

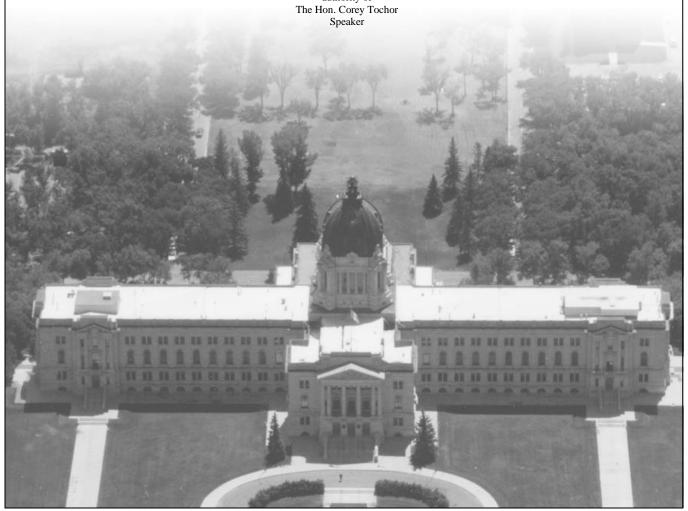
FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)
Published under the authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor



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

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Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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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)

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**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)

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Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

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Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

**Party Standings**: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 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

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN November 28, 2016

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker**: — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks to the members. I'd like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to recognize Elaine McNeil who is seated in your gallery today. There she is. Elaine is a long-time international education consultant, a post-secondary international nursing instructor, and University of Regina international project coordinator who has extensive human rights experience working with women in Africa and the Caribbean.

Elaine is here today to represent the Grandmothers Advocacy Network, or GRAN. GRAN is a network of volunteers across Canada that work to engage Canadian and international support for policies and programs that will address the needs of African grandmothers as they strive to sustain families and communities in the wake of the HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome] pandemic.

Their work also focuses on broader gender balance issues, including the Unite Orange campaign, which we'll hear about shortly, but all I can say is it's the reason that most of us are wearing orange ribbons today. I have to go get mine. While GRAN is made up of a strong core of older women who contribute their energy and experience, there are also many dedicated men, younger women, and youth among volunteers as well.

Elaine, I'd like to thank both the Grandmothers Advocacy Network and you personally for your tremendous commitment you show in support of lives of women and girls. So I'd ask all members to help join me in welcoming you to the legislature today.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite and welcome Elaine McNeil to her Legislative Assembly. Her hard work with GRAN and advocating for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] supports and awareness for women and girls is absolutely commendable and definitely a very important service, both here in Canada — as we know, Saskatchewan has extremely high rates of HIV —

but around the world as well. So I'd like to ask that all members join me in welcoming Elaine to her Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure here today to introduce a couple sitting in the west gallery, Mr. Jada Yee and his wife, Kristi Yee. Give us a wave. Thanks.

Jada currently works for Casino Regina and was recently named to *Global Gaming Business Magazine*'s Top 40 Under 40 for 2017. What an amazing accomplishment. You'll hear more about Mr. Yee in a member's statement. But I must say, Mr. Speaker, he truly exemplifies our provincial strength, and our provincial strength is shown through people like you.

Anyway, I would like all colleagues to join me in welcoming Jada and his wife, Kristi, to their legislature. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McCall**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the minister, on behalf of the official opposition, in terms of welcoming and congratulating Jada and Kristi Yee to their Legislative Assembly.

Certainly Jada Yee is a guy that's been in the Top 40 Under 40, probably each and every one of those years that he's been around, Mr. Speaker. He's a guy that has added a lot to the post-secondary education community, to his work at Casino Regina, and certainly as a proud member of, I believe, Wood Mountain First Nation. And the way that the Yee family generally has added to the wealth of our province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, it's not a surprise that this would have been one more accolade coming Jada's way. But certainly on this particular story we want to say, great work, Jada. Congratulations and we expect more great things to come. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker**: — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 25th the Government of Saskatchewan enacted regulation changes that will benefit apprentices and employers across our province. I'll discuss those important changes in a ministerial statement following question period, but in recognition of these changes I would like to welcome the following apprentices and employers sitting in the government gallery of their Legislative Assembly.

Doug Dimen is a level 3 construction electrician apprentice. Nicole VanDerVelden is a level 4 construction electrician

apprentice. They both have been with Alliance Energy since March 2015. And maybe if they could give us a wave. Prior to indenturing, Doug was a steelworker. Nicole had been working toward an accounting diploma and changed her mind. Doug and Nicole are accompanied by Drew Tiefenbach, the Chair of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board. Welcome, Drew.

Sean Gillespie is a level 2 motor vehicle body repair apprentice, originally from Calgary, now in Regina with Bennett Dunlop Ford. Troy Norman is a level 2 automotive service technician apprentice, born in Yellowknife, grew up in Melfort, also with Bennett Dunlop Ford. Qui Ly is a level 2 automotive service technician apprentice. Almost a decade ago, Qui moved to Canada from Vietnam with his family. Sean, Troy, and Qui are accompanied by Bryan Leier, the Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Board and the body shop manager at Bennett Dunlop Ford here in Regina.

A number of apprentices from SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies] as well. Melodi Quewezance is a level 3 carpenter apprentice. She lives in Regina and is from Cote First Nation originally. Cody Desnomie is a level 2 carpenter apprentice from Peepeekisis First Nation and currently works for Dengler Construction in Regina. Melodi and Cody are both accompanied by Mark Gettle, the director of Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies career centres.

Also in attendance I see Jeff Ritter, our CEO [chief executive officer] of Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, who has done a tremendous service to this province and to apprentices right across this province over a number of years. And I want to welcome Jeff to his Assembly as well. So I guess I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming all of these apprentices and employers to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. No, I'm not into reruns, but I would like to just join with the minister in welcoming these individuals to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly apprenticeship and trades is a pretty critical venture on the part of this province, and the work that is done out of the SATCC [Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission] is continuing to be impressive and vital to our ongoing prosperity.

We want to say a particular shout-out to Mark Gettle, with the Saskatchewan Indian institute of trades and technology, Mr. Speaker. And of course, you know, Mr. Jeff Ritter, CEO with the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission; and Chair, Drew Tiefenbach; and Vice-Chair Bryan Leier, and I believe also the worshipful — the worshipful — Bryan Leier, mayor of Sedley, Saskatchewan in addition to the fine work he does at Bennett Dunlop Ford.

But of course, Mr. Speaker, their work translates into giving the opportunity to these folks going through their apprenticeship their place to shine and to make a better living for themselves and their families. And for that we say, keep up the great work. Keep on building Saskatchewan. And again, Mr. Speaker, you

know, there's some good news coming in the ministerial statement, but we want to say a very general, yet emphatic, keep up the great work to these individuals here at their Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce my wife, Attia, sitting in the west gallery with our two kids: Kashif, 11; and Arsalan is 7. And yes, our older son is in Campbell Collegiate today, didn't join in.

We've been married together since 17 years, Mr. Speaker. Attia is a great lady and a great, I would say, family architect, and a great mom of three boys. Mr. Speaker, they are visiting today this building to see the proceedings and how is the husband doing here. I would like all members to join me in welcoming them in their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's always a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you and to other members of our Assembly, some great students from the Humboldt Collegiate Institute, of course in Humboldt. Their teacher, Mr. David Millette, has brought a classroom down here I think every year since I've been elected, and he's also accompanied with Mr. David Rowe.

Mr. Speaker, the Humboldt students are always full of questions, so I look forward to meeting with them and having a discussion of the procedures that go on in this House. And I want everyone to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, sitting in your gallery is a gentleman named Logan Drydale. Now Logan's claim to fame in this Assembly is he is the dad to one of the Pages, Chase Drydale, and so he's . . . I think Chase is, instead of bring your child to work, he's bringing his dad to work today and showing him around. And I want everyone to welcome Logan 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'd like to introduce Wendy, who is my CA [constituency assistant]. She's sitting way up in the top of the west gallery. You know, we've many times in this Assembly talked about the team of support people that each of us as MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] has in our worlds — our spouses, our friends, our parents sometimes — but I think we sometimes don't talk enough about how important our CAs are and how much work they do on our behalf, especially when we're in session. And so I want to particularly say thank you to Wendy for being my right and sometimes left hand, and for looking after me and our constituents in the constituency association. So I'd like to . . . Please join me in welcoming Wendy Ward to her Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, I'd like to also recognize and welcome my executive director for the Status of Women, Pat Faulconbridge, who is seated up in the Speaker's gallery today. Pat and I have been friends for a very long time and it's very nice to be able to work together on this file that we both care so much about. So I'd just like to . . . Please join me in welcoming Pat Faulconbridge to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to introduce my wife of 32 years, Carla, in the Speaker's gallery. And she's a town administrator for the town of Churchbridge, is on her way to Niagara Falls for the national Outstanding Young Farmers convention, which she is the executive director for.

She did want to remind the Minister of Environment that she is watching you, because she did babysit him in his earlier days, and she would also like me to smack the member from Saskatoon Westview as he used to pull her hair in grade school.

But anyway, I would like to thank her for her never-ending support of me and this career, and I would like to ask all members to welcome Carla to her Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have five individuals seated in your gallery I'd like to introduce. Mr. Speaker, first of all is Mary Walters, who's an individual who has been volunteering — I'll have a lot more to say about her in member's statements — with the Salvation Army for the last 50 years, and certainly have more to say about that.

Also accompanying her are Dr. Jim Coucill, who is the president of the Saskatchewan Council board of directors for the St. John Ambulance. Joe Ralko, who many would recognize, of course, is a member of the Saskatchewan Council. Madeleine Robertson is a member of the Saskatchewan Council as well. And finally Ashley Balysky who is the director of community services for the St. John Ambulance. So if anybody's feeling a little under the weather, we've got you covered here today. The St. John Ambulance is well represented.

I just want to quickly say that, you know, all of us MLAs that especially represent rural constituencies go through redistribution, and that's kind of a bittersweet time. You lose communities that you've represented — for me, Francis for 16 years; that's the bitter part — but the sweet part is you bring on new populations. And for the first time, I've been able to introduce somebody from Pilot Butte, which of course the member from Regina Wascana Plains had that in her constituency, but that is the sweet part of redistribution.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas

Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the five individuals in your gallery, in particular Mary Walters for her 50 years of service to her community. It's absolutely to be commended. What is so great about the province of Saskatchewan is the hard work and the community service that's ingrained in all of us. I'm looking forward to hearing more about that in a member's statement coming forward.

And while I'm on my feet, I'd also like to specifically point out Joe Ralko who is a good friend of many members of this Assembly. He's a non-profit leader and a strong communicator — many, many years of service both within government and in the private sector, as well as in volunteering as well, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

And last but not least, of course, I'd like to specifically welcome a good friend of mine. She's not only a constituent, but she's also a good friend I've had since high school, Ashley Balysky, who I'm assuming is here because of her full-time job at St. John Ambulance. And I'm happy that she's here today.

I also want to commend her for some other work she's done, Mr. Speaker. Not only is she one of the many esteemed graduates of the Michael A. Riffel High School graduating class of 2004, Mr. Speaker, but she's also a strong advocate for the importance of doulas in our health care system, and she is a BodyTalk consultant. And if you ever want to know what that means, feel free to ask her after session. I've seen her do her work in the past, in particular assisting a good friend of ours through a very stressful wedding day. So I can tell you that she does some pretty amazing work both through St. John's and in her spare time, Mr. Speaker. So I ask that all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Carr**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition for citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. 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 Estevan, Minton, Steelman, Macoun, Avonlea, Torquay, Lampman, Stoughton, Midale, and Weyburn. I do so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise

again today to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that in April of 2014, the then minister of Social Services said the Lighthouse in Saskatoon would "... take pressure off of existing detox facilities, hospitals, and police cells, while keeping people safe, especially in our brutally cold winters." That same day, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that the then minister of Health said, "We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay."

They also point out that since that time, Mr. Speaker, the government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. And on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we could not agree more. We only need to look to Saskatoon and recent events there, where hospitals have been in record over capacity for many reasons, Mr. Speaker, but one of them being the fact that the Lighthouse stabilization unit turns people away, and they often end up at hospitals just down the road, 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 the 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 2014 which forced the Lighthouse to cut back its hours of essential service 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 of Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

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

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan ask that the Saskatchewan Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and to 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 I mentioned time and time again, we've had this petition signed by many people throughout the province of Saskatchewan, and on this particular page that I'm presenting today, the people that have signed the petition are

primarily from Prince Albert and area. And I so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition in support of funding heritage languages here in Saskatchewan. And we know that after 25 years, the Government of Saskatchewan is discontinuing all support for heritage language learning in Saskatchewan. Since 1991 heritage language schools have depended on this modest funding from the Ministry of Education to help sustain their programs. But as a result of the announcement by the Ministry of Education, many of these non-profit heritage language schools will be faced with the difficult decision of whether or not they can continue to operate.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, in addition to providing language and cultural classes, these schools often offer a welcoming environment and crucial support for newcomers who are searching for a way to feel at home in their new surroundings here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the cities of Saskatoon and Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

**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 centres in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, those who are signing this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: across Saskatchewan, licensed non-profit child care centres are taxed inconsistently. Many of our licensed non-profit child care centres pay commercial property tax, and this is not done in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, BC [British Columbia], or New Brunswick.

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget. This issue threatens both the number of child care spaces as well as the quality of care. Quality child care has an enormous positive impact on a child's future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development. It is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools. I'll 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, we have literally thousands of signatures on these petitions from across the province, and I'll read some of the communities: Regina, Saskatoon, Maryfield, Moosomin, Tisdale, Hudson Bay, Estevan, Alida, Torquay, Midale, Bienfait, Frobisher, Elrose, Kyle, Prince Albert, Fort Qu'Appelle, Silton, Edenwold, Melville, Churchbridge, Springside, Gravelbourg, Goodeve, Beechy, Pilot Butte, Carnduff, Strasbourg, Wilcox, Osage, Pense, Indian Head, Rouleau, Bulyea, Drinkwater, Yorkton, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a stop to the Sask Party plan to sell off 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 has now started talking about breaking their promise and looking to sell off SaskTel to make a quick dollar. The petitioners also point out that once SaskTel is gone, there is no getting it back and no telling what else the Sask Party will then sell, Mr. Speaker:

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 Leader, Success, Swift Current, Waldeck, and Cabri. 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 another 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, and in stark contrast to the recommendations made in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report, Mr. Speaker.

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 pages of the petition I have to submit today, Mr. Speaker, are from Estevan, 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 a 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 a positive teacher retention rate in the North. NORTEP has a positive economic impact in northern Saskatchewan. NORTEP provides a 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 by hundreds and hundreds of northern residents. I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

## Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association Celebrates Barbadian Independence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, last Friday I, along with the member from Coronation Park, had the honour of attending the Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association's community event celebrating the 50th anniversary of Barbados's independence. On November 30th, 1966, Barbados officially attained nationhood as a sovereign and independent state within the Commonwealth, and a major ceremony took place at the Garrison Savannah to usher in Barbados's independence. Some of the most proud moments for all those assembled included the first ever public performance of the Barbados national anthem and raising of their national flag.

This year, Barbados celebrated their milestone 50th anniversary throughout the year with a lively mixture of festivals, galas, concerts, and competitions. The celebrations conclude on November 30th with a grand parade at the Garrison Savannah where a new monument is to be unveiled.

In Regina, the SCCA's [Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association] day of celebration was filled with good company, delicious food, and energetic displays of song and dance. There was even time set aside to celebrate Guyana's 50th anniversary of independence, which also took place earlier this year on May

26th. Truly the event served as a fantastic reminder of the vibrant cultural communities that enrich the city of Regina and our great province as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in thanking the SCCA for helping to make Caribbean culture a prominent and vibrant part of Saskatchewan communities, and to congratulate Barbados for celebrating 50 years of independence. Thank you.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

#### Pilot Butte Volunteer Honoured for 50 Years of Service

**Mr. McMorris**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a constituent. Mary Walters was honoured recently for her 50 years of volunteer service with the St. John Ambulance Society of Saskatchewan at an event in Pilot Butte where she resides.

Since 1966, Mary has volunteered more than 22,000 hours of service, from small-town community gatherings to major events such as Craven Jamboree as well as home games for both the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Regina Pats. She has been an instructor with St. John Ambulance for three decades, teaching courses ranging from babysitting and CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] to first aid and oxygen therapy. In addition, Mary also trained the individuals who instruct first responders.

She received the title of serving member in 1981, became an officer of the Order of St. John in 1988, commander in 1995, was promoted in 2004 to dame — the highest rank of a woman in the Order — and was awarded honorary life membership along with Chair's Commendation bars at an event in Pilot Butte recently.

St. John Ambulance has been ensuring the health and safety and quality of life for Canadians for well over 125 years. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to join me in congratulating Mary on 50 years of service to the people of Saskatchewan through the St. John Ambulance. Thank you very much.

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

[14:00]

## Keep Meewasin Vital Campaign

**Mr. Forbes**: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a very important provincial matter: keeping urban parks, often also referred to as our conservation agencies, vital and well in our communities.

In June of 2016, this government caused a great concern when it announced that Meewasin would undergo a financial review. Quickly, within days, the Saskatoon community launched the Keep Meewasin Vital campaign. The campaign wanted to create a positive, coordinated way for the people to show their support for Meewasin while the authority underwent this review.

Mr. Speaker, Meewasin is a major contributor to tourism, education, economic development, and the health and vibrancy of Saskatoon. It's important that the partnership between the province, the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and the city of Saskatoon remain intact and that the funding to Meewasin through these agencies stays in step with the impact Meewasin makes on our province.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Meewasin more than matches every dollar of the statutory funding through fundraising and donations. And as well, the Keep Meewasin Vital campaign ran from June 29th to September 17th, 2016 and people were invited to endorse the letter of support — over 2,400 people signing on from across Saskatchewan, and in fact across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to recognize the importance of keeping Meewasin vital, and thank all those who stepped up to the call on this government to continue its financial support. We certainly hope this government listens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

# Grandmothers Advocacy Network Works to End Violence Against Women

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to acknowledge a very important cause for an organization that is working hard to make a change in the world. The Grandmothers Advocacy Network, or GRAN, is here today promoting the United Nations' Unite to End Violence against Women, and girls, Orange campaign. That's why you see the members of this Assembly wearing an orange ribbon today, the official symbol of this very important campaign. The initiative invites governments and individuals around the world to take action on this very important issue and raise awareness for 16 days, starting this past Friday, which was also International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We all feel the impact of gender violence in our communities, and we must all be part of the solution. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that our government continues to find initiatives to combat violence against women such as the death review panel, domestic violence courts, children exposed to violence programming, Aboriginal family violence programming, and a variety of additional programming.

Mr. Speaker, this campaign has seen growing success across Canada and the world, and I hope to see it build on that success in the years to come. Thank you.

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

## **Hanley Sabers Win Provincial Championship**

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of us likely watched the exciting Grey Cup game yesterday. However for the Hanley Sabers, they had a championship game of their own on November 12th. Mr. Speaker, the Hanley Sabers faced off against the Wynyard Bears on the Bears' home turf for the six-man 2A provincial football championship. Like the Grey

Cup, the game left fans on the edge of their seats. The Sabers took an early lead, but the Bears were not to be underestimated. After the back and forth, the Sabers finally secured an eight-point margin, with the final touchdown with 32 seconds left on the clock.

The final score, 69-61, was a satisfying finish for the six players, who will all be graduating this year. In fact, one of those graduated commented to the local paper that "There isn't a better way we could hang up our helmets than putting another banner in the gym." From the dedicated fans who seemed to outnumber the opposing team in their own stands, the volunteers who spent countless hours to make the team a success, to the coaches and parents, this team was a worthy winner. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me, congratulating the Hanley Sabers on their win.

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

# Dress for Success Regina Holds #GivingShoesDay on Giving Tuesday

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to stand in the House today to acknowledge a donation drive being spearheaded by a very worthy local organization, Mr. Speaker: Dress for Success Regina, an affiliate of the global organization that envisions a world where women do not live in poverty. The way that they accomplish this is providing women with professional attire, employment counselling, and interview preparation. Dress for Success is about more than just an outfit. It is about equipping women to break the cycle of poverty, giving women a hand up, not a handout.

Many of you will remember that I've been involved in promoting and volunteering for Dress for Success Regina for many years, and it was my privilege this morning to help open a donation drive called #GivingShoesDay where we, as MLAs, had the opportunity to donate shoes to women who are working hard to re-enter the workforce. Mr. Speaker, if we're all honest with ourselves, we all know that we likely have an extra pair of shoes in our closet to help.

I would also like to ask members to acknowledge the good work that Dress for Success does in helping eliminate poverty for women; and second, I'd invite all members to donate women's shoes as part of the #GivingShoesDay. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Local Resident Makes Top 40 Under 40 List**

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to applaud the accomplishments of Mr. Jada Yee. Jada is a long-time resident of Regina, a proud member of the Wood Mountain First Nation, an employee of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation, and a constituent of mine. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Jada has worked for Casino Regina for more than 17 years. During that time, Jada has risen through numerous departments and ranks at the casino, from a part-time security guard on the gaming floor, all the way to his current role as the

food and beverage manager.

Mr. Speaker, in October, Jada was named to the *Global Gaming Business Magazine's* Top 40 Under 40 list for 2017. This is an achievement that recognizes only the best and brightest future leaders in the casino and gaming industry from around the world. It is also important to note that Jada was the only Canadian that was named to this list.

Jada is the vice-president of the Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association, a student mentor and instructor at the Canadian First Nations University, and a role model for numerous First Nations youth. In January, Jada will also begin working towards a master's degree in human resource management at the First Nations University of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Jada on his accomplishments, and wish him continued success into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

## **Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transactions**

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this morning at Public Accounts the auditor asked for some time to "reinforce a couple of points." Mr. Speaker, she was concerned that her conclusions were, "not well understood," and, Mr. Speaker, that a line in one press release has, "... really I think overshadowed our audit conclusion." Mr. Speaker, the Auditor wanted to "... emphasize that the audit did not conclusively state that there was no conflict of interest, fraud, or wrongdoing..."

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier acknowledge that the lines he's used time and time again are wrong? Will he retract those comments, his weak and tired talking points, and will he finally start to answer the questions that Saskatchewan people are deserved in that government's GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land scandal?

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. There was no scandal. The member keeps using that description. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, that's not been the case, as evidenced by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's report on the matter with respect to the member who was the minister at the time, and it's also consistent with what the Provincial Auditor found and did not find.

Mr. Speaker, I was very careful to quote the press release from the Provincial Auditor over and over again as late as last week. Again, from the Provincial Auditor's press release that accompanied the report: "The audit did not find evidence of conflicts of interest, or indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management or Board of Directors." Now one of the board of directors would have been the minister.

Well here's what else she said this morning: she referenced generally accepted accounting standards. She said GAAS

[generally accepted auditing standards] doesn't allow the auditors to ignore . . . I'd ask the member to listen now:

... doesn't allow the auditors to ignore risks of fraud due to ... or errors or irregular acts, as they relate to the objective of the audit. Rather, as we previously highlighted [as we previously highlighted], GAAS expects auditors to identify such risks, carry out audit procedures in response to those risks, and assess the audit and evaluate the audit evidence [Mr. Speaker].

What the auditor is saying is that generally accepted accounting standards would require an auditor to not ignore risks of, signs of fraud. And so in the accompanying press release, she says the audit, this is the accompanying press release: "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.

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Mr. Speaker, that Premier should be embarrassed, plain and simple . . . [inaudible] . . . Saskatchewan people is nothing but a disrespect to try to dismiss this as not a scandal with millions of dollars that have been wasted, where taxpayers have been ripped off, where nuns have been ripped off, is nothing short of a disrespect to all people in this province.

Let me try again: "... we want to emphasize that the audit did not conclusively state that there was no conflict of interest, fraud, or wrongdoing ..." Will the Premier agree with the auditor here today? Does he agree that this clarification is very important? And will he change his and his Sask Party government's arrogant dismissal of this very serious issue?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there is so much that needs to be corrected in the hon. member's preamble every single time he stands up, including, Mr. Speaker, this notion, this ridiculous notion that the government was dismissive of concerns with respect to the transaction.

In fact it was the government, in fact it was our office that asked the auditor to look at the matter. It was our office, when asked, would we make all of the cabinet materials available . . . And that's not always done, Mr. Speaker, as we know the tradition of cabinet documents and their confidentiality. We were asked, would you make all of the emails, all of the cabinet documents available for the independent officer of the legislature to review?

Mr. Speaker, we did exactly that. We said, absolutely. Everything should be available for the auditor and her team. By the way, Mr. Speaker, she also testified at the committee, the last sitting of the committee, that there was someone on her team that had forensic audit capacity, Mr. Speaker, to look for risks, to look for the same risks . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member is asking, what did she say today? What she said today was generally accepted accounting standards doesn't allow the auditor to ignore risks of fraud. Mr. Speaker, is the opposition insinuating that the Provincial Auditor and her team would ignore risks of fraud? She expressly testified that she did

not do that and went on in their covering press release to say the audit found no evidence of such conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker. That's not the answer they want to hear, but it's the correct answer.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Mr. Speaker, day after day we see that Premier hide from answering questions from Saskatchewan people. We see that same sort of weak and pathetic display here again today.

The auditor said that when it comes to her comments about evidence of conflict of interest, indications of fraud or wrongdoing by the GTH management and the board of directors, she is concerned that, it "... is not well understood and has really I think overshadowed our audit conclusion."

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier stand here and tell us, is it the case that he has, as the auditor put it, "an insufficient understanding of audit," or is there another explanation for why he and his ministers have clung to that one line, that one line in the press release for so many weeks and months while obfuscating, hiding, and not answering anything?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The auditor of course did a very thorough audit. That was her testimony before the Public Accounts Committee on November the 8th. She went through the process, including the team of experts, including an individual who was trained in forensic auditing. She reiterated today that GAAS doesn't allow the auditors to ignore risks of fraud. And she was very clear about that.

In the accompanying press release on June 30th, 2016 . . . And these are her words, these are her words. And they might, you know, they might dismiss these words, Mr. Speaker, but these are the words of the Provincial 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 auditor also made a number of recommendations, 10 recommendations. The purpose of the committee meeting this morning was to address the two recommendations that she made with respect to GTH. I would note for the record that those recommendations were not even addressed by the members opposite.

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

[14:15]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the question of course was to the Premier. A sad response from the minister, as we've come to expect in this Assembly, with this GTH land scandal. The words I'm using are the auditor's, and I'll quote again: "... we want to emphasize that the audit did not conclusively state that there was no conflict of interest, fraud, or wrongdoing with respect to these land transactions related to GTH.

After mischaracterizing her comments for weeks and weeks,

why will the Premier not stand up, admit that they were wrong? What is he so adamant about hiding?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison**: — Well that's of course nonsense, Mr. Speaker. We take the auditor's conclusions very serious. And I would note, for the record, that in all the questions that we've received from members opposite over the course of this sitting, we haven't had one single question on the recommendations made by the Provincial Auditor — not one. That's what . . . We take those recommendations very seriously.

Even this morning in committee when the CEO of the Global Transportation Hub appeared before the committee with the mandate from the committee to answer questions with respect to those recommendations, there was not one single question with regard to the recommendations, which the Provincial Auditor reiterated as her central findings. The members opposite are not interested in the central findings of the Provincial Auditor, which were her recommendations. We very much are, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we're working very diligently on implementing those recommendations.

But I would reiterate, one of the observations and the conclusions made by the auditor in her press release noted on June 30, 2016 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well they might dismiss this, Mr. Speaker. They can dismiss this line all they want. The fact is this was the Provincial Auditor's observation, and I quote, "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.

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Mr. Speaker, the question was to the Premier. Same old tired talking points from the minister. The auditor herself addressed this, to address the way that this government's been holding out that one line, time and time again, as their weak defence, Mr. Speaker.

Today, one of the Sask Party committee members repeated a point that the Premier and his minister often use, that a forensic audit apparently wouldn't be needed. But, Mr. Speaker, the auditor's answer was very clear on this as well:

... if our office was asked to do a forensic audit, I think we would probably pause on that at this ... time because we understand that there is a police investigation under way and the scope of the investigation does include the activities related to GTH's acquisition of land from the private sector.

To be fair, she said that she'd pause before going ahead, but because of an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] investigation into this scandal.

Will the Premier finally stand up and admit that his justification he's been using against a forensic audit has been wrong? Will he start answering, stop obfuscating, and finally open up his office and fully co-operate with the RCMP's criminal investigation into his government's GTH scandal?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison**: — Well of course the government will co-operate with any investigation, as we co-operated fully with the Provincial Auditor. In fact she had a number of quotes with respect to that. She said, no . . . This is the Provincial Auditor's quote:

No, there weren't really any obstacles. Like I said, some of the information took a little . . . longer to compile and pull together than we had hoped, but I think, given the volume of the information, that it wasn't unreasonable in that regard.

Another quote: "We did find that people were [very] co-operative." Of course we will be co-operative.

The Provincial Auditor did directly address the issue of a forensic audit. She said that there would be . . . She would put it on pause, I believe, even if requested by the committee.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would quote the Provincial Auditor as well in terms of the quantity of information provided in the audit that she did do. On June 8th, her quote: "And frankly, if we did a forensic audit, there would be a lot of matters that we included within our report that would have not been provided to the committee." Meaning there was actually more information provided to the committee in the context of the audit that she did, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Well there they go again, Mr. Speaker. The question was about the forensic audit, and the minister actually stood just now and said that the auditor would pause, and then that's all he quoted. He forgot to finish the quote. She would pause because of the criminal investigation into that government.

You know, we also learned this weekend that the Premier's office and his chief of staff were consulted on this right at the middle of this Sask Party's GTH land scandal, even before senior bureaucrats and members of cabinet were. They were there with this rushed deal-making process. This is the Premier's chief of staff. This is the Premier's most trusted adviser, his right-hand man. This is the Premier's office.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier still expect Saskatchewan people to believe that he wasn't involved in this scandal all the way along? What did he know and when did he know it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there's an email that's being referenced here by the Leader of the Opposition. I'm going to quote from the email that was copied to my, to the chief of staff, Mr. Donlevy. And the email says, "I intend to call Anthony again... and see where we go from there."

Mr. Speaker, there's the new smoking gun. All of their other ones haven't fired. The leaked cabinet document wasn't in fact a leaked cabinet document. The mysterious call, Mr. Speaker,

the auditor also dealt with that this last time she appeared.

Mr. Speaker, just months before this email would have been sent, cabinet dealt with the issue of an anonymous potential transaction that cabinet said no to. This is the transaction they spent all of last week on, that never happened because the government won't deal with anonymous parties with respect to these sorts of things.

Mr. Speaker, as a result a cabinet committee was established, chaired by the Attorney General, and the government understood full well we needed to move on land assembly. Mr. Speaker, this GTH project is, was then and is, a very important economic project. And so land assembly proceeded, Mr. Speaker. Land assembly proceeded.

The auditor noted that the minister of the day had the chief of staff in his office working on it, Mr. Speaker, and the auditor noted the reason was the minister was worried about rapidly escalating prices and the need to acquire land in a cost-effective way. And so in the course of doing that duty, the chief of staff to the then minister, he sent emails around including an update, an update to my chief of staff that said he was going to talk to one of the potential sellers of the property. Or actually, "I intend to call . . . [him] again and see where we go from there," Mr. Speaker.

Of course, of course he's going to get a copy of that email, Mr. Speaker, and many, many others, and many, many others. And we'd be happy to answer more questions from the Leader of the Opposition in this regard.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, day after day that Premier refuses to answer anything. He dismisses, he dismisses real questions. He fails to answer questions like, when did he learn that the concealed identity was the minister's landlord? And now we learn through investigation that his Premier's office was involved before the senior bureaucrats involved in these entities.

He pretends somehow that there's some sort of poor communication that caused the waste of millions of dollars, but it seems pretty clear here now that the Premier's office and the chief of staff had some pretty straightforward communication. My question to the Premier: what did the Premier know? When did he know it? Why was he so intent on doing this deal that wasted millions of dollars?

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, pretty direct and forward communication, that's how the Leader of the Opposition incredibly just characterized this email. Mr. Speaker, the chief of staff in my office was copied by the individual charged in government to go ahead with the land assembly on this important project, to do so in a way that was transparent, not to deal with the company that wouldn't divulge its identity, Mr. Speaker.

And by the way, they keep raising that transaction. He just did it again in his preamble. That transaction never happened. And,

Mr. Speaker, I think the auditor quite rightly notes that it shouldn't happen because the identity of the entity, in terms of the potential seller, was not known. So we didn't proceed with it. And this smearing that he does with this private citizen and an hon. member of this House couldn't have possibly happened without the transaction happening.

But, Mr. Speaker, none of that matters to the hon. member. They're desperately trying to make something out of this even though there's no there there. And the latest is an email that's copied to the chief of staff . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well now he's yelling from his seat about taxpayers' dollars, Mr. Speaker. We've seen in a recent transaction, Mr. Speaker, that the land now, even with the servicing cost, is selling for more than we paid for it.

So, Mr. Speaker, in terms of this scandal, there's no conflict of interest. The independent Conflict of Interest Commissioner has said that. Mr. Speaker, the auditor has done her report with respect to wrongdoing, fraud, and conflict of interest; has made commentary. And finally, and finally land that was purchased is selling for more than it was purchased, Mr. Speaker. That's why there are problems that need to be dealt with in the auditor's report. But to be characterized the way members are characterizing it, Mr. Speaker, is just simply wrong.

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

#### **Property Tax Relief for Child Care Centres**

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Across Saskatchewan, child care centres are getting squeezed by high property taxes. These are licensed and non-profit child care centres, and they provide care to our kids. But instead of being treated like the educational centres they most resemble, they are being treated like any other business. These centres struggle to operate, and the current situation poses a legitimate threat to their survival. If they close, the existing problem with the number of child care spaces in Saskatchewan will only get worse and could impact the quality of care. What specific action is the government taking to address this, and when will they finally get it done?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we truly do value the service that day care centres give to our province, and we recognize the importance of that service in that we have expanded the number of child care spaces substantively each and every year while we've been government.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite knows that municipalities have the authority under subsection 262 of *The Cities Act* to set municipal tax rates. Municipalities have a number of tax tools in which they can exempt or give some tax relief, and there are a number of different examples across our entire province of how municipalities have done just that. There's a number of entities and organizations that give great service to our citizens, and so the municipal governments choose how they give those organizations tax relief, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck**: — Mr. Speaker, concerned citizens like Colleen Schmidt, and parent Julie Eisler and little baby Sarah, who are watching us today, deserve better answers than that.

Saskatchewan has some of the very worst taxation of child care centres in Canada. Saskatchewan also has the lowest per capita number of child care spaces in Canada. The spaces we currently have are centres that struggle every day just to keep the lights on. This is just another example of the very real consequences of the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

Mr. Speaker, ending the property taxes child cares are forced to pay would be a simple but important step in improving the child care situation in Saskatchewan. So why won't the government go ahead and make this change?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the officials in my office have done a scan across the province on the different municipalities and what they do when it comes to child care spaces. Most of them give tax relief to child care centres. This is a difficulty that has arisen here in Regina, and I have encouraged those organizations to talk to the Regina city council to try to get this relief they're looking for.

The member opposite is portraying it as if it's province wide. That's not indeed the case. All of the other cities are giving tax relief to their child care centres. And I encourage these organizations to continue the conversation with the city of Regina.

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

#### **Donations to Political Parties**

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pay-to-play is something that hurts people's faith in politics, and that's a problem. We work for them. But, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan election laws leave more questions than answers. A refresher on our rules here: corporate and union donations, no limit; out-of-province donations, no limit; donations from businesses getting government contracts, no limit. Every other jurisdiction in Canada has banned these donations, Mr. Speaker. But Saskatchewan remains the wild, wild west.

Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Justice heard enough? Will he commit today to work with us to get big money out of politics?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we've stood in this House on a number of occasions and explained the position of our government. We are not prepared to make any changes at this point in time. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the majority of the donations that come to us come by way of ticket sales to our various events, Mr. Speaker.

So I find it very, very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that on the very day that the member opposite stood in this House and started talking about donations, they sent out a fundraising letter, Mr. Speaker, for their leader's dinner in Saskatoon, their leader's reception. Mr. Speaker, \$200 a seat, Mr. Speaker, the same day that that member stood up and started to . . . and asked us to . . . So, Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult for me to understand how they can square that circle when they stand up and ask for donations to be banned, Mr. Speaker, when they do the very same thing.

[14:30]

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

## Federal Government Reaction to Medical Imaging Legislation

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, we already know this government's mismanagement, scandal, and waste are costing Saskatchewan taxpayers. Their mismanagement is leading to clear consequences. A letter from the federal Minister of Health said that the Sask Party's ill-thought, privatized, buy one, get one legislation for MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging] and CT [computerized tomography] scans will cost Saskatchewan people even more.

The federal minister says this is "... subject to mandatory dollar-for-dollar deductions to the Canada Health Transfer payments." Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is willing to throw away money that could help with chronic disease, with ER [emergency room] waits, with seniors' care, with mental health.

Mr. Speaker, when they pushed this legislation through we warned them, and stakeholders warned them that this was in contravention of the *Canada Health Act*. But the Sask Party arrogantly brushed it off. When will they start listening to experts and when will they realize that their mismanagement is costing the people of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the two-for-one system that we're putting in place right now, what it's doing is incredibly benefiting the public system. Mr. Speaker, for every person who pays for a private MRI, it's also taking one person out of the queue in the public system.

Mr. Speaker, this has been done for many years, close to 25 years in Quebec and BC, with the exception of the two-for-one part. They have a private MRI system. The federal government at no point has clawed any funding back.

Mr. Speaker, the point that the member makes is just completely wrong. She calls it mismanagement and she says that she warned us that somehow that this would be in contravention of the *Canada Health Act*. And yet, Mr. Speaker, for many years, the members opposite were doing it for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there are no bigger fans of the Saskatchewan Roughriders than the members on this side of the House, but we think if it's good enough for the Roughriders, we think it's good enough for the

citizens of the province.

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

#### **Equivalency Agreement With Federal Government**

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, there's no question: this has been the Sask Party's terrible, horrible, no-good, very bad day. This morning the auditor set the record straight about her report on the Sask Party's GTH land scandal. Then there's the letter of punishment from the federal Health minister. So now they're trying to change the channel with a press release that talks about talks they started seven years ago. Beyond finally finalizing an agreement, Mr. Speaker, they've also committed to taking our advice and committed to Ottawa that they will finally enact their green tech fund Act.

Mr. Speaker, has the Environment minister explained this to the Finance minister, who has been ranting about the dangers of their own policy, or has he explained it to the Premier who said he would not negotiate with Ottawa? And has he explained to all of the Sask Party MLAs who have been clapping dutifully behind them when they railed on against the very policy they are now trotting out?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question so that we can update Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, on the equivalency agreement that was agreed to here this morning, Mr. Speaker, that will allow for great environmental outcomes as we move forward with our power generation here in the province of Saskatchewan. And it will also allow us to make proper and economically wise decisions as we transition, Mr. Speaker, to a lower and more renewable energy source here in the province of Saskatchewan.

I've been across the province a number of, the last number of weeks, Mr. Speaker, talking to Saskatchewan people about our power generation facilities, about the emissions in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and also about a federally imposed carbon tax here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And the question that I've had, Mr. Speaker, is from people across the province, is where is the opposition on this, Mr. Speaker? They seem to be supporting a federally imposed carbon tax on the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, a tax that'll add 11 cents to the price of fuel for all of those across Saskatchewan, will cost agriculture, Mr. Speaker, will cost industries, Mr. Speaker, and it'll be detrimental to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. The people want to know where you are, Mr. Speaker, in standing up for families here in the province of Saskatchewan?

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

**Implementation of Apprenticeship Mobility Protocol** 

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Last year, Canada's premiers agreed to support the pan-Canadian apprenticeship mobility protocol, an agreement, I may add, that Saskatchewan played a leadership role in negotiating. And I must give a significant amount of credit to Jeff Ritter in the gallery who played a central role as the Chairman of the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship in the negotiation of that agreement.

Recent regulation amendments made by the Government of Saskatchewan are making that mobility protocol a reality. As of November 25th, out-of-province apprentices registered in another Canadian jurisdiction will no longer have to be registered with the SATCC in order to work in this province, gaining on-the-job training towards their certification. Also, workers in compulsory trades will have more time to meet the educational requirements needed to register as an apprentice. This will allow more flexibility for those in extenuating circumstances. Individualized training plans will be able to be created, and SATCC officials will work with them to ensure the educational requirements are met.

Saskatchewan is known for the high quality of apprentices and journeypersons that our apprenticeship system produces. In fact since 2007, the number of training seats in Saskatchewan has increased by 84 per cent. In 2015-16, over 6,800 apprentices were trained by SATCC.

Mr. Speaker, our government believes in reducing barriers between provinces not only for trade but for labour mobility as well. These regulation changes will reduce interprovincial barriers for labour mobility and help guarantee the continued success of our apprenticeship system for the benefit of both employers and workers who help to keep Saskatchewan strong.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

**Mr. McCall**: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Always good to join in and say, you know, call good news, good news. And this is indeed good news for the province of Saskatchewan and for Saskatchewan workers and certainly for the good work of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.

And I would attach myself to the comments of the minister in complimenting the good work of CEO Jeff Ritter at the apprenticeship and trades commission and, as had been introduced earlier, different of the individuals that are working their way through the apprenticeships and also the different employers that do so much to support that vital system of training, and certainly the great work of Chair Drew Tiefenbach and Vice-Chair Bryan Leier and all the folks that make up the commission, Mr. Speaker.

This is a body that reaches into all sorts of different walks of life and has that labour side, employer side representation and is a very valuable not just organization but a very valuable example I think to the whole province of what we can do when we're working together and that that work that we can do in terms of building Saskatchewan translates into those good changes that have been brought forward with the changes to the regulations.

It's interesting that they're bringing forward the changes to the

regulations and the announcement of them on this day, Mr. Speaker, when there's so much else going on and indeed on the whole question of supports that are there for students that are getting their training in other parts of the post-secondary education system. But that certainly is a comment for another day.

On these changes in and of themselves, we as the official opposition are proud to stand in support and to say again to the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, both the staff, the board, and all the folks, employers, employees that benefit from that vital work of that vital institution, job well done, and keep on building Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 43 — The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan**: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act*, 2016 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Principal Clerk**: — First reading of this bill.

**The Speaker**: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Duncan**: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 602 — The Election (Fairness and Accountability)

Amendment Act

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 602, the elections (fairness and accountability) Act be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member that Bill No. 602, *The Election (Fairness and Accountability) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

**Principal Clerk**: — First reading of this bill.

**The Speaker**: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

**The Speaker**: — Next sitting.

# 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 present its second report. I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

**The Speaker**: — The member from Cannington has moved:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members**: — Question.

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

 $\textbf{Some Hon. Members:} \ -- \ \mathsf{Agreed}.$ 

**The Speaker**: — Carried.

# PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Brkich**: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Mr. Speaker, 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. 29, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016*, and 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. 29 — The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les juges de paix

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Mr. Speaker, I move 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. 29, *The Justices of the Peace 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 Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Brkich**: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker**: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench 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.

## THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 4 — The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move the bill now be read

a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 4, *The Queen's Bench 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.

**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 Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

[14:45]

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

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

**The Speaker**: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act*, 2016 and that 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 Justice.

#### THIRD READINGS

## Bill No. 5 — The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act, 2016

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the Bill No. 5, *The Electronic Information and Documents 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 Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016* without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law 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. 6 — The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 6, *The Statute Law 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.

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker**: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Brkich**: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*, 2016, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law 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. 7 — The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2) Loi nº 2 de 2016 modifiant le droit législatif

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Mr. Speaker, I move the bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker**: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 7, *The Statute Law 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 Arm River.

# Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Mr. Brkich**: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration on Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments 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. 9 — The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens

**Hon. Mr. Wyant**: — Mr. Speaker, I move this bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 9, *The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments 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.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 227 and 228.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 227 to 228. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 229 through 234.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 229 to 234. Recognize the Government House Leader.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members**: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:51.]

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

# Hon. Brad Wall Premier President of the Executive Council Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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## Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

## **Hon. Kevin Doherty**

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Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
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Telecommunications

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
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