



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

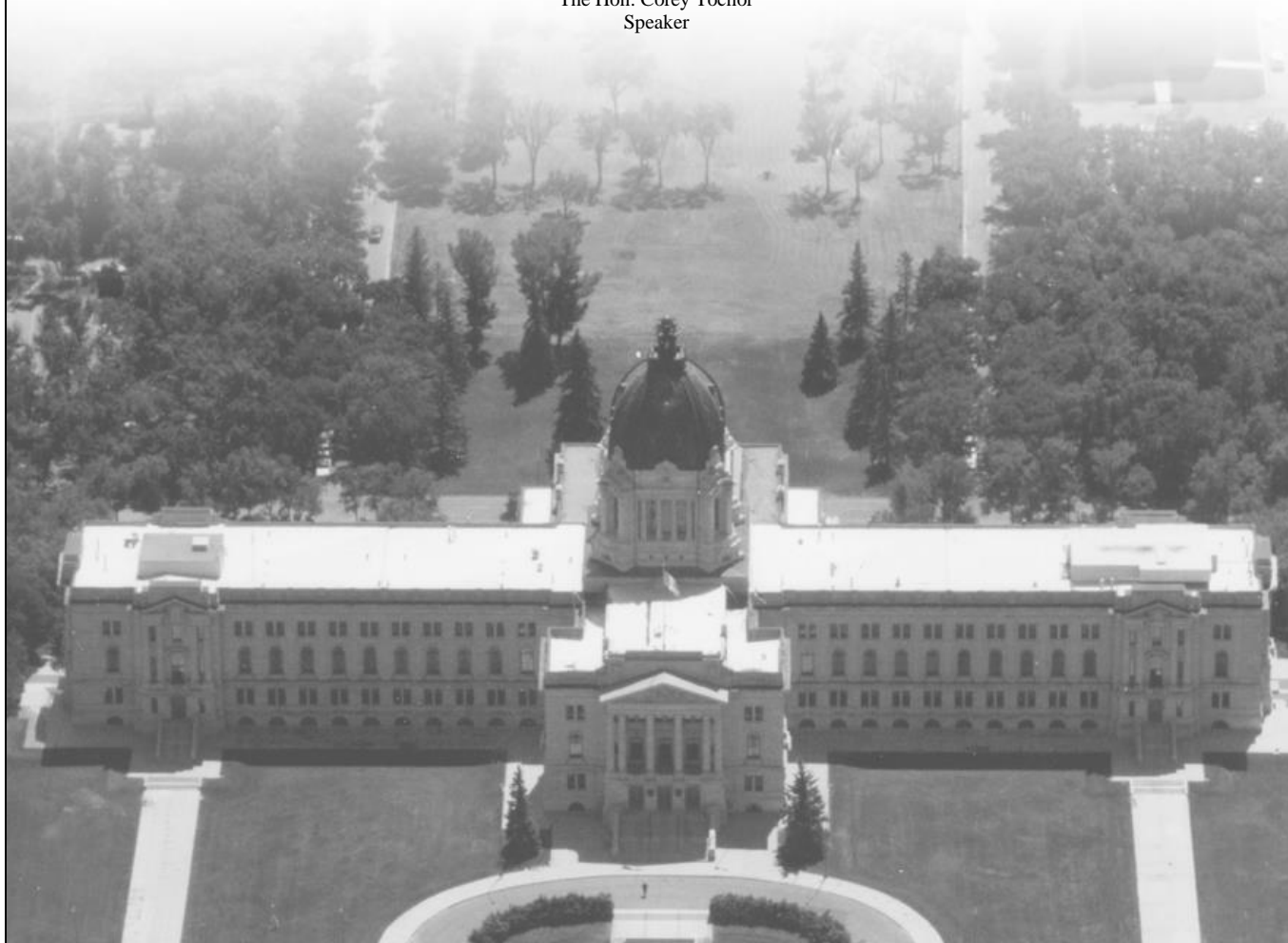
of the

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)

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Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

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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)

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Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

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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

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege to introduce some special guests that are seated in your gallery today. Mr. Speaker, it is the former premier of Yukon Territory, Darrell Pasloski, and his wife, Tammie, have joined us.

Obviously there was just an election in Yukon and, well, the fact that he's with us here today in his home province might indicate what happened there. But there's more to the story, Mr. Speaker. I was honoured and privileged to serve as a fellow Premier of the Council of the Federation with Darrell. Darrell was a Co-Chair of a health innovation committee of premiers and led us down the road to great savings in the purchase of pharmaceuticals, saving literally hundreds of millions of dollars for the country.

He has also presided over the Council of the Federation meeting this year in Yukon, the first time the summer premier's meeting has ever been held in a territory, and he and his team did an outstanding job.

And I can share with the members of the House that he also led us through the renegotiation, the renewal of the Agreement on Internal Trade within Canada, that we could knock down still more interprovincial trade barriers that exist. And at times we needed that deft leadership at the head of the table that he was able to provide. We will wish the incoming premier well, but we're going to miss Darrell at that table. I'll miss him as a friend and a fellow Riders fan; we were the only two of the premiers there.

And I know I speak for Tami and I both say we'll miss them as a couple. Tammie of course, Darrell's wife, enabled, shared him with Yukon and with the country. And so we're grateful to her as well for her leadership and service in Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, they are accompanied today by the incoming president of the Canadian Pharmacists Association, Christine Hrudka. And they would have formed a friendship long ago because Darrell, before he got into politics, was a pharmacist, and so theirs is a long-standing friendship. And members of the House will also know Christine as the better half of the Attorney General for the province of Saskatchewan . . .

[inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, much better, as the Minister of Finance has pointed out.

I would just ask all members of the House to welcome this native son and his wife, Tammie, back to the province of Saskatchewan — former premier of Yukon, Darrell Pasloski.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join the Premier in welcoming Darrell and Tammie to the legislature today. Darrell's relationship and Tammie's relationship with my wife Christine goes back to pharmacy school. They both graduated the same year, and I won't tell you what year that is.

So I do want to thank Darrell and Tammie very much for the friendship they've had with Christine over these many years. They share a great interest not only in pharmacy, Mr. Speaker, but they share a great interest in politics. And I know prior to the campaign up in the Yukon and during the election, Christine had many discussions with Darrell. So I want to thank Darrell and Tammie very much for that friendship.

And then while I'm on my feet, I will welcome my wife to the legislature. The Premier's already mentioned, Chris is the incoming president of the Canadian Pharmacists Association, something we're very proud of, only the second person from Saskatchewan to hold that over the many, many years of that association. She's very much committed to her profession, Mr. Speaker, both in Saskatchewan and nationally. I'd like to say she's also an entrepreneur and has a number of businesses in Saskatoon that she operates.

But her most compelling feature is her boundless patience because she's married to me, Mr. Speaker. We all know that to be successful in this business, you need a very supportive and loving family at home, and Christine is that for me. And so I want to thank you very much, sweetie. I love you very much. Thanks very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — With leave for extended introductions.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to welcome the members that are here today, and to welcome former Premier Pasloski to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, along with his wife, Tammie. It's a remarkable service one takes on in taking on the office of premier. And we respect and thank you for that service to the people of Yukon, and we respect your presence here today as well.

I have observed some of your activity over the years, and I've

always appreciated a common sense approach, as well as that love as a full-fledged member of Rider nation as well, Mr. Speaker. That means a lot to all of us. So welcome to your Assembly. Thank you for your service. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming former Premier Pasloski to the Saskatchewan Assembly.

My introduction of the Minister of Justice's wife won't be quite as sweet and affectionate as his, but I certainly welcome Christine to her Assembly. And I do thank her for her leadership within health care as the president of the pharmacists of Canada. So thank you so much, and we welcome Christine to her Assembly.

I'm really proud to introduce some Martin Monarchs that are here with us today, some students from Martin Academy, Martin school. They're looking good up in the Assembly. They're wearing some of their new school bunny hugs and gear. I've got one of those myself. I wear it with pride.

It's an honour to welcome them here. This is a dynamic school. These are awesome students, awesome teachers. I want you to say hello to all your teachers and to Principal Allen, and I want to wish you well. And it's a pleasure to have you here in this Assembly. It's nice to see this high school continuing to grow and seeing things like the football team being back on the field here this year. And I think there's a few players up there today as well.

I want to welcome the great teachers that are here today, Ms. Ashley Maurer and Ms. Taylor Webb. And I thank them for their service, along with that great staff over at Martin. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming this group from Martin high school, Martin Academy.

I'm not going to introduce everybody here today, Mr. Speaker, but I do have two special people to me seated in your gallery. I have my mom and my dad, Faye and Craik Wotherspoon, that are here. It's a pleasure to have them here. Thank them so much for all their help and all their care. Mom, you know, good looks and brains. Dad, well you see him. It's a pleasure to welcome my parents to their Assembly. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, it is my honour to introduce Montana State Senator John Brenden and his wife, Carol, sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Can you stand up, John and Carol. There you are. Give a wave.

I met Senator Brenden in Calgary at the PNWER [Pacific NorthWest Economic Region] conference this last July. Senator Brenden was last elected to the Montana State Senate in 2015 and has served in many roles, including being one of only 538 presidential electors in 2004, '08, and '12, and has served in many roles, including with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks commission from 2003 to 2007. He's been involved in Republican politics for over 50 years, Mr. Speaker, and they live on their family farm by Scobey, Montana.

Mr. Speaker, he's come to our beautiful capital and Legislative

Building to take a tour and to meet a few of our fine folks here and perhaps, he says, to take in a little bit of a celebration called Agribition, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to welcome the senator and Mrs. Brenden to our Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to welcome State Senator Brenden to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, and Mrs. Brenden. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, there's always a lot of common issues, common ground, and certainly great skies. There's a lot of things in common between Big Sky Country and the Land of the Living Skies here in Saskatchewan.

So I wish them many successes at Agribition. Hope it's a fruitful, productive, and enjoyable visit and again, welcoming them on behalf of the official opposition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, sitting in the west gallery, it's my pleasure to introduce and welcome the Jamestown Jimmies women's wrestling team from the University of Jamestown, North Dakota. Accompanying them today are coaches Tony DeAnda and Shane Tisdale and manager Rosalinda Guzman.

Mr. Speaker, this team has produced a total of 16 all-Americans, six academic all-Americans, and received the Team Scholar Award in 2016. There's 17 athletes with us today, Mr. Speaker. In addition to these results at the college level, this women's wrestling team has produced US [United States] national champions, won international world tournaments, and medalled at the Pan Am championships.

The Jimmies team is currently in Regina and later in the week in Saskatoon for the purpose of promoting international friendship and sportsmanship while participating in competition with the University of Regina and the University Saskatchewan women's wrestling teams. We wish you good luck, but not a lot. But a little bit, a little luck.

A particular note, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce Jessalyn Spooner. She's a freshman this year at the University of Jamestown. Jessalyn was born and raised in Regina and is the first Canadian woman to be recruited to the University of Jamestown women's wrestling team. She's in a pre-med program and this is her first trip home since the start of the term, and what better way for a homecoming but to proudly bring her team to the legislature for an introduction.

Mr. Speaker, joining them today is my CA [constituency assistant], Jessalyn's mom, Maggie Spooner. Maggie joined my office after retiring from a career working with young offenders. Please join me not only in wishing them a happy American Thanksgiving, which is tomorrow, but join me in welcoming Jessalyn, Maggie, Coach Tony DeAnda, the Jimmie women's wrestling team to the Saskatchewan legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join briefly on behalf of the official opposition with the member from Regina Coronation Park in welcoming the University of Jamestown Jimmies from all the way from North Dakota here to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, and to also tag myself alongside the . . . or tag in, I guess might be the more appropriate way to say it, Mr. Speaker, what the member had to say about we wish them luck in their competition with the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan wrestling teams, but not too much.

And certainly, Jessalyn, you know, come on home. It would be good to have you back but certainly it's great to see you here for this excellent exchange of competition, sport, and the spirit that athletes bring to these kind of events. So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, happy American Thanksgiving to our friends here from the University of Jamestown Jimmies. To the athletes, the coaches, and the managers, welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on behalf of the official opposition. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you, I'd like to introduce you to 23 grade 6 and 7 students from École Massey School, which is in my constituency. They are accompanied by their teacher, Madame Clément.

Earlier they got to spend some time with the member from Regina Pasqua. I'm sorry about that. But they do also have a very good guide with them today, Kingsley, who I had the opportunity to tour the legislature with this summer. And I just want to also thank the folks at visitor services for always doing such a great job in making our folks feel welcome. And so please join me in welcoming these grade 6 and 7 students and their teacher to our Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my colleague, I also recognize and welcome the grade 6 and 7 class from Massey School, accompanied by Madame Clément. Most specifically, Mr. Speaker, there is my son in grade 6, Kashif. Wave, Kashif. And I would like to say welcome to this very busy boy and very intelligent boy. He plays street hockey, basketball, and biking, Mr. Speaker. Yes, and then the most important game is and the favourite game is golfing. And in his free time, Mr. Speaker, he goes to school.

I would like to welcome them. I ask colleagues to welcome my son in his Legislative Building.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce, in the west gallery, Megan Griffith. Megan would be no stranger to this Assembly as she worked here with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, I know with myself, as Minister of Environment, a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, as well as a number of other posts.

And she hails from a farm southeast of Yorkton in what she calls the country of Bob Bjonnerud, Mr. Speaker. Now Megan is employed with the University of Calgary, Mr. Speaker, and she's in town visiting some old friends and whatnot. And it was a pleasure to see her last night, and I look forward to seeing her again before she returns back to Calgary. So if everyone would join me in welcoming Megan to her previous legislature.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the legislature, I would like to introduce . . . well not really introduce but I would like to reintroduce, I guess, Yogi Huyghebaert, a well-known person in this legislature. And stand up, Yogi, and wave at everybody.

Mr. Speaker, Yogi is well known not only in the legislature and the love that the opposition has for him, but he's also known as a great cook. But, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that there's some things that Yogi can't do. We went fishing this year, and you know, I did get a picture of Yogi with a lot of fish, but I was the one that, you know, had to put them on the table and catch them for him. So anyway I'd like to ask everybody to welcome Yogi back to his legislature.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of the official opposition, we too would like to extend a warm welcome to Yogi Huyghebaert for returning to the Legislative Assembly. Having grown up in Wood River, I just wanted to pass along how happy everyone is about the highway between Lafleche and Gravelbourg. It was very well done and much appreciated. And certainly your service to our country is one that will be appreciated for many, many years by the citizens of Saskatchewan, and your service in this legislature. So welcome back, Mr. Huyghebaert.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that in April 2014, the then minister of Social Services said the Lighthouse in Saskatoon would “. . . take pressure off existing detox facilities, hospitals, and police cells while keeping people

safe, especially in our brutally cold winters.” Mr. Speaker, the petitioners pointed out that on that very same day, the then minister of Health said, “We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay,” Mr. Speaker.

The petitioners point out that since that time, the government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. And, Mr. Speaker, we in the opposition could not agree more. We’d only need to look to the Saskatoon Health Region which has experienced record over capacity in the recent last couple of months, Mr. Speaker. And the Lighthouse clearly isn’t the whole issue there, but certainly this kind of cut does not help, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately reverse their recent cuts to funding that allows extremely vulnerable people to access the services of the Lighthouse stabilization unit in Saskatoon, and revisit their imposition of a strict and narrow definition of homelessness in November of 2015 which forced the Lighthouse to cut back its hours of essential services in February of 2016, and take immediate steps to ensure that homeless people in Saskatchewan have emergency shelter, clothing, and food available to them before more lives are lost.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens from Saskatoon and Dundurn. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government’s decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. Now I’d like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Melfort, Gronlid, Watrous, Brooksby, Young, Tisdale, Naicam, Pleasantdale, Weldon, Saskatoon, Kinistino, Carrot River, St. Brieux, Ceylon, and Wadena. I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I’m proud to stand in my place once again to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. Whereas the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert and this critical infrastructure issue and that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today, Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and the businesses that send people and products to the Prince Albert area require a solution. So, Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

That the people ask that the Saskatchewan Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric, and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we’ve presented page after page after page in this Assembly calling for a second bridge for Prince Albert, on this particular page the people that have signed this are primarily from Prince Albert and the St. Louis area. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m rising to present a petition regarding *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*. It’s an old and outdated piece of legislation that remains largely unchanged, despite amendments over the years. It is in desperate need of modernization to reflect the current challenges that farmers and ranchers are facing today. Here’s the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce legislation that would modernize *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act*, classify land valued as industrial rather than agricultural when oil and gas development takes place, remove pipelines and flow lines from the surface rights Act, and establish a new maximum in compensation to be paid for damages.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this particular petition are from Saskatoon and Martensville. I so submit.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition regarding child care in Saskatchewan. Those signing this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: across Saskatchewan, licensed non-profit child care centres are taxed inconsistently and many of our licensed non-profit child care centres pay commercial property taxes. This is not done in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, British Columbia, or New Brunswick.

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget and this issue threatens both the number of child care spaces as well as the quality of care. Child care has an enormous positive impact on a child’s future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return, and child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development. It is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools. I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centres provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by including them in *The Education Act* and exempt all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan

from property tax through changes to the appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, those signing the petition reside in Moosomin. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition yet again calling for a stop to the Sask Party sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that in the recent election campaign, the Sask Party promised that they would not privatize SaskTel, but the petitioners also 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.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners also point out that once SaskTel is gone, there's no getting it back and there's no telling what else the Sask Party might sell.

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 to keep our valued Crown corporation in the hands of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this particular batch of petitions is signed by citizens from Windthorst, Coronach, Fillmore, Odessa, Manor, Estevan, Weyburn, Saskatoon, and Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise yet again in the House 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, resulting in layoffs of Aboriginal court workers throughout the province. Those on this side of the House know that Aboriginal court workers play an important role helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases. 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.

The individuals signing the petition today come from Grenfell, Langham, Regina, and Moose Jaw. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the petition to stop the redirection of funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. A recent report shows that 94 per cent of NORTEP [northern teacher education

program] grads found employment in the North. NORTEP has improved teacher retention rates in the North. NORTEP has a positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan. NORTEP provides highly quality face-to-face instructional and services to students. 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:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to immediately restore the five-year agreement to fund the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. and to continue to fund NORTEP-NORPAC programs in La Ronge.

It is signed and supported by the leadership of the North and signed by hundreds and hundreds of residents of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently had the pleasure of attending the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony and banquet.

In the category of athletes: accomplished gymnast, track star, and bobsleigh racer Jaime Cruickshank; Huskies and CFL [Canadian Football League] football player Duane Dmytryshyn; Canadian record-breaking pole vaulter Kelsie Hendry; former Team Canada hockey player and coach Randy Smith; and Canadian standing volleyball champion Joey Stabner were all inducted.

In the category of teams: world champion-winning baton twirling pair, Stephanie Hart and Casey Napper; along with their coach, Brenda Bennett; and the Marian Gymnastics Club were inducted.

And in the category of builders: Rempel Brothers softball pitcher and coach Don Bates; multi-sport athlete and coach Bob Fawcett; and soccer athlete and coach Percy Hoff were all inducted into the Hall.

Along with them was Ray Wight, of whom I can attest to his strengths as a builder. Ray was my first badminton coach in the 1980s. He knew the sport, but more importantly he knew how to make playing fun. He fostered a love of the sport and built skills in a group of young athletes who went on to have success provincially and nationally. Ray is also an accomplished cyclist, and is one of the founding presidents of the Horizon 100 Cycling Club. I heard that evening from his cycling colleagues that he carried that same ability to inspire and that desire to support into his time in that sport as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating these fine individuals who were inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. Thank you.

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

25th Annual Moose Jaw Festival of Trees

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday was the 25th anniversary of the Festival of Trees in Moose Jaw. The Festival of Trees could be considered the social event of the year, complete with a festively decorated venue, elaborate Christmas displays of trees and wreaths, and a variety of spectacular auction items.

This year's theme was Black/Gold and the evening was full of elegance. Approximately 300 people came out to enjoy a fun-filled evening of dining and dancing and fundraising, with a live and silent auction. Fundraising at this year's event will be put toward the purchase of surgical equipment for the new Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the largest contribution of the night was a \$100,000 donation from the Moose Jaw students' association of Saskatchewan Polytechnic Moose Jaw Campus. The item that raised the most money during the live auction was the Yara's All I Want for Christmas is You display purchased by Main Street Dental and then generously donated back to be auctioned a second time, raising a combined total of \$7,300.

Mr. Speaker, this event raised over \$293,000 and is a perfect example of the generosity of the people of Moose Jaw. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the organizing committee, the dedicated volunteers, and the citizens of Moose Jaw in support of this year's Festival of Trees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Project Reflects Pride in Cathedral Area

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend an "old new touch" was officially opened as an entryway to one of Regina's most historic streetscapes. Regina designers Amanda Lang and Christine Bachinsky have transformed a corner of 13th Avenue and Albert Street using century-old bricks and limestone salvaged by volunteers from the demolished historic Connaught School. Of their project, Amanda noted, "We envisioned creating a delightful, inviting place that encourages people to sit and meet with their neighbours."

Built with a small grant, help from local businesses, small donations, and a whole lot of community spirit and volunteer labour, the Rassemler project means "to gather." The design plays on a frieze of stylized linked people by renowned Canadian architect Clifford Wiens, which once encircled Connaught's distinctive round gym. "We chose to reference the 'stone people' because we see this form as an expression of the strong sense of community and pride that is shared by residents of the Cathedral area."

As noted, the bricks and limestones were rescued from the city landfill by citizens last November. "The project models

responsible recycling and shows respect for the true irreplaceable value of heritage materials," said project coordinator Trish Elliott. Dr. Elliott was the driving force behind this project, coordinating and moving this project forward from the beginning, from paperwork to shovel work.

In addition to local volunteers, the project was supported by the community association, Save Our Connaught Heritage, business operator Von Agioritis, Frontier Masonry, Botkin Historic Building Conservators, Cindercrete Concrete, MPM Construction, Groovy Mama, and the city of Regina landfill staff.

I invite all members to join me in recognizing this incredible community project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Downtown Development in Saskatoon a Success

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to bring attention of this Assembly to a good news story from the city of Saskatoon. Many of you have heard about the new No. 1 River Landing development downtown. This development will include a series of office buildings, a hotel, and a condo building with various sizes of suites.

They held an open house where they were pre-selling condos to those that were interested this weekend, Mr. Speaker. One of the project developers, John Nasser, planned the open house and hoped that they would sell about 30 or so units over the first weekend. Much to his and everyone's pleasant surprise, Mr. Speaker, the entire building — all 105 units — sold out in the first four days.

Mr. Speaker, even in the midst of tough economic times, our province continues to grow. This condo development, with great views and access to downtown alongside local business innovation, shows that our province is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Kay and John Nasser, the development team, and everyone involved in making No. 1 River Landing a resounding success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Doctor Recognized for 50 Years of Service

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize an individual from my constituency who has served this community with professionalism for many years.

Dr. Donovan Brown was recently recognized at the 2016 Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region's long-service milestone award night. I had the privilege of attending the event. There were many remarkable achievements highlighted. However the only doctor to achieve this impressive 50-year service distinction this year was Dr. Brown.

He was born and educated in Ireland, where he began practising medicine, but in 1964 he moved to Regina where he began specializing in sports medicine in addition to still practising family medicine. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Brown distinguished himself as one of the best sports medicine physicians in the province, serving as the Thom Collegiate sports doctor and even eventually came to serve as the Roughriders' team doctor from 1982 to 2007, an impressive 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all the members to join me in congratulating Dr. Donovan Brown for 50 years of service to our community. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Saskatchewan Stands Behind Oil and Gas Industry

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of the bad news we are hearing about soft resource prices and government revenues, there are striking examples of how the resiliency of the people of this province are going to help Saskatchewan lead the way in recovery.

According to the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors based out of Calgary, Saskatchewan is going to lead the way in oil development in 2017. Mr. Speaker, historically the majority of conventional oil drilling takes place in Alberta, but that is starting to change.

According to John Bayko, VP [vice-president] of communications for CAODC [Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors], government policy does matter. He recently had this to say in a *Leader-Post* article: "The fact that we're actually swinging to Saskatchewan as being the leading producer in Canada is a testament to how much importance policy plays."

Mr. Speaker, our government has been working hard to create an environment where business can thrive and people can prosper. Although we can't control global commodity prices, we are making sure that Saskatchewan is one of the best places in the world to do business. John Bayko also said, "Saskatchewan is an oil and gas friendly province. Premier Brad Wall is seen as the only provincial or federal leader willing to unapologetically stand behind our industry." Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we are prepared to stand up for the oil industry and our oil field workers. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Request for Proposal Process

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite are at it again, making spectacular accusations without any facts to back up their claims. Yesterday in the Committee of the Whole, the member for Athabasca claimed that the SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] RFP [request for proposal] process was rigged and said, and I quote, "They put a whole bunch of obstacles in front of them so they will never, or could never compete with those that they've already lined up to own these stores."

Mr. Speaker, we know that the members opposite like their smear campaigns and conspiracy theories, but this is outrageous. Here are the facts. Successful proponents for the province's 50 available retail liquor stores were selected through a request for proposal process. That process was looked at by an independent third party, KPMG, one of the most respected firms in this province. Apparently they think they were part of this rigging process.

Six stores went to SLGA employees or groups located across the province, Mr. Speaker. Does the member for Athabasca think those were rigged? Fourteen Co-op liquor stores will be available across the province. Were those rigged too? I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite have the nerve to tell the Co-op that our government has apparently manipulated the system. I suggest that the members opposite take time to research facts and stop continuing to smear Saskatchewan businesses.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transactions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to that government's GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal, they've woven quite the tangled web. But yesterday again, I asked a very simple, straightforward question to the Premier, and again that same simple, straightforward question, there was no answer from the Premier. It was the same old tired talking points we hear day in, day out. It's a simple question about what the Premier knew and when.

We know that in fall of 2012 the proposal to have the GTH pay way too much for land first came to cabinet. We know that some of the members of cabinet were concerned, like the Minister of Justice who flagged that there was a concealed identity and they didn't know who owned this land. Today, of course, we know that identity. It was the landlord for the minister, then minister of the GTH, the Sask Party-supporting land baron from Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier, people deserve an answer to the straightforward question: at what point did he learn the identity of the seller? Was it before the deal was proposed? Was it before it was discussed in cabinet and pushed by the ministers? Or was it not until it was reported in the news? When did he learn this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, appreciate the question from the member opposite. I will just say again for the record that at the request of my office and the cabinet and the NDP [New Democratic Party] actually, the official opposition, the Provincial Auditor, who is an independent officer of this Assembly, was asked to do a review of this entire transaction.

There were no limitations placed on that review; nor should there be, nor could there be. In fact when asked if cabinet documents would be available to the auditor — which doesn't

always happen in the case of reviews — the government said, absolutely. Those documents, the transaction itself would have canvassed all the issues raised in the member's preamble.

Mr. Speaker, the auditor's work demonstrated and showed that there was communication issues between different arms of government, between Highways and GTH. There were 10 recommendations in the report which we accept and we're acting on.

But, Mr. Speaker, there has been a constant inference now for days, from the Leader of the Opposition, about the conduct of members, Mr. Speaker. And I would read into the record one more time the quote from the Provincial Auditor that she attached to her press release, or that accompanied the report that was requested by members opposite and by members on this side. The quote is this: "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or Board of Directors." And the board of directors would have included the minister at the time and would have canvassed all of the issues that are being raised by the NDP again in question period today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this is troubling. Again we see a Premier unwilling to answer a very simple, straightforward question to the people of Saskatchewan. And he goes off on a tangent quoting a part of an auditor's news release, not noting, of course, that this wasn't a forensic audit, that the audit itself is scathing, that it doesn't exonerate government, and that millions of dollars were wasted while nuns were ripped off, Mr. Speaker.

This is not complicated. This isn't about the auditor. This is about what the Premier knew. Only he knew what he knew and when he knew it, and it's a simple question that I'll put back to him. If he truly has nothing to hide, it's time for him to start answering questions like this.

Why can't he simply tell Saskatchewan people when he knew the true identity of that seller, the concealed identity? That's all, Mr. Speaker. When did the Premier learn that the Sask Party was trying to buy land and pay way too much from the Sask Party-supporting land baron from Alberta, who also rents land to the former minister of the GTH? Or did he know this all the way along?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we've responded to these questions day after day. You know who else responded to all of these questions and responded to these questions at the Public Accounts Committee? The Provincial Auditor responded to all of these questions.

The Provincial Auditor and her team of experts had access to all of the documents to which she requested access, including cabinet documents. She had access to all of the individuals involved in the transaction. She did a very thorough audit, by her own admission. She actually said that in terms of the

information presented in the audit, there was more information presented in that audit than there would have been if there had been even a forensic audit, Mr. Speaker. Her conclusion at the end of that process . . .

And again we see members coming in smearing members, smearing citizens. We saw it again yesterday, frankly, in Committee of the Whole with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition smearing companies that had won bids for SLGA permits. It's what they're doing, Mr. Speaker.

What was the auditor's conclusion? From her press release of June 30th, 2016, her conclusion, and I quote — these are the words of the auditor: "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or Board of Directors."

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

State of Provincial Finances

Mr. Wotherspoon: — No answer, of course. The question was to the Premier. The response was pathetic, Mr. Speaker. That refusal to give simple answers to simple questions and the refusal to come clean is quickly becoming what that government is known for, Mr. Speaker. We see it with their growing scandal. We see it with their financial mismanagement.

Let's look at the facts. They drained the rainy day fund and didn't save a dime during the best years. They're adding \$3.5 billion of debt in just two years. Their GTH scandal cost taxpayers tens of millions. Their smart meters, millions more. Over 100 million health care dollars were spent for assembly line consultants. \$1.5 billion was spent on their carbon capture debacle. And they even wastefully added three more MLAs [Member of Legislative Assembly]. And of course we have their mismanaged bypass that went from \$400 million ballooning to over \$2 billion and, Mr. Speaker, they didn't even blink, didn't even blink to sign taxpayers on to that massive overrun and to send the cheques to France.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker. You can't make this stuff up, and sadly it's the Sask Party that's making Saskatchewan people pay the price. To the Premier: how can he honestly defend his financial mismanagement, the mess that he's created, and the damage that he's causing?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in that preamble, which was so full of inaccuracies, the member opposite said, "You can't make this stuff up." But he's given a good college try, I'd say, Mr. Speaker, because so much of what he had to say, including his depiction of the bypass, any number of things in his list were full of inaccuracies.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen a downturn in commodity prices now lasting two years, and so it's true that savings that government had set aside . . . which by the way are rendered moot now with summaries. And the member should know that; he called for summaries.

But even if we were on a GRF [General Revenue Fund] approach to budgeting and there was to be separate funds, there were funds in place. And two years later, after historic commodity prices and challenges with respect to fires and flood and other issues, Mr. Speaker, we do find ourselves in a challenge right now in terms of the fiscal position.

However, this is the record of the government over nine years in terms of what has happened with the proceeds and the dividends of the unprecedented growth we've seen. Six billion dollars back in the pockets of Saskatchewan people. Six billion dollars in tax cuts provided by this government over the last eight years, Mr. Speaker. About a \$9 billion increase in infrastructure investment after 16 years of neglect of infrastructure. Thirty-two per cent less operating debt in the province today than what we inherited from members opposite and the governments that preceded them, Mr. Speaker.

And all of that has been part of a growth plan that has led to what? That has led to a growth of 150,000 people in the population of the province and the second-best job creation record in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Pretty tired lines from our Premier, shouting about the \$1 billion deficit and the mess that he's created and basically shouting away that he couldn't manage during the best years, leaving us vulnerable now. And really, it's just not believable.

All of that information was available to the Premier. Everyone knew that commodity prices were down. The Sask Party knew the reality, the true state of our finances, but they hid it shamefully from Saskatchewan people before the election. And when they brought in the budget, it simply wasn't believable. Then they refused to come clean and hid their financial first quarter report. Now they come out and pretend that they're shocked, pretend that they didn't know what everyone else knew, pretend that they had no control over all of this, and pretend that they haven't been government for almost a decade. Mr. Speaker, it's just not believable.

So will the Premier finally stand up and show the contrition that Saskatchewan people actually deserve, with the mess that he's created, acknowledge the mismanagement, the scandal and waste, and for hiding this, and for hiding his disgraceful and damaging sell-offs and cuts, Mr. Speaker? People deserve the truth. Why did he work so hard to hide his financial mess from Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, you've got to listen carefully to the preamble, not just to correct things that need to be corrected, Mr. Speaker. But you pick up interesting things because the member just said, and I think he said it yesterday as well, he noted that with respect to the numbers that we're using, that the Finance ministry has provided, he said — his words — everybody knew those numbers were wrong, Mr. Speaker. That's what he's just declared. That's what he just said. And he's nodding his head.

Do you know who used those numbers — the same numbers that he said that they knew were wrong — to develop their own campaign platform? That member, as the Finance critic, and the NDP. And you know what else, Mr. Speaker? He proposed to his leader at the time that if they were to win the election that there would be a deficit, Mr. Speaker. He went on to propose, he went on to . . . I'm not even sure what he's saying from his seat.

An Hon. Member: — He said you fight the last one. We'll crush you in the next one.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well if he's going to crush anyone in the next election, I would encourage him to deal, Mr. Speaker, in the fact of the debate because they used the numbers for their platform. They forecasted a deficit if they were to be elected government. And here's something else, Mr. Speaker. They indicated that if they would have been elected, they would have also financed infrastructure, which is part of the reason for the fiscal and the financial statement that was released in the mid-term report.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to have this debate. We'll put our record of what we've done over the last eight years to invest in this province, to cut taxes and reduce debt, and grow this economy versus 16 years of decline from members opposite, any day of the week.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I honestly do not understand what possible explanation there is for the condescending tone coming from the other side. The last government that Finance minister worked for drove this province to the brink of bankruptcy and now it looks like he's trying to do it again. In just two years, just two, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party are jacking up the debt \$3.5 billion. Mr. Speaker, their deficit this year is over \$1 billion. That's \$600 million more than they claimed it would be just six months ago, Mr. Speaker.

We told them their projections for commodity prices were off. We told them they weren't allowing for the inevitable downturn in the rest of the economy. But they stubbornly stood by their projections and claims. Mr. Speaker, either the minister knew that his projections were more than a little optimistic or he simply doesn't know what he's doing. Which one is it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, I welcome this debate in the Chamber, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the difference . . . We're seeing now the fundamental difference of approach with respect to what the NDP would do, given the same fiscal circumstances that this government is faced with, Mr. Speaker.

I have said over and over again . . . Now the members can dispute this. I think I heard the Leader of the Opposition actually agree with this, when the Premier was alluding to the fact that our resource revenues are down \$1.2 billion over the course of the last 24 months, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think

anybody foresaw that coming, including the Finance critic, because they used the same numbers that the Ministry of Finance put out before the election, Mr. Speaker, as part of their campaign platform — the exact same numbers, Mr. Speaker. As well, as well what we're seeing here now is income tax revenue down about \$400 million in year, Mr. Speaker. We're starting to see that lag effect come through the economy.

We can shock the economy, Mr. Speaker. We can shock the economy by doing some of the things that the members of the opposition have proposed, like a carbon tax. The member from Nutana, the Finance critic, has gone on record as saying she supports a carbon tax, and the Leader of the Opposition has agreed with that, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to take that approach.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I fail to see from where that minister gets his arrogance and his bluster. \$3.5 billion in debt in two years and more than 1 billion in deficits this year, and they were off by 6 per cent for their income tax projections alone, Mr. Speaker. What does he say to the 11,000 more Saskatchewan people looking for work today than were a year ago, or the 140 workers who were told they lost their jobs today, Mr. Speaker?

When the resource revenues were at record levels, the Sask Party took credit for everything: the world turning, and the sun — and the oil prices — rising. But they clearly misunderstood what the rainy day fund was for, Mr. Speaker. They blew through it when the money was raining down. They blew through the surplus, the resource revenue, Mr. Speaker. What does that minister have to say to the people of Saskatchewan who are now being forced to pay the price for Sask Party mismanagement, scandal, and waste?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, in the NDP's last campaign platform, they had an economist from Carleton University as part of the Broadbent Institute who advocated, you should take advantage of the AAA credit rating and record low interest rates and borrow money to invest in infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition has dissociated himself from that statement now, from that campaign platform, by his comments yesterday. They don't think you should borrow money right now to invest in infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 10 years in the province of Saskatchewan — we're proud of this — there's 150,000 new citizens calling Saskatchewan home today, Mr. Speaker. That's the equivalent of a new Prince Albert, a new Moose Jaw, a new Yorkton, a new Swift Current, a new North Battleford, a new Lloydminster, a new Martensville, a new Humboldt, a new Melfort, and a new Meadow Lake, combined, over the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker. We're proud that these people have called Saskatchewan home.

Do these people not deserve schools? Do they not deserve health care facilities? Do they not deserve to have their roads paved — which the opposition, when they were in government,

said go pave your own roads, Mr. Speaker?

We're going to take a different approach to supporting infrastructure and these 150,000 new citizens in the province of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

State of the Provincial Economy

Mr. McCall: — Well I'll tell you one thing that the people of Saskatchewan deserve, Mr. Speaker, is to be dealt with straightly and plainly by the Government of Saskatchewan. In addition to the \$1 billion deficit we see announced yesterday, Mr. Speaker, there's also an emerging — it's plain — integrity deficit when it comes to the actions of this government.

The Sask Party is making the people of Saskatchewan pay the price for Sask Party mismanagement scandal and waste. To make matters worse, this government has no plan to get Saskatchewan's finances back on track in the short or long term. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they're doing the opposite.

The Sask Party is cutting education and job training programs. This in a province that has 11,000 more people looking for work today than last year. Today alone, we saw 140 layoffs at the PCS Cory mine outside of Saskatoon; 100 permanent jobs were lost. And people need help beyond the minister's rapid response team revising their resumé's.

Working people need job training and job creation, Mr. Speaker. Job training contributes to the economic growth and a stronger tax base in the long term. Can the Minister of the Economy explain why the Sask Party government is choosing cuts instead of investing in jobs for Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The premise of the member's question is just wrong. We have increased funding for adult basic education by 53 per cent since 2007. We've increased apprenticeship training, funding, by 76 per cent since 2007. And in terms of the potash issue, of course we have tremendous empathy for the workers impacted. We know that there have been very significant challenges in terms of commodity prices globally.

In terms of the announcement, Randy Burton, who is a spokesman for PotashCorp said today, "Cory is a higher cost facility so we want to be producing more of that red potash at lower cost locations. Overall our employee count in Saskatchewan is higher . . . than two years ago." That's Potash Corporation.

In terms of their approach, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance just alluded to it. What's their approach? A massive new tax on everything. That's what they are proposing. Their Finance critic went out and scammed and said their approach would be a massive new tax on everything, first and foremost on potash mines, Mr. Speaker. So they want to talk about impacts on potash workers — their approach would have a massive impact on potash workers.

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

Funding for Provincial Parks

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, that arrogant dismissal of job losses does nothing to help the people of Saskatchewan. The Sask Party has a penchant for hacking and slashing through parks funding. They are desperate to fill their massive \$1 billion budget hole they dug, and no ministry is safe. And parks are on the hit list again.

Included in the Sask Party's announced cuts yesterday was a \$776,000 cut to Saskatchewan's provincial parks. Mr. Speaker, there were no details as to who will be impacted by the Sask Party cut.

Do they even know what this cut will mean, or is it just more random slashing? Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport provide some detail on who will be directly impacted by this cut? Will this result in any job losses in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much for the question. It's always a pleasure to answer questions in the Legislative Assembly. But it is kind of ironic on the day today that we announce that more people have attended Saskatchewan parks, more visitations than ever before — nearly 4 million people have taken advantage of Saskatchewan parks — today we get this question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of our parks in Saskatchewan. We market them in the province; we market them outside the province. But, Mr. Speaker, some difficult decisions had to be made. Certainly we have to control spending and we have to look at the current financial situation. So we asked Saskatchewan Parks to do what we've asked all ministries to do, to rationalize spending to ensure that we spend in the most appropriate manner, Mr. Speaker, and reductions were made but the service will continue.

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

[14:30]

Support for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, we saw yesterday the consequences of the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste. Massive deficits, cuts, and clawbacks, and softening the ground for tax hikes. And we know that even more cuts are coming to school divisions.

Right now, the minister has a consultant on a whirlwind four-week lack-of-consultation tour. Mr. Speaker, the minister has been clear: he wants more cuts. This, despite the fact that boards dug deep and found \$15 million in savings. Despite the fact that they've already laid off teachers, educational assistants, and support staff. Despite the fact they've been forced to dig

into their savings to cover basic operations, and despite the fact that class sizes are growing and teachers are not getting the supports that they need.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has made cut after cut after cut to our classrooms, and even more cuts are coming. Will the minister finally take responsibility for his government's terrible mismanagement of our province's finances, or will he keep forcing our children to pay the price?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important to this government than the children of our province. Mr. Speaker, we will do everything we can to ensure that we have the best possible education system in Canada. We have the best teachers; we have the best families. And, Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to do that, unlike the members opposite who ran over 30,000 students out of the province.

Since we have formed government, Mr. Speaker, we have increased funding to our schools. From 2007-2008, we have increased funding from \$1.41 billion to now, \$1.88 billion. Mr. Speaker, during that time, enrolment went up 9 per cent. We have increased funding by 33 per cent for operating alone. We have 754 more teachers, 53 per cent more child care spaces, 104 per cent more pre-K [pre-kindergarten] spaces. We have had record reductions in education property tax.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in the citizens of our province. We believe in the teachers of our province, and we're going to continue to support them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Social Services

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, we see it in cuts to our schools and hospitals, and to supports for vulnerable people. These cuts are real, even if the Minister of Social Services says they aren't.

One month ago, I asked the minister to justify their cuts to Lighthouse in Saskatoon, and she said, "there have been no cuts to the Lighthouse. We continue to fund the Lighthouse the exact same funding as the previous year . . ." But an internal document from Social Services says, "Our analysis of the Lighthouse stabilization unit indicated that the work of the unit doesn't fall within the ministry mandate. Support for this service will no longer be funded."

I know the Sask Party are desperate to hide their cuts but "same funding" and "will no longer be funded" are not the same thing. This is a cut, and it will ultimately cost the province more. When the finances are being squeezed by this government's mismanagement, scandal, and waste, how can the minister justify a cut that will cost more by sending these people to hospitals, emergency rooms, and police cells?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Mr. Speaker, we fund the Lighthouse in the exact same way that we fund every other

shelter in the province of Saskatchewan — on the basis of utilization. In fact we have also increased the per diem rates at all of our shelters by nine times over the last number of years.

You know, I find it really interesting, Mr. Speaker. I sit in the House every day and listen very intently to what goes on. And I've been listening very carefully, particularly to this narrative around cuts and cold and heartless cuts, and I just want to, in very straight and plain language, talk about cuts. There are no cuts, Mr. Speaker.

In fact in particular respect to my ministry, which deals with people, Mr. Speaker, we have increased funding for medically fragile children to the tune of \$7.9 million. We have increased funding for assisted adoption, \$800,000, Mr. Speaker; child and welfare programs by 175 per cent; 311 per cent, Mr. Speaker, for First Nations agencies and CBOs [community-based organization] across the province. We've more than doubled the emergency child care spaces. We've tripled the SIP [seniors' income plan] benefit. We've increased the shelter allowance nine times. SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability], increased benefits four times, Mr. Speaker; 3 billion across all the ministries for people with disabilities. And that's not even touching housing, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Health Care

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, ministers need to start taking responsibility for their cuts. The minister told health regions they needed to cut and they did. It meant job losses and it meant longer wait times. Now he wants them to cut even more: 22 million from the workforce and another 22 million from programs. Mr. Speaker, we've already seen cuts in health regions, so how can the minister suggest that another \$45 million won't impact care? Does the Minister of Health understand that health regions provide health care?

When Sask Party mismanagement, scandal, and waste result in cuts to resources, there are consequences. With no minimum care standards, people are understandably concerned about what could happen to long-term care and what the consequences to our parents and grandparents will be. We know the answers are in the CEO [chief executive officer] tour reports that are sitting with that Minister of Health. Will he commit to releasing those reports today, or will he insist on hiding the consequences from the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The results of the CEO tour, as well as in past years, will be released in due course. Mr. Speaker, the entire premise of that question though, let's put this in perspective. She talks about cuts to health care. The health care budget's over \$5 billion, Mr. Speaker, which is a 50 per cent increase over when we formed government. Mr. Speaker, in fiscally difficult times, if you're going to look for cost reductions, clearly you have to look at the biggest ministries. It only makes sense. But what we will do, Mr. Speaker, we will always keep in mind patient care first. The situation that we're looking at, the areas that we're looking at

cost reductions, Mr. Speaker, we will always keep patient care first in mind and that will continue to be our priority.

But, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, that critic, frequently in House and media, she always, there's always a demand for more resources, more spending, Mr. Speaker. She never explains where that should come from. And what she fails to always mention, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier: 50 per cent increase in health care funding since we formed government, Mr. Speaker, 650 more doctors, thousands more nurses, 800 more long-term care workers.

Mr. Speaker, we've made health care a priority. It's going to be fiscally difficult times, but we'll continue to make health care a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Appreciation

The Speaker: — I'd like to make a quick statement, mostly thank you for some of the members that have been able to help us out in the last few days with SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy]. We had an opportunity bring teachers in from all over Saskatchewan to learn about how their democracy works, and I'm very grateful for everyone involved that have made time out of their busy schedules to help them, from ministers to media to the Clerks. It was a great opportunity. We had a mock parliament earlier today, and I would like to thank some of the teachers that stayed behind to witness question period today.

I would like to also comment on today's question period, where the decorum was much better. I think we had a very respectful exchange of questions and answers today, and I hope this continues for the remainder of the session.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill now be read for a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* and the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 16 — *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* *Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption*

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 16, *The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills so that Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016* and that this bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 28 — *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the help and support of my colleagues, I move that the bill be now read

the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 28, *The Extension of Compassionate Care Act, 2016* be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read for a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016* and the bill be read the third time.

Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 33 — *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016*

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 33, *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title.

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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* and that the bill and its amendments be now read a third time.

Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. When shall the amendments be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 34 — *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 34 — *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 34, *The Provincial Lands Act, 2016* be now read a third time and passed under its title.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — On division.

The Speaker: — Carried. On division.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 14 — *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the Bill No. 14, *The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016* be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill now be read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 10 — *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I move that the bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 10, *The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*, and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 11 — *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016*

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 11, *The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016* be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to

order the answer to question 215.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has ordered the responses to question 215. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 216 through 218.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has tabled the responses to questions 216 to 218. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of the committees, I move that this Assembly be adjourned.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adjourn today?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — We stand adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:49.]

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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