



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

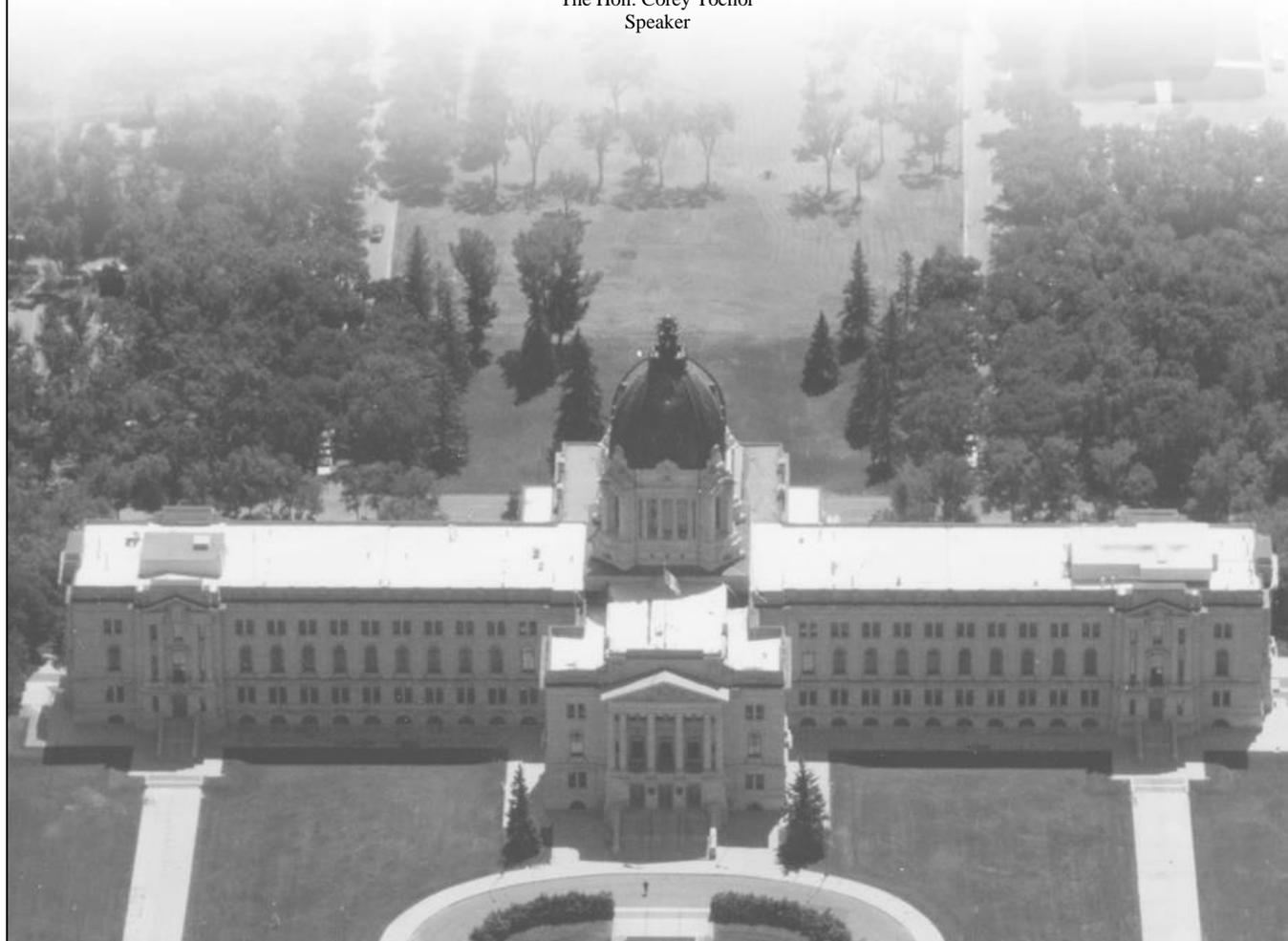
of the

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

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Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

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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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery are a number of members of the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association. These gentlemen were in the legislature today meeting with MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on both sides of the House, raising a number of issues that are important.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all MLAs, we want to thank them for their ongoing work that they do in keeping our province safe and secure. I would like to list them by name, Mr. Speaker: Chris Bourdon, Kevin Tetlow, Neal Matechuk, Gord Hewitt, Craig Farrell, Brian Belitsky, Morley Desmarais, Lloyd Zwack, Todd Brown, Jeff Reeder, Paul Hills. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that all MLAs join in welcoming them to their legislature today, as well as thanking them for the great work that they do throughout the year.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Deputy Premier and welcome the firefighters and paramedics that have joined us here today as part of the Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association day of meetings here at the legislature.

What I'd want to convey to each and every one of these members, and their members and firefighters across Saskatchewan, is just a great and hearty thank you for your sacrifice and service. Your efforts, your work, the risk you take provides protection and peace of mind and safety for all of us, all across Saskatchewan. You have a direct role in saving lives, and in the process of doing so you put at risk your own lives. And we can only say thank you to you enough . . . Well we can never say thank you to you enough, and we really value your service across our province.

I also want to say thank you for your continued leadership and advocacy on very important matters relevant to community safety and firefighters and the protection of firefighters. I want to thank you for your voice when it came to PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] and the protection of all workers, not just emergency workers but all workers, and the meaningful changes that we've been able to bring forward by working together. Your leadership was critical to making that happen.

So to the firefighters all across Saskatchewan and the professional firefighters that are gathered here today and President Lloyd Zwack, on behalf of the official opposition and a grateful province, I say thank you and welcome.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced

Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you. With us today in your gallery is president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Dr. Larry Rosia, and Sask Poly board Chair Ralph Boychuk. While Dr. Rosia hails originally from Alberta, Mr. Speaker, he has become a pillar of exemplary leadership here in the province at Sask Poly since 2012. Mr. Boychuk has been Chair of the board since 2008. Ralph has nearly 40 years of experience in the financial service industry, has served in several positions in not-for-profit organizations, and was awarded the lifetime membership of the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce in 2008 for his outstanding community work.

Sask Poly has undergone many exciting changes in recent years, including degree granting, soaring enrolments, campus expansions, and its transition from SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] to a polytechnic. It's been a pleasure to meet Mr. Boychuk and also to work with Dr. Rosia, whose enthusiasm about all things Sask Poly is infectious, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming Dr. Rosia and Mr. Boychuk to their legislature. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming Dr. Larry Rosia and Chair Ralph Boychuk with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic to their Legislative Assembly.

We had a good meeting this morning, Mr. Speaker, where we got to hear about various of the opportunities and challenges that are on the horizon for Sask Polytechnic, and about their commitment and desire to do everything that they can to build the future here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we also had an opportunity to hear from two students at the institution and the great work that they're doing and going on to impact their communities.

So I guess on behalf of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say thank you to these two gentlemen for the work that they do in building the future here in Saskatchewan with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic and to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through to all members of this Assembly, I want to introduce, all the way from the University of Saskatchewan from the department of biology, the king of caribou in Saskatchewan, Dr. Phil McLoughlin. Mr. Speaker,

accompanying Mr. McLoughlin or Dr. McLoughlin, is Kevin Murphy, the assistant deputy minister in Environment here. And we'll hear more about Dr. McLoughlin's work in a member's statement here shortly with respect to woodland caribou, Mr. Speaker, and the healthy habitat that we have here in northern Saskatchewan and how that is equated to a healthy woodland caribou population here in the province of Saskatchewan.

These are some great science-based results, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Saskatchewan will most definitely support as we continue with the conversation of some of the species at risk that we have in the province here, Mr. Speaker, and the healthy habitat that we offer here in the province and the great results that come with that. So all members, please join me in welcoming Dr. Phil McLoughlin, the king of caribou here in Saskatchewan to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce two individuals in your gallery, constituents of Saskatoon Fairview: Terry Budnick and Deb Davies. I met Terry first in 2011 when I first started campaigning, and definitely with his help and his family's help, he helped me, pushed me over the edge. Everybody knows that I had quite a close race, and again this past election they definitely helped push me over the edge.

Deb Davies really needs no introduction in this Assembly. She works with foster families, and she's dedicated her life over 30 years ensuring the safety and well-being of our children. So to all members, I would like you to help me welcome them to this Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to take an opportunity to welcome the king of caribou to his Legislative Assembly. I like that name. The member from the northwest thought it was his name, but we're going to straighten him out there.

Certainly, we know the work that you've been doing along with CPPAS [Community Pasture Patrons Association of Saskatchewan] and Weyerhaeuser. There's been some really good progress made on determining exactly what is the caribou habitat, and where their critical areas are for the habitat. And we know how critical that is to the long-term sustainability of that particular species and of course the habitat itself.

So on behalf of the official opposition, we too would like to extend a warm welcome to you and to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two people sitting in your

west gallery. The first, Mr. Speaker, is Tim Rohovie. Tim Rohovie was my long-time banker — well, he actually still is my banker — and good friend, and hopefully he remembers that when it comes time to issue more money to me. But anyway, thank you very much.

Tim is also a very political junkie, I'll call him. And he's travelled here from Edmonton for a meeting, but he insisted he wanted to come to the legislature because he loves politics. And so we're so very happy to have him here.

And sitting with him is another lady that I know very well. I've known her for a lot of years. She's my wife, and she's making sure Tim stays out of trouble when he's in the legislature. So I'd like everyone to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd also like to join the minister in welcoming Mr. Ralph Boychuk. Ralph Boychuk is a constituent of mine and a long-time friend of mine, and also a former banker as we . . . [inaudible] . . . have in common. So Ralph is very well known, very well known in the city of Prince Albert. He's involved in everything. We go to so many functions. We're at the same functions all the time together. He's just a wonderful citizen. We're so fortunate to have him living in Prince Albert. And I'd like to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you, someone seated in the west gallery, Mattea Merta. Mattea is from Saskatoon. She's lived in the Silverspring area for the last 12 years.

Mattea's passions are politics and people. Though she's only 20 years old, she recently ran a very spirited campaign in Saskatoon's last civic election in ward 10. She currently works for her Member of Parliament. She serves her city by volunteering for charitable and non-charitable organizations and keeps up to date on political issues in order to educate those of her own age. She is also a great door knocker, Mr. Speaker, Mattea.

She is encouraged by Saskatchewan's innovation. She desires her city and province to continue to prosper and, Mr. Speaker, she's a young leader in our province that I am confident that we'll hear much more from in the future.

So I'd ask all members to help me welcome Mattea to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you for being here.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure to introduce 24 grade 8 students seated in the west gallery from Regina Christian School, a school I've had an opportunity to spend some time at. Ms. Jane Robertson and Ms. Amy Klassen are also with them today. And I'm looking forward to spending some time with those students after

question period is over. I really miss interacting with students, so I'm looking forward to that opportunity. I can't wait.

Secondly while I'm on feet, Mr. Speaker, I just also want to give a shout-out to Deb Davies, who is seated in your gallery, and all the great work that she does with the Saskatchewan Foster Families on behalf of our ministry. And also to Dr. Larry Rosia, Sask Polytech is an important constituent in my constituency, and so I would like to welcome you also. Please join me everyone. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce some people in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Candace Mitschke-Hiller, the CEO; Myles Thorpe, president; and Dave Zerr, the vice-president of a farm group called the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association. And they are a relatively new farm group who are dedicated to providing a voice for ag producers with regards to agricultural land and water stewardship. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the member opposite in welcoming the Farm Stewardship folks to their Legislative Assembly. The work you do is very important and much appreciated, and we look forward to future developments as you continue your work. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very special guest sitting in your gallery that I'd like to introduce to you, and that's my daughter Melissa. Melissa, I'm very proud of her. She's a hard-working young lady. She's very compassionate, kind, and she's strong and independent. And she's a wonderful mother to her little boy that brings me so much joy as well. Melissa is such a hard worker. She has three jobs that help her support her family. And she also knows the value of giving your time also, and whenever someone needs a volunteer, she always steps up to the plate.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, oftentimes we say it's really tough to have a mother who's a social worker or a parent who's a social worker because we oftentimes analyze everything. But I have to argue that it must be tough to have a parent who's a politician as well. And so during the election, Melissa was an amazing canvasser, and oftentimes I bump into people and they say that she knocked on their doors and they had a very lovely visit with her.

And so I appreciate everything she does to help support me, and I'm very honoured to be her mother and spend time with her. So I'm happy that she made it through the snowstorm last night to come here and watch the session.

And while I'm on my feet, I also would like to welcome Deb Davies here too from the foster parents' association. We appreciate everything that you do, and I look forward to meeting with you in the next few weeks.

So I ask that all members welcome my daughter Melissa, and Deb, to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

[13:45]

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm 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. 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 — and it's a long list — Wishart, Foam Lake, Wynyard, Bankend, Kelliher, Lintlaw, Preeceville, Canora, Okla, Margo, Hazel Dell, Endeavour, Kelvington, Invermay, Archerwill, Rose Valley, Bjorkdale, Wadena, Fosston, Quill Lake, Yellow Quill, Rama, Sheho, Kuroki, Yorkton, Buchanan, Jansen, Kylemore, Theodore, Insinger, Springside, Porcupine Plain, Elfros, and Leslie. Thank you. I 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 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.” The petitioners point out too that on that very same day, Mr. Speaker, the minister of Health, the then minister of Health said, “We want to ensure that individuals with mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay.”

The petitioners also point out that since that time, Mr. Speaker, this government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more on this side of the House. We only need to look at the Saskatoon Health Region and the issues of overcrowding, the record over capacity in our hospitals in Saskatoon, to recognize that the cut to the Lighthouse was short sighted and is having an impact on those waits and the over capacity in those hospitals, Mr. Speaker. I would 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 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, these petitions today are signed by citizens of Saskatoon and Regina. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to stop the redirection of funding of the northern teacher education program, NORTEP. Mr. Speaker, a recent report shows that 94 per cent of NORTEP grads found employment in the North, and the province's financial deficit cannot be fixed by cutting indigenous education in the North and to a program that has served the North for over 40 years. And, Mr. Speaker, many people from all throughout Saskatchewan have signed this petition. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed these particular pages are from Beauval, La Ronge, Air Ronge, and there are many, many people from many, many communities across the many corners of our province that have signed this petition. And I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition regarding the community pasture program. We know that in 2012 the federal government announced an end to the community pasture program that had operated under the *Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act* since the 1930s to restore marginal lands subject to erosion and manage them for livestock grazing. The land is being transferred to the Saskatchewan government which has offered the pastures for sale. These pasture lands serve a vital role to species at risk, mitigating climate change for cattle ranchers and their communities, preserving cultural and heritage values, and for recreational and cultural purposes. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to halt the sale of public land with ecological value, including Crown lands that, until removed by recent order in council, had been protected under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*; conduct a complete inventory of our remaining native grasslands; create legislation that recognizes the value of

our remaining native grassland; and protect native prairie, including monitoring and enforcing conservation easements preventing breaking of these lands.

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals that have signed this particular petition are from Saskatoon and Martensville. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of Wakamow Valley Authority. And we know that as a result of the passage of *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* on June 30th, the Wakamow Valley Authority lost its statutory funding of \$127,000 from the Saskatchewan government, in addition to the \$30,000 in supplemental funding. And this loss of annual funding negatively affected the ability of Wakamow to maintain its facilities, and repair its park and buildings, and provide services to its community. And so, Mr. Speaker, it's a well-known fact that this will negatively impact Moose Jaw economy through job loss and negatively impact Moose Jaw tourism and businesses. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately repeal *The Wakamow Valley Authority Amendment Act, 2016* and reinstate statutory funding to the Wakamow Valley Authority.

And as in duty bound, the petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present to you a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. That the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that connects the southern part of the province to the North. With no other crossing, heavy truck traffic must be rerouted, adding a significant amount of cost for the businesses in and around Prince Albert in terms of losses or added expenses. That current residents, businesses, and tourists in Prince Albert and northern communities require a safe and effective transportation infrastructure that include adequate bridges.

That the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert in this crucial infrastructure issue. That local municipal governments have limited resources and require a second bridge to be funded through federal and provincial governments, not a P3 [public-private partnership] model. That the support for the people and municipal governments of Prince Albert and neighbouring communities for a second bridge is overwhelming and has been joined by support from industry groups, the Saskatchewan Association of Regional

Municipalities, and many others across the province, 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 businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution. I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that 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 begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we have tons of these petitions, and they're signed by people across the province, but these particular petitions are signed by people in Prince Albert and Regina. I do so present.

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 the province. Those who have signed 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 taxes, and this is not done in Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia, or New Brunswick.

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budgets. 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's 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 amendment to the appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, those signing this petition today reside in Tisdale and Star City. 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 sell-off of SaskTel. The petitioners point out that after nearly a decade of wasting the economic boom and blowing through the savings, the government is now forcing people to pay for Saskatchewan Party mismanagement. The petitioners point out that in the recent election campaign, the Sask Party promised that they would not privatize SaskTel, but now, the petitioners astutely point out, instead of looking at their own waste and scandal, the Sask Party is talking about breaking their promise and looking

to sell off SaskTel to make a quick dollar. And, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that once SaskTel is gone, there's no getting it back and there's no telling what else the Sask Party will then sell.

In the prayer that reads as follows [Mr. Speaker], 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 Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by good citizens of Birch Hills and Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise yet again 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 completely flying in the face, Mr. Speaker, of the recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

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.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Saskatoon, Perdue, Big River, Prince Albert, and Moose Jaw. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Research Shows Healthy Woodland Caribou Population

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to inform members about the great research being conducted at the University of Saskatchewan regarding Saskatchewan's woodland caribou and their healthy habitat.

Led by world-renowned ecologist Dr. Philip McLoughlin, researchers have found that the woodland caribou population in northern Saskatchewan has been increasing over the past two years and is one of the largest woodland caribou populations in all of Canada. These findings are contained in an interim report of a five-year study into the population dynamics and critical

habitat of woodland caribou in northern Saskatchewan.

The U of S [University of Saskatchewan] received more than \$2.2 million in funding for the project from government and industry partners, including the Government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it has been determined that the Saskatchewan woodland caribou population occupies some of the most pristine habitat available to non-migratory, forest-dwelling caribou in Canada with very low levels of human disturbance, and we are pleased that this is resulting in healthy caribou populations.

Despite the initial conclusion by the federal government through the *Species at Risk Act* that the Saskatchewan woodland caribou population has not been self-sustaining, this research indicates otherwise. Dr. McLoughlin's research indicates that Saskatchewan's woodland caribou are in fact one of the largest self-sustaining and most secure of all woodland caribou populations in Canada.

Our government is proud and supportive of the research and results achieved by Dr. McLoughlin and his team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Lives Impacted by Student Wellness Initiative in Saskatoon

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the third annual SWITCH [student wellness initiative toward community health] charity breakfast in Saskatoon. It featured a short program of testimonials from current volunteers, mentors, clients, and staff, highlighting how their experiences at SWITCH have impacted their lives.

The student wellness initiative toward community health, known as SWITCH, has been operating since October 2005. Compared to other student-run clinics in Canada, SWITCH offers the largest variety of services, operates the highest volume of shifts, and has been open for the most number of years. Their volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines with unique experiences to share.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, their outreach team is responsible for making each SWITCH shift run smoothly by preparing and serving food, assisting with educational programming, and providing child care. And their clinical team is made up of many different health disciplines collaborating together on each case to provide non-judgmental and client-centred care. The students volunteer alongside a doctor or nurse practitioner, cultural support worker, receptionists, and other health care mentors. In addition to traditional clinical services, they offer counselling, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, reiki, naturopathic medicine, herbology, reflexology, iridology, cultural supports, gynecology, pediatrics, pharmacy, and nutritional education.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be able to attend the event last

week and support such an important organization. And I ask all members to join me in recognizing SWITCH and the incredible work they do.

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

Saskatoon Literacy Organization Provides Support to Adults and Families

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I met with READ Saskatoon and would like to share with members of this Assembly the good work that they are doing. Today more than ever, reading, writing, and numeracy skill development is important to adults and families. Literacy is linked to economic and personal success.

Mr. Speaker, for almost 40 years, READ Saskatoon have provided access to family, adult, and financial literacy supports for adults and families. I want to share some of their results: 78 per cent completion rate in their adult tutoring program; 88 per cent of parents and caregivers in the family literacy programs report better ways to support their children's literacy development; 44 per cent of participants made monthly contributions to a new savings account after attending financial literacy programs; 50 per cent took steps to repair their credit; 73 per cent reported making changes in the way they managed their money.

Last year READ Saskatoon reached 3,500 people with their programs. That's why READ Saskatoon led the Central Park Common initiative, a shared space on Duchess and 7th, shared between the Saskatoon chapters of MS [multiple sclerosis], arthritis, and READ Saskatoon.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to give a shout-out to the 250 volunteers of READ Saskatoon who put the agency's mission and vision to work every day. Saskatchewan is built on the commitment of volunteers like those at READ Saskatoon, a commitment to ensure everyone has opportunity to reach their potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Isabel Gibson Celebrates 100th Birthday

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Isabel Gibson, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday this December 2nd. Isabel McLean was born December 2nd, 1916 to Charles and Luella McLean in Ellisboro, Saskatchewan. She was the first of four daughters, and grew up at Breezy Point Farm near Ellisboro. Isabel attended school in Ellisboro and graduated from Normal Teachers' College in Regina. She taught school in several small Saskatchewan towns and for three years on Vancouver Island.

In 1950, Isabel married Doug Gibson. They resided in Rocanville, Saskatchewan where their children were born. In 1960 they moved to Creighton, Saskatchewan where they continue to reside. Isabel resumed teaching at Creighton school in 1967 and taught until 1986. During this time, she completed her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan, graduating when she was 69, and retired the

following year.

Isabel has been an active volunteer with her church, the North Saskatchewan Seniors' Association where she has taught English to immigrants. She and her husband, Doug, have enjoyed many trips, both within Canada, to the United States, Great Britain, Europe, and Australia, and recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in September. They have four children, seven grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

I ask all the members to join me in recognizing this exceptional life of Isabel Gibson and in wishing her a very happy birthday. Thank you.

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

Regina Quarterback Most Outstanding Player in Canadian University Football

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday, the University of Regina Rams quarterback, Noah Picton, became the 50th recipient of the Hec Crighton Trophy. Mr. Speaker, this prestigious award is presented by U Sports [university sport] annually to the most outstanding player in Canadian football.

In his third year with the Rams, Noah has become the first University of Regina player to win the Hec Crighton Trophy. Picton's 3,186 passing yards are the most ever thrown by a Canadian university quarterback in a single season. His 224 completions set a new Canada West record. His 25 touchdowns led the nation this season and his 69.3 per cent completion rate was the best in his division.

Mr. Speaker, with two years of university eligibility remaining, Noah has the highest career completion percentage and the second most completions, passing yards, and touchdown passes in U of R [University of Regina] history. Rams head coach, Steven Bryce, praised his quarterback saying, "Given his leadership qualities, the time he devotes to watching tape, his academic performance, and of course his on-field accomplishments, he is tremendously deserving of being called the best player in the country."

And, Mr. Speaker, I know this family and extended family very well and have taught some of their kids. My son has had the fortune of having Noah as his quarterback coach and unfortunately will have him as his standard. And I want to say that the Picton family — Noah's dad, Dean, his aunt Donna, and his uncle Derek — are community business owners and tireless community volunteers in our city, and I want to thank them very much for their contributions. And join me in congratulating Noah on this prestigious award.

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

Melville Students Bring Awareness to Dangers of Driving Impaired

Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, the Melville Comprehensive School SADD [Students Against Drinking and Driving] chapter has been named the most active

chapter in the province. At the 28th annual provincial Students Against Drinking and Driving Conference on October 22nd, the students were presented the Nicole Nakonechny Memorial Award. The students received a \$1,000 bursary from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] plus the memorial plaque to display in the school for one year.

Mr. Speaker, these students have been working very hard to enforce the message that no one should be driving while impaired. Under the guidance of teacher Sharon Roach and EA [educational assistant] Annette Callfas, the students have come up with many unique and innovative awareness ideas. In fact in October the students filmed a public service announcement about the dangers of driving intoxicated or distracted. The video included students carrying a casket to the Melville cemetery to show other students the potential consequences of driving impaired.

Mr. Speaker, no one should lose a loved one due to impaired driving. That is why our government has taken action through effective legislation, more tools for law enforcement, and doing more to build awareness. We commend the Melville chapter of SADD for all they have done to bring awareness to the dangers of driving impaired, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating these students for winning this very prestigious award. Thank you.

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

New School Opens in Gravelbourg

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This September, students in Gravelbourg were able to walk up the stairs to the newly renovated pre-kindergarten to grade 12 École Gravelbourg School. It was great to attend the grand opening of the school in my constituency on October 18th along with the Minister of Education as well as local dignitaries, school officials, teachers, and of course lots of students.

Our government committed nearly \$10 million to this project and worked with Prairie South School Division and the community to help turn this project into a reality that now includes state of the art facilities, including expanded classrooms, administration offices, and a daycare, Mr. Speaker. This is the first major school project in the community in over 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this story is evidence that our government is investing in the province that was so neglected by the policies of the previous NDP [New Democratic Party] government. That is why our government, since taking office in 2007, has invested approximately \$1.4 billion toward 65 major school projects across the province, and numerous other small projects.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating the students and staff on the opening of their new school and thanking Prairie South School Division and the whole community for their support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

**Public Accounts Committee Meeting and
Details of Land Transaction**

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, there's a lot about the Sask Party's growing GTH [Global Transportation Hub] scandal that's not very clear. But there are some facts that are becoming indefensible. The Premier's office was intricately involved. The whole cabinet was kept in the loop, was in the loop for a year. The Sask Party paid more than they should have. Millions and millions of Saskatchewan people's money ended up in the hands, in the bank accounts of Sask Party supporters. There's an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] investigation into the matter. The Sask Party continues to hide from the truth, not answering basic question in this Assembly day after day. And they're even misrepresenting what the auditor concluded, Mr. Speaker.

With only two days left of session, will the Premier drop the tired talking points, the political spin, and start answering with an easy question? Will he simply admit that yesterday the auditor said, "... 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"? Will he simply admit that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Day after day after day, we hear the same allegations from the Leader of the Opposition, even though, even though through the Provincial Auditor's own testimony to the standing committee of the legislature, they have been debunked. The phone call that was the source of about three days of his question was debunked by the auditor, Mr. Speaker. The leaked cabinet document that he said was leaked and some in the media said was leaked, the auditor said was not at all leaked but formed the basis of negotiations. And then yesterday, I guess taking his cue from that one media outlet as well, the Leader of the Opposition stood in his place and breathlessly asked about the government's involvement, about the Premier's office's involvement as a result of an email to the chief of staff.

Mr. Speaker . . . Yes, well the members will want to listen very carefully. Mr. Speaker, in November '13 Mr. Donlevy received a one-sentence email updating him on the negotiations. In June of 2013 . . . I ask the member for Athabasca to listen. In June of 2013, five months earlier, those same negotiations with that same land owner that were referenced in the one-line email had been discussed by the cabinet committee on land use, Mr. Speaker.

And the auditor even commented on it. If he even read the auditor's report, he would know that she said in June of 2013 the GTH minister gave the cabinet an overview of the land assembly activities for the east parcels. Yes, Mr. Donlevy received this email in December, five months after all of the cabinet knew, Mr. Speaker, because this was the normal function of the land assembly for the GTH.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that Premier's bluster just doesn't add up. And let's be clear. It was the Premier's office that was involved before this dirty deal was done. And let me be abundantly clear. A premier in a premier's office worth its salt would have stopped this dirty deal and saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

The auditor said herself that she is concerned that there is an impact on the understanding of the results of the audit and has "overshadowed" the audit's conclusions. The auditor was clear that the audit did not conclude what the Sask Party, and particularly that Premier and that minister continually say it concluded, day after day as part of their weak defence in this Assembly.

So can the Premier not even admit that they were wrong to misrepresent the auditor's press release as conclusions of her audit? This is a disrespect to Saskatchewan people that have lost millions of dollars in this dirty deal. Why is he working so hard to cover this scandal over? Why won't he come clean?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'll correct my honourable friend and indicate to members of the House that the land acquired is already selling, including the servicing, for more than was spent in terms of purchasing. Well he's nodding. That's the fact of the matter. There's a half a million dollar non-refundable deposit already with the government, Mr. Speaker.

And moreover, moreover, I want to . . . He's asking for admissions. I want to give him the chance to admit that the allegations he made, based on the phone call that he referenced in about two question periods, was debunked by the Provincial Auditor. I want to give him the chance to admit that the allegations about a leaked cabinet document and all that we heard from that member was wrong, Mr. Speaker. And it's been proven to be wrong. And he has yet to say, you know, Mr. Speaker, we got that absolutely wrong.

I want him to, Mr. Speaker, to admit that what he was telling the House breathlessly yesterday about the Premier's office involvement is also wrong, because five months earlier it was in the cabinet committee discussions that were set up by the government, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I want him to respond to the fact that on the 4th of July, in the media, the Provincial Auditor said this, and I quote:

What we did is, we didn't do what is termed a forensic audit, but in any audit, as auditors we're always looking for red flags. Because this is land transactions, we did look for conflicts of interest. We didn't find evidence of conflict of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing in the course of our work, so there were no red flags.

July the 4th of this year, Mr. Speaker: the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — There he goes again, Mr. Speaker. There he goes again. And pretty worked up to make sort of his weak defence somehow work. Nothing, nothing has been debunked, Mr. Speaker, and the auditor in fact has been clear that she did not conduct a forensic audit and has stated now she would pause in doing so because of a criminal investigation. And it's past time that this Premier start coming clean with Saskatchewan people on question after question, Mr. Speaker.

You know, they say that they have nothing to hide but they keep on hiding. Just yesterday in the Public Accounts, they rejected a motion to bring in key witnesses to provide testimony to the Assembly, professional public servants who had senior roles at the GTH and the Ministry of the Economy while members of that cabinet were cooking up the dirty deal that wasted millions of dollars. The Sask Party even used a procedural trick and dodged the vote. They didn't even have the courage to vote against it.

So let me try a question to the Premier: why does this Premier not have the courage or the decency to ensure testimony from key witnesses? Why is he blocking access? What is he hiding from Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the same key witnesses that the Provincial Auditor interviewed through the course of her work? You mean those witnesses, Mr. Speaker? Yes, that's what he means. Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House think the Provincial Auditor and her professional staff, those are the right people to ask those questions, to interview those witnesses, and then to report back to the taxpayers, and that's exactly what she did. Well they're all heckling from their seats, Mr. Speaker, because every time they raise another . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because every time they raise another conspiracy theory, it's debunked, Mr. Speaker. And moreover, I again read into the record for my honourable friend across the way the direct quote from the Provincial Auditor on news talk radio, July the 4th of this year:

What we did is, we didn't do what is termed as a forensic audit, but in any audit, as auditors we're always looking for red flags. And because this is a land transaction, we did look for conflicts of interest.

That's what she says. And she goes on to say:

And we didn't find evidence of conflict of interest or indications of fraud or wrongdoing in the course of our work so there were no red flags there [Mr. Speaker].

And she was able to make those comments based on the fact that it was the government that asked her to look into the matter, to get to the bottom of it. She has done that. When will the NDP accept what the auditor has said?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, when will the member opposite act like the Premier of Saskatchewan? You know, if the Premier wants to quote the auditor, maybe he should quote the statements yesterday taking him to task for misrepresenting the conclusions of the auditor's report, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday the auditor said that fraud and wrongdoing are a possibility, and yet she reminded us that there is a criminal investigation. And yet we know that the Premier's office was directly involved, and then day after day the Premier refuses — refuses — to answer basic questions in this Assembly but also to the media. He won't come clean. He's blocking witnesses. To the Premier: what's he hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, on the 4th of July 2016, this is what the Provincial Auditor said about her report:

What we did is we didn't do what is termed as a forensic audit. But in any audit, as auditors we're always looking for red flags. And because this is a land transaction, we did look for conflicts of interest. We didn't find evidence of conflict of interest or indications of fraud or . . .

Well the Deputy Leader said, it's all unravelling. It most assuredly is, Mr. Speaker. Every single conspiracy theory they've brought forward to smear an hon. member and to smear private citizens is unravelling.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition stands in his place and says, when will you stop hiding things? We referred the matter to the Provincial Auditor. The Provincial Auditor then reported publicly. The Provincial Auditor has now twice been at the Public Accounts Committee with the media, Mr. Speaker. This government has responded, has responded in the correct way, to refer it to an independent officer of the legislature. That independent officer has reported, Mr. Speaker. When will the NDP accept the report?

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

Changes to Property Taxes

Ms. Rancourt: — Times have changed, Mr. Speaker. They said they'd be transparent; they are not. They said they'd invest; they cut. They said they would never raise taxes; now they're hiking them.

In fact yesterday as the bad news kept coming for the Sask Party, they squeezed in that they have a plan for tax hikes for Saskatchewan people. That's right — they are paving the way for property taxes to go up to cover the Sask Party mismanagement, scandal, and waste. They pillage through the pockets of our most vulnerable and the budgets of school boards, health regions, and post-secondary institutions, and they still haven't found what they need. Now they're moving on to municipalities.

The minister is using the word "revaluation," but she's fooling

no one. They are raising taxes. Why does the minister think that it is the people of Saskatchewan who should be forced to pay the price for the Sask Party mismanagement, scandal, and waste?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to take this question. Yet again the member opposite or else her staff need to do a little more research and get to know the file a little bit better. It is by legislation that assessment is done every four years. At that time, the new assessment . . . It's by legislation that this is done. And when those assessments are done there is a revaluation that has . . . It's all set out in legislation, Mr. Speaker.

So when the revaluation was done on properties because of actually the good growth that has happened in our province in every classification, the assessment is higher than it was in previous years, Mr. Speaker. So that then goes to the municipalities as well as the provincial government, and their budget deliberations will decide what mill rate they'll apply to those assessments, Mr. Speaker. But the taxes are not decided until the mill rates are set.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, they just don't want to take responsibility for the mess they are in. They had record revenues, and they bragged and bragged, taking credit for high commodity prices. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste are coming home to roost. Residents across the province could see their property taxes go up.

Now yesterday the minister said, "Municipalities have the tools to provide additional tax relief if they wish to do so." Are they serious, Mr. Speaker? They are going to try and throw municipalities under the bus now too. They have backed municipalities into a corner. They have effectively taken money out of their pockets.

And the minister tries to pretend that they have a lot of options. If municipalities have to make up for the Sask Party's increases, they either have to raise taxes or cut programs. How does the minister not understand this? And why doesn't she just take responsibility for this?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I don't even know where to begin answering that question. That was so ridiculous. I'm supposed to take responsibility for the fact that values of property in our province has gone up. Somehow I'm supposed to take responsibility for that. Assessment is done, and it is decided what value . . .

It's the same system the NDP uses. There's no tax changes yet. We have increased revenue sharing to municipalities incredibly over what the NDP did. When the NDP were in power, we had

tax revolts across our province because of the downloading that they did into municipalities, Mr. Speaker.

I don't even know where to begin to explain what that member doesn't even begin to understand about her file. We haven't set the tax rates, Mr. Speaker. We just had an assessment of the values of property in our province, Mr. Speaker, and because of the growth in our province, values have gone up, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Gradworks Internship Program

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, at the start of this month we found out that Saskatchewan had lost 11,000 jobs this year over last. Last week, Mr. Speaker, this government finally fessed up to the fact that this province is facing a \$1 billion deficit. And in the wake of that, Mr. Speaker, we've seen cuts continuing in terms of different groups that seem to be vulnerable when it comes to the work of this government and cuts that don't make much sense.

You think about what happened at NORTEP-NORPAC [northern teacher education program-Northern Professional Access College]. You think about what's happening in the post-secondary education sector generally, Mr. Speaker. And then yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we found out that the latest group to be targeted by this government to solve their \$1 billion deficit on the backs of them are the Gradworks interns, Mr. Speaker. At a time when jobs are all the more precious, Mr. Speaker, how is it that cutting a program that provides that critical first job for new graduates in this province makes any kind of sense, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our province has been faced with a \$1 billion drop in resource revenue and on the intake of personal and corporate taxes. We've asked all government agencies, including the Crowns, to find additional revenues and cost savings while maintaining the high level of customer service and safety that they are so well known for.

Mr. Speaker, decisions have to be made, and they are tough decisions. Unfortunately the Gradworks program, it was felt, could be phased out at this time. Mr. Speaker, these decisions don't come easy, but they have to be made in order to move ahead against other decisions that could have been made, Mr. Speaker, that could have affected customer service and safety. It was felt that the Gradworks program could be phased out at this time. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, in terms of addressing a \$1 billion deficit of this government's own making, I can think of a bunch of ministers on that side of the House that should be phased out a million times before any Gradworks, any Gradworks interns, Mr. Speaker.

This is a program that in the last year that reporting was

available in terms of the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] annual report, there were 83 interns hired from a pool of 4,600 applicants, Mr. Speaker. This is a very valuable program and how is it that this government seeks to solve their \$1 billion deficit on the backs of interns? How does that make any sense whatsoever, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — This program certainly had its benefits. We acknowledge that. There's costs associated with those benefits though, Mr. Speaker, and the Crowns expect that they will realize over \$3 million in savings annually based on that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Crown sector has identified areas that were able to reduce costs and improve revenues totalling \$50 million. This is \$3 million of that, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, these efforts will ensure that our Crown sector is able to continue to provide important services to the people of this province while doing their part to help our current fiscal challenges, Mr. Speaker.

You know, now that mandatory retirement is no longer, Mr. Speaker, recruitment in this province is much improved, Mr. Speaker. You know, 11 years ago when this program came in existence, Mr. Speaker, that was when the NDP government was shipping kids out of this province like there was no tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. And today under this government, Mr. Speaker, these students are here and there's abundance of employment for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Presumptive Coverage Under Workers' Compensation

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable how this government thinks that taking away jobs and training is the right decision. It just makes sense to ensure these programs are protected when times are tough. It also makes sense to ensure that workers are protected and have the supports they need.

Thankfully after a lot of advocacy work from workers like the firefighters and paramedics we have here in the gallery today, the government picked up and built on a private member's bill from our side, and we now have legislation that ensures workers are covered for PTSD. But the work to protect workers goes on. We're once again trying to get the Sask Party to make the right choice.

Firefighters risk their health every day just doing their jobs. And yet here in Saskatchewan, breast, prostate, skin, and myeloma cancers are not presumptive diseases for firefighters. Other provinces and territories are leading the way. So will the minister commit today to doing the right thing and provide presumptive coverage for these work-related cancers?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. She met with the firefighters this morning. We met with the firefighters this morning. They raised some issues. We've asked them if they have some information that we can review, be reviewed; we would do it.

It is not something that we're prepared to do, to go ahead and just pass legislation. We want to make sure there's good science, good practicality behind it. And, Mr. Speaker, if there is valid information we'll certainly want to review and assess it, and we'll be asking the Workers' Compensation Board and the people in the ministry to look at this issue as well.

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

Staffing of HealthLine Service

Ms. Chartier: — New information, Mr. Speaker? These folks have been bringing these issues to this legislature for some time. If that's not evidence, Mr. Speaker . . .

This government regularly recommends that people in need call 811. This is something the Premier himself recommended as part of the solution for the youth suicide epidemic in the North. Well, Mr. Speaker, at the Premier's advice, people have called the HealthLine and they have found that a mental health worker wasn't always available.

We brought this up in this very Chamber and the Sask Party said they were concerned and they said they would look into it. But, Mr. Speaker, when we followed up and asked about how often services were unavailable, they couldn't say. And when we asked about how many mental health workers provide services at 811, they couldn't say.

They don't know the answer, Mr. Speaker, and it is so important to them that they promised to look into it sometime in the next six months. Do they think that people struggling with mental health issues, struggling with suicidal thoughts, can wait? Will the minister commit to looking into this now, getting the answers and, at the very least, ensuring that the Premier isn't encouraging people in need to use a service that is not available?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course mental health issues and suicidal issues are very important to this government. That's why we've continued conversations, have kept in contact with the chiefs and leaders from the North in post this situation, as well as the Premier and I and the Minister of Government Relations have been up there meeting with some of the leaders from the area as well in the group meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I can report that just, I think, a week or so ago, the members did bring up some issues with 811. I did contact the member from Athabasca for the information he had; didn't get a response. I did talk to him personally and still haven't gotten information from him.

What I can report to the House, Mr. Speaker, is the HealthLine is staffed 24-7. In fact, during the day there are four RNs [registered nurse] plus a relief RN and one mental health clinician. During evenings, there are five registered nurses plus a relief RN plus one mental health clinician. During the night, three RNs, one psychiatric nurse. Also there are LPNs [licensed practical nurse] on site to back them up, Mr. Speaker. I would also point out that before 2009 there was no mental health clinicians on the 811. We brought that in in 2009, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that that minister can bring forward numbers today, but they order written questions, Mr. Speaker. And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there are many people, there are people who have called that line who have not got the response that they need, Mr. Speaker. The 811 HealthLine is an important support for people suffering from health issues in this province. It is supposed to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is, they say, Mr. Speaker, but that is not the experience of people who have contacted our office.

The Sask Party couldn't even tell us the number of people who worked there. They said we were wrong when we said the service wasn't available. We were not; we are not. And they don't even know how many people work there, Mr. Speaker. People need, people who hear their Premier promoting a service need to be assured that it works, and it will be there for them at all times of day.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that this line is fully staffed with the appropriate staff at all times?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, these comments were very similar to the member from Athabasca brought up a number of weeks ago, and it is very concerning to us. We want to get to the bottom of these matters, Mr. Speaker. That's why I asked him for the information that he presented a couple of weeks ago. I'm asking for the member across questioning right now to please supply us the information so we can follow up on this to find out if there has been a shortcoming, if 811 has fallen short.

We want to ensure that that service is available, Mr. Speaker, but directly from 811 they confirmed to us that it is available 24-7. I have gone through the numbers. For the purposes of time, I won't repeat those numbers. But, Mr. Speaker, we know that from time to time there are surges, and whether it's flu season or whatever else, Mr. Speaker, that they are equipped to deal with surges in calls.

Mr. Speaker, there is always the number, complement of professionals on the 811 line that I have mentioned. There is always the access to mental health professionals, Mr. Speaker, and in case there is no access to mental health professionals, an RN will take the call and somebody from mental health profession will get back to them as quickly as possible if that's who they indeed require to talk to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 44 — *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016*

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 44, *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 44, *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016* 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? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Next sitting of this House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

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. 15, *The Provincial Court 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 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. 15, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016* and that this bill will 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. 15 — *The Provincial Court 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 Bill No. 15, *The Provincial Court 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. 19, *The Film and Video Classification 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. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I move the . . . 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. 19, *The Film and Video Classification 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.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 19 — *The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 19, *The Film and Video Classification 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. 35, *The Small Claims Act, 2016*, 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. 35, *The Small Claims 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. 35 — *The Small Claims Act, 2016*
*Loi de 2016 sur les petites créances***

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 Bill No. 35, *The Small Claims 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. 36, *The Small Claims Consequential Amendments 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. 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 Bills for Bill No. 36, *The Small Claims Consequential Amendments 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.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 36 — *The Small Claims Consequential
Amendments 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. 36, *The Small Claims Consequential Amendments 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. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment 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. 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. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure 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. 8 — *The Summary Offences Procedure
Amendment Act, 2016***

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, 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. 8, *The Summary Offences Procedure 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 that it's considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its second report. I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on

Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The member from Arm River has moved the motion:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. 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 that it has considered certain estimates and to present its second report. I move:

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Regina Gardiner Park:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. 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 that it has considered certain estimates and to present its third report. I move:

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

[14:45]

The Speaker: — The member from Cannington has moved a motion:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Standing Committee on House Services

Mr. McCall: — Or as some might say, the Deputy Chair of the House Services Committee, but who's quibbling, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved the motion:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Principal Clerk: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — Committee of Finance. The business before the committee is the resolution. I call upon the Minister of Finance to move his resolution.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move the following resolution:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the sum of \$160,906,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017, the sum of \$160,906,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee

rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I call the Assembly to order. I recognize the Chair of committees.

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

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

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

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

The Speaker: — 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 resolution.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 45 — *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 2)*

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 45, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 45, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 2)*, be now introduced and read the 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: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly and pursuant of rule 32(1)(e), I move Bill No. 45, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has asked for leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 45, *The Appropriation Act, 2016 (No. 2)*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Leave has been granted. The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 45, *The Appropriation Act, 2016*, be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

Principal Clerk: — Second and third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House now be adjourned . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, sorry, Mr. Speaker, I will sit back down.

SECOND READINGS

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

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to my colleagues for allowing me the opportunity to rise today to move second reading of *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*. Saskatchewan's existing pipeline legislation is known as *The Pipelines Act, 1998*. The Act's main functions include the licensing of pipelines, the regulation of their construction, operation, and abandonment, and rules regarding operator liability.

The Act also establishes the authority of the Oil and Gas Conservation Board under *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. This authority includes the ability to conduct hearings, investigations, or inquiries related to legislative and regulatory matters.

Three types of pipelines are currently exempt from the provision of the Act. These include interprovincial pipelines regulated by the National Energy Board, natural gas distribution pipelines operated by SaskEnergy, and pipelines situated within refineries.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will assist the Ministry of the Economy in addressing the remaining outstanding issues from the 2012 Provincial Auditor's report on pipeline regulation. The

changes lay the foundation for strengthening our regulatory oversight of the industry.

The proposed amendments introduce a number of changes to address various shortcomings of the current Act. First, they create the legal framework for the phased-in licensing of over 80,000 flow lines currently exempt from the licensing under the Act. Second, they provide the legal framework for building an online pipeline licensing system using the recently launched integrated resource information system, also known as IRIS. Third, they establish new inspection, investigation, and compliance audit powers for ministry staff. Fourth, they update and modernize the penalty provisions of the Act, including introducing administrative penalties equivalent to what exists under other provincial laws. Fifth, they provide the legal basis for creating technical directives for pipeline licensing, construction, operation, and abandonment. Sixth, they provide new regulatory authorities to require financial assurance from operators for pipelines located in high-risk locations such as water crossings. Lastly, they establish ongoing obligations related to addressing any environmental issues that might be discovered after a pipeline is abandoned.

These items include the licensing of flow lines and the development of new programs to audit industry compliance with pipeline maintenance standards. Progress has already been made in several areas in response to the Provincial Auditor's report. These areas include development of consistent documentation of easements, of pipeline licence applications, and increases to ministry staff and equipment resources.

The proposed amendments will not automatically trigger new spending on pipeline regulations. They will however provide the foundation for building new programs and data systems to strengthen our regulatory oversight of the industry. Any incremental spending on these programs beyond the ministry's ongoing appropriation will be approved through the normal budgeting process. Ninety per cent of the ministry's current spending on pipeline regulation programs is offset by the annual well levy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it's important to put these amendments into their larger context. Saskatchewan depends on its pipeline infrastructure to take our energy products to market and to provide energy services to Saskatchewan communities. The events of this summer have shown the critical role of regulatory oversight in maintaining public confidence in the system. The proposed amendments will assist the Government of Saskatchewan in addressing both of these priorities.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I move second reading of *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved the second reading of Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to . . . Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to get up and give our initial comments on Bill 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*. And, Mr. Speaker, what's really important on this particular bill is that I want to give a very brief history of what we within the

NDP movement here in Saskatchewan really aspired and viewed the importance of the oil and gas industry in the province of Saskatchewan and how it relates to this particular bill, Mr. Speaker.

I want to give full marks to my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, who quite frankly insisted all along that oil and gas development, when done responsibly, is a huge opportunity for the people of Saskatchewan. And that part of the process when we were starting to evaluate these opportunities coming our way, even in tough times, that it is important to look at the balance that we often talk about within the NDP Party itself, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the economy, the importance of the oil and gas sector in the economy is there. We all appreciate that. We all realize that, and we all recognize that on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

But the other important factor that we want to implore upon the people of Saskatchewan is the fact that in any economic strategy there's got to be a balance when you talk about environmental protection. And we see evidence of some of the moves in this particular bill that the Sask Party is finally getting it, that there is a thing called balance between the environment and the economy. And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan really want to make sure that these values are entrenched in many of our government members' thinking. And obviously this is something that the member from Saskatoon Nutana pulled the Saskatchewan Party government along kicking and screaming, that some of these regulations were important, Mr. Speaker. And why this took four years to implement, Mr. Speaker, is still a question that we have on this side of the Assembly, and I'll tell you why.

First of all this whole notion, this great facade that the Saskatchewan Party had been promoting on a regular basis in a sense that saying that the NDP are anti-development, Mr. Speaker. That is nothing; that is the furthest thing from the truth. There is absolutely nothing but self-serving politics on the Saskatchewan Party side when it comes to telling people of Saskatchewan that great lie, Mr. Speaker.

What's also really important, Mr. Speaker, is to look at the history of Saskatchewan's economy. When the Saskatchewan economy was doing very well, Mr. Speaker — and I would encourage those that follow politics in Saskatchewan in particular to look at the history of Saskatchewan — every single time that the economy was going great, Mr. Speaker, it was an NDP government in charge during that era, Mr. Speaker.

And what happened with the Saskatchewan Party is that they saw and viewed that the great progress that the New Democratic Party was making, when it came to balancing the environment and the economy, was something that they had to dispel quickly, Mr. Speaker. They went on their soapboxes. And wherever they went, they decried the whole notion that when it came to the economy, and now things like pipelines and oil and gas, that they can't trust the NDP, is what they were telling the people of Saskatchewan. Absolutely nothing is further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. That is how they prop up their failing economic policies that we're seeing today, Mr. Speaker, by simply telling the people of Saskatchewan to look at the NDP and try and be critical of the NDP at all times.

[15:00]

And we within the NDP want to say a number of things as it relates to the oil and gas industry. When the former premier, Lorne Calvert, attracted the millions if not billions of dollars in oil and gas development prior to 2007, Mr. Speaker, I remember Premier Calvert telling the people in the oil and gas industry — in particular the CAPP members, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers in Lloydminster, Mr. Speaker — when he told them that they wanted to bring the oil patch and their investment to Saskatchewan, that it was very important to do that.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that some of that leadership was phenomenal in the sense that there was the attraction of the oil and gas sector to come to Saskatchewan. And that was compliments of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party under the leadership of not only Roy Romanow, Mr. Speaker, but as well as Lorne Calvert.

Now what does that really have to do with this particular pipeline bill today, Mr. Speaker? It is all interrelated. One of the most important things that people need to understand out there is that the New Democratic Party want to attract investment to the province of Saskatchewan. That is our most important message that we want to share today. It is important because it's going to create jobs for oil and gas workers, Mr. Speaker. We understand that the oil patch is hurting. We understand that there's mortgages that have to be paid. We understand that there's many, many families that are struggling.

But as you look at the record of the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker, this was a government that inherited a booming population, a booming economy, and money in the bank. And today we see, after nine short years — barely, just under a decade of rule — we are now facing record debt, Mr. Speaker, record debt.

And we have been asking them on a continual basis, as you try and attract investment to Saskatchewan — whether it's the uranium industry or the forestry industry or, in this case, the oil and gas sector — it is important to incorporate in our values the benefits of attracting that investment. Yes, the investment is attractive, Mr. Speaker. We need to have that investment into our economy, and we need to have the private corporate parties build our economy together with the other sectors such as the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. Our people in Saskatchewan need to go to work and they want to go to work, Mr. Speaker. They need those jobs. We understand that wholeheartedly, and I wanted to be able to share with the people of Saskatchewan that very message today.

And when you look at the oil and gas sector hurting, Mr. Speaker, we say that something has to be done to support these workers. And we will do all we can as the New Democratic Party to ensure that their message gets through and to assure them that we fully hear your concerns around employment and the need to make your mortgage payments, the need to support your family. We understand that and we respect that, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly want to be part of the solution when it comes to attracting the oil and gas sector's investment to our province and to our borders.

And part of that process — and this is the important part, Mr. Speaker — as you attract the oil and gas companies to come to Saskatchewan and to invest in our province, it's also important to make sure that the jobs are here for the people of Saskatchewan. We have to extract as many benefits as we possibly can, immediate benefits and downstream benefits, Mr. Speaker, as many of those benefits as we possibly can. We need to attract them and to keep them here for Saskatchewan's interests.

And what are some of those downstream and current opportunities, Mr. Speaker? It could mean anything from employment to some of the royalties, Mr. Speaker. It could talk about the investment into training. These are some of the immediate benefits you benefit from when you attract industry to Saskatchewan.

So I wanted to make it perfectly and abundantly clear. On this particular bill I want to dispel the notion and the myth that the Saskatchewan Party have been spreading for years around the notion that the New Democratic Party is not supportive of the oil and gas industry. And that is the furthest thing from the truth.

And if anybody wants to debate me or certainly wanted to challenge me on that point, you need look no further than some of the immediate comments of their current leader, the Premier of Saskatchewan, when he was asked about the royalty regime established by the Calvert administration to attract, Mr. Speaker, to attract the oil and gas sector here to Saskatchewan. And that's exactly what he did. And, Mr. Speaker, we can see some of that investment paid off for years and years and years.

And this whole notion, this whole notion that the Saskatchewan Party's trying to propagate in the sense of saying, well they're not trying to attract investment, I want to tell the people of Saskatchewan that is our primary function as a party that wants to form government in Saskatchewan, is to create opportunity, jobs, and investment in this province from a wide variety of sources, from a wide variety of corporate players, Mr. Speaker. This province needs that investment and we in the NDP understand it.

Now how does this relate to this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, Bill 43? We want to share with the corporate world that want to come and invest in Saskatchewan that the public, the public understands the importance of environmental protection as well as attracting investment. Every person in the province understands a very simple argument that we have within the NDP. We want investment. We want to attract that investment, and that investment that we want to attract has no bounds, Mr. Speaker. They should come and invest as much as they want in our province because that creates jobs for our people. And that's the reason why we want to form government: to create more jobs, more investment.

But, Mr. Speaker, as Saskatchewan people will tell you, it's also important to make sure that you extract as many benefits from that investment, and that also includes training dollars, investment into infrastructure, and making sure that the environmental protection is there for some of these industries that really want to do the right thing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I look at some of the portions of this particular bill. Some of the items that . . . brought forward that the member from Saskatoon Nutana insisted, in many of the conversations as the environmental critic, that these are things that are basic packages of the business that many of the oil and gas companies want to do. They want to offer that, Mr. Speaker. And when they come to Saskatchewan, when they come to Saskatchewan, they come here as responsible investors, as responsible parties to creating the economy here in Saskatchewan. And that's exactly what we want.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's important I think overall is that as you look at some of the recent activity, and in particular the spill, the spill that occurred, people out in Saskatchewan got a front-row seat as to what occurred under that particular spill, and there was a lot of concerns and questions as it relates to how this occurred.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've sat with members of CAPP on numerous occasions in my previous capacity as the minister for the Environment, and I can tell you the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers are a responsible lot. They have brought forward a lot of innovative ideas. They are leaders when it comes to extracting oil and gas. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, all the members of CAPP are organizations that have a reputable background, and they are great partners in building the economy for Saskatchewan.

I want to assure CAPP of several things, Mr. Speaker, as a result of this particular bill, is I'm glad that CAPP probably gave the advice to the minister on how to do this properly. I can see the consultation would be highly valuable for them and for the people of Saskatchewan for CAPP to make sure that the regulations are workable, so that a solution could be found and that balance between the environment and the economy can be maintained by responsible partners, not only the industry but by the government as well.

And what we have saw, Mr. Speaker, from the Saskatchewan Party government is they're always late to the game, despite getting advice from the NDP how to do this, Mr. Speaker. We advised them on the royalty regime, which they have not changed, and they dare not change. They dare not change. And I've said it in this House time and time again: the blueprint for economic success that was designed by the NDP in concert with the people of Saskatchewan, do not mess with that. Because you mess with that, you're going to create a lot of problems with the future of Saskatchewan. So just follow our lead when it comes to the economy, and you'll be fine, Mr. Speaker.

When you start messing around with royalty regimes, start messing around with other aspects of what was laid out in front of you prior to you being government, then you will see. Then you will see, Mr. Speaker, that you will have responsible partners, that you will have investment, and you will have that sense of sharing in the responsibility when it comes to environmental protection. And that's exactly what this bill talks about, Mr. Speaker, that balance between the economy and environmental protection.

Now what's important, Mr. Speaker, is that as we look at the history of the Saskatchewan Party government, there really isn't any history, Mr. Speaker. The history has been . . . well it was

created in the dark of night. But the problem we have is that they have really not provided any leadership, any leadership on any issue, whether it's attracting investment, they're following our plan. We know that. In the meantime, they are trying to discourage people from looking at the NDP's economic record, and I would encourage people of Saskatchewan to do that. And they haven't got any environmental track record; so as a result of that, Mr. Speaker, they really don't know what they're doing.

So my advice to them is very clear: please stop spreading the misinformation about the NDP not wanting to attract investment. We want to attract investment to Saskatchewan. Let me make that very clear today, Mr. Speaker. We want to see jobs created for our Saskatchewan men and women, men and women across this great province. We want all the benefits, Mr. Speaker, of taxation when corporations invest into our economies. We want the potential training dollars. We want the potential infrastructure investment. But we also want the partners to be stewards of the environment which they would automatically, Mr. Speaker, assume as part of their role.

So when you see members of CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, standing side by side with Rachel Notley, this is what I'm talking about leadership, Mr. Speaker, because they know they have a role to play. They have a role to play. They're embracing that role. They're embracing the NDP Government of Alberta and making sure that the right thing is being done.

And today now in Saskatchewan, once again, the Saskatchewan Party's following the New Democratic lead on royalties and taxation. Don't change that because you're just going to distract all the investment that we worked years on trying to get, Mr. Speaker. We also talked about extracting as many benefits as you can. That includes employment. That includes training dollars. That includes infrastructure investment. And more importantly, they finally get the memo today, Mr. Speaker, on this particular bill, Bill 43, that there is an environmental role to play for the industries that are investing into our economy that are resource based, Mr. Speaker. They embrace that role and, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party is finally getting, after four years and the embarrassing spill this past summer, that quite frankly got the public up in arms, and that they're very disappointed.

My final comment on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker. As you engage industry, as you partner with industry, Mr. Speaker, they will come with solutions as well as investment. So listen to their advice. Listen to their advice, and they will provide that leadership in the vacuum of leadership displayed by the Saskatchewan Party on many files, whether it's financial mismanagement, scandals, or waste, Mr. Speaker. These guys need a lot of help and a lot of advice. And at the very least, Mr. Speaker, under Bill 43, they paid a little bit of attention to the member from Saskatoon Nutana on how to make sure that all these benefits we're talking about are maximized for the people of Saskatchewan.

We're going to be challenging the Saskatchewan Party on every myth and untruth they speak about the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker, on the economic front. And we're starting that as loud and as often as we can. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn debate on Bill 43.

The Speaker: — The member from Athabasca has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I 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 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:15.]

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