled, that we've actually gone backwards on some of those goals since last year, Mr. Speaker.

One of the first goals is calling upon levels of government to commit to reducing the number of children in care, Mr. Speaker. As I just noted, 67 per cent of children in care in this province are indigenous and that number is too high. We recently saw legislation or have been speaking to legislation that would make it easier to terminate contracts with First Nations child and family services providers. Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I think that relationship with those providers is very important and we need to work harder to maintain and to increase that relationship.

Something that I pay particular attention to is Jordan's Principle. Jordan's Principle, Mr. Speaker, is the principle based on an inquiry into the death of a young First Nations boy who spent his whole life in hospital because levels of government were wrangling about who should pay. Jordan's Principle tells us that we should provide the service first and then work out who pays later. Mr. Speaker, we are not far enough ahead with Jordan's Principle in this province and I can tell you that from first-hand experience.

When listing some of the progress that has been made on the call for governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families, certainly there has been good work done, Mr. Speaker. I think that it's important, though, that we not only do this work when money is flowing swiftly, that we prioritize this work. I think of the stagnation in funding to KidsFirst, the cutting of the RIC [regional intersectoral committee] coordinators. It's important work, and not just when we've got the extra cash. Let's prioritize these terms, Mr. Speaker.

One of the other recommendations was eliminating educational employment gaps, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we have a significant and endearing . . . enduring, rather, Mr. Speaker, gap between not only achievement rates but also graduation rates between indigenous and non-indigenous children in this province.

We have sector goals, which are important. But we have noted — and I certainly have noted from this place — significant underfunding in education in this province, signals that we are going to really embark on a program of upheaval within education. And I've been told by educator after educator after parent after board that they are fearful that, when we embark upon that kind of change and upheaval, that we are going to move our eyes off of those goals in education. And, Mr. Speaker, that would be a huge mistake.

I think about, you know, one of the things that the government says that they are doing with regard to this gap is making technological resources like the student data system available to First Nations schools. And in that, our public telecommunications company certainly plays a big role, Mr. Speaker, so I highlight that.

[12:45]

Pre-kindergarten programs are noted here, Mr. Speaker. There's a stagnation in funding for pre-kindergarten programs. We didn't add any more last year in the budget, and that, Mr. Speaker, is a problem.

I note Askî and the Help Me Tell My Story, that research, I would . . . that program, would highlight that as something that is positive, certainly, that's gone on in our schools.

When the government was listing their list of positives and their measures in order to address the calls to action, Mr. Speaker, they note the NORTEP program. Mr. Speaker, certainly, we agree. That is a great program. It provides teachers; 90 per cent of those teachers stay in the North. They have established relationships in those communities. And, Mr. Speaker, that is hugely important especially when we think of what we have lost, what people in the North have lost in terms of those relationships and those members of their community. That's why I think that is very much in the wrong direction to be cutting that program.

One of the other calls to action is calling upon levels of government to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families. Again as we noted, we've stagnated in our creation of early learning programming, pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programming, and KidsFirst programming.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other examples here, but to this I would say one more specific would be cuts to the Aboriginal court program worker, cuts to the alternative measures program, both of which go against not only the calls in this document but also what the government has said that they are doing to remediate those, to address those calls to action, Mr. Speaker. We're moving in the wrong direction.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to conclude and adjourn debate on the motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on the motion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:49.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker.....	935
------------------	-----

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall.....	935
Wotherspoon.....	935
The Speaker.....	936
Beaudry-Mellor.....	936
Forbes.....	936
Ottenbreit.....	936
McCall.....	936
Morgan.....	937
Moe.....	937

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Belanger.....	937
Cox.....	937
Sproule.....	937
Forbes.....	938
Rancourt.....	938
Beck.....	938
McCall.....	939
Sarauer.....	939

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Remembering Jim Prentice

Harrison.....	939
---------------	-----

Violence Prevention Week in Saskatchewan

Beck.....	939
-----------	-----

Regina Pulse Week

Kaeding.....	940
--------------	-----

Pelagie Maurice Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Belanger.....	940
---------------	-----

Reopening of Choiceland Museum

Wilson.....	940
-------------	-----

Local Entrepreneur Named to Coaches Council

Beaudry-Mellor.....	940
---------------------	-----

Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres Banquet

Fiaz.....	941
-----------	-----

QUESTION PERIOD

Privatization of Crown Corporations

Wotherspoon.....	941
Wall.....	941

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transaction

Wotherspoon.....	942
Wall.....	942
Harrison.....	943

Second Bridge for Prince Albert

Rancourt.....	944
Marit.....	944

Role of Government in Delivery of Education

Rancourt.....	944
Morgan.....	944

Coroner's Inquests

Sarauer.....	945
Wyant.....	945

Changes to Workers' Compensation

Forbes.....	945
Morgan.....	945

MOTIONS

Appointment of Advocate for Children and Youth

Merriman.....	946
---------------	-----

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

Rural and Remote Health Care

Steele	946
Rancourt	948, 955
Michelson	949, 955
Sarauer	951
Bradshaw	952
Belanger	953, 956
Docherty	955
Forbes	955
Nerlien	956
Fiaz	956
Dennis	956

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 2 — Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report

Beck	957
-------------------	-----

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Hon. Scott Moe
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Don Morgan
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation