



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

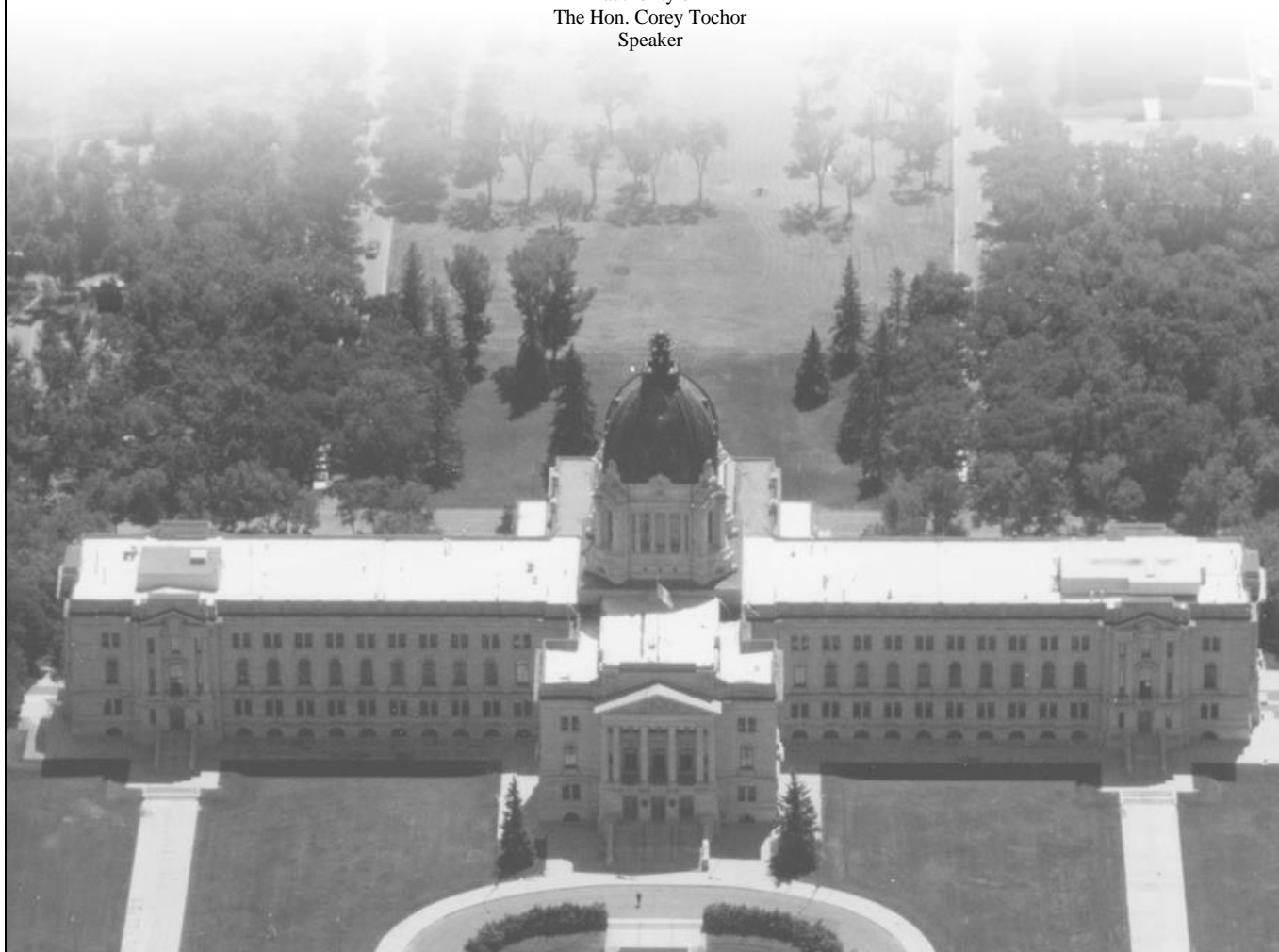
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

Beaudry-Mellor, Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Boyd, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Brkich, Greg — Arm River (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Campeau, Jennifer — Saskatoon Fairview (SP)

Carr, Lori — Estevan (SP)

Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)

Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cox, Herb — The Battlefords (SP)

D'Autremont, Dan — Cannington (SP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

Doherty, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

Doke, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

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

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

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

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

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Heppner, Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Phillips, Kevin — Melfort (SP)

Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

Ross, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)

Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Tochor, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Wall, Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)

Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 50; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 11

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Buriandyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — With leave for an extended introduction of guests, please.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce a group of French students from Monseigneur de Laval here in Regina.

With the students and the chaperones from Laval, we also have some other representation from the francophone community, known in Saskatchewan as the Fransaskois, joining us today. Françoise Sigur-Cloutier is the president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, an organization that helps to build and strengthen the francophone community here in Saskatchewan.

I'd also like to welcome Dominique Liboiron and Guy Michaud. Would our honoured guests please stand? There you are. We welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to officially proclaim March 2nd to 22nd as Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2017 in Saskatchewan. Rendez-vous offers a chance for residents to join people all over the country to celebrate Canada's rich francophone heritage and culture. Rendez-vous is held annually throughout Canada in March to promote French language and francophone culture. It also coincides with the international day of la Francophonie on March 20th.

This year we focus la Francophonie in 3-D: diversity, duality, and dynamism. We are proud to have such a vibrant francophonie community that helps all of us in Saskatchewan thrive. I encourage all citizens, no matter their language or their culture, to join us in celebrating la francophonie in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome members of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise.

J'ai eu le plaisir de faire leur connaissance la semaine dernière.

[Translation: I had the pleasure of making their acquaintance

last week.]

We met last week. We discussed French education in the province, including the challenges in recruiting French immersion teachers, the fact we have only one Type A French immersion school in Saskatchewan, and of course French post-secondary programming. I undertook to be an advocate for them and for the value of French language in Saskatchewan, something I feel very strongly about.

Je vous salue. Bienvenue à votre Chambre législative.

[Translation: Greetings. Welcome to your Legislative Chamber.]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the group of Fransaskois as well to this Chamber.

Je suis très, très content de les voir ici. On est vraiment fier d'avoir un culture si fort ici en Saskatchewan de la fransaskoisie, la francophonie.

Je veux mentionner en particulier deux personnes. Il y a Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, la présidente de l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, et aussi Dominique Liboiron — bonjour, Françoise — et aussi Dominique Liboiron. Dominique a fait un voyage particulièrement exceptionnel. Il est allé de Medicine Hat jusqu'à Nouvelle Orléans en canoë.

[Translation: I am very, very pleased to see them here. We are very proud to have such a strong Fransaskois, francophone culture here in Saskatchewan.]

I would like to mention in particular two people. There is Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, the president of l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, and also Dominique Liboiron — hello Françoise — and also Dominique Liboiron. Dominique made a particularly exceptional trip. He went from Medicine Hat to New Orleans by canoe.]

We have Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, is the president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise. We also have Dominique Liboiron who did an exceptional voyage. He travelled all the way from Medicine Hat to New Orleans, a journey of eight months, a journey of exceptional courage and stamina. And we're very impressed to have him today here to . . . He was able to present to members downstairs as well as speak to all of the students and inspire them in their future endeavours.

Alors encore un fois, je veux dire bienvenue et bonjour et merci d'être venu.

[Translation: So once again, I would like to say welcome and hello and thank you for coming.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Et comme présidente le d'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie pour l'assemblée de Saskatchewan, je voudrais aussi dire bienvenue à tous les francophones qui sont ici aujourd'hui, et merci beaucoup d'être si fiers de l'héritage et le culture francophone en Saskatchewan. Ma mère est fransaskoise, et je suis une fière francophone aussi. Alors merci beaucoup pour tout le travail et tout ce que vous faites en Saskatchewan. Alors bienvenue à tous les francophones ici.

[Translation: And as the president of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie for the Saskatchewan Assembly, I would like to also say welcome to all the francophones who are here today, and thank you very much for being so proud of the Francophone heritage and culture here in Saskatchewan. My mother is Fransaskois, and I am a proud francophone as well. So thank you very much for all the work and all that you do in Saskatchewan. So, welcome to all the francophones here today.]

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome a producer here today from Pangman, Saskatchewan, Mr. Jim Liggett. I want to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly. He's been a farmer in Saskatchewan for many decades and is very interested in politics as well. So I want to welcome him to the Assembly, and thank you for keeping Saskatchewan growing strong. Thank you, Mr. . . . and I would ask everyone to welcome him.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — I ask for leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — This is not going to be in French. Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure to welcome some individuals, some young leaders from my constituency. They are individuals from the Paul Hill School of Business. They were the winners of the JDC [Jeux du commerce] West competition earlier this year in January. They won 11 — I counted 11 — awards, including school of the year, which I would like my other university colleagues, alumni, to know, that the U of R [University of Regina] won the school of the year.

I would like to introduce some of those. I don't know if they're all here but I'm going to mention all of their names anyway, and if you are here would you give a wave, please. So first their instructor, Randy Linton, is with us today. Miranda Rosin is with us today; Eric Holloway, I don't know if he's here but most of us know him as well; Brady Parker; Brandon Rickets; Conrad Hewitt is here today; Stephen Bardutz; Marissa Burwell; Rachel Langen; Brayden Colin; Tris Nyhus; and Cyreana Lockert.

And I would just like to read into the record, Mr. Speaker, the awards that they've won. They won not only the school of the year, first place, but they won finance, first place. They won international business, first place; second place in the debate; second place in marketing; third place in accounting. I love this one — charitable volunteer hours, Mr. Speaker, first place with 3,377 hours. Participation, first place; social, first place; sport, third place; and executive of the year, Cari-Lynn Schoettler and Danielle Lane. They also . . . Some of these students are also participating this week in the 5 Days for the Homeless which raises money for Carmichael Outreach.

And so I invite my colleagues to join me in welcoming these fine young people to our Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to add my welcome and my congratulations to this group of students from the Paul Hill School of Business and their success in the JDC West competition. It's very impressive to have such a group of leaders for the economy of the future, and in particular to hear the way that you are making those connections between economics and the needs of those most vulnerable in our society. Thank you for that and welcome to your Assembly.

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

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce a group of 20 public servant employees seated in the Speaker's gallery. If you could give us a wave. They're here today to take part in the parliamentary program for the public service. The participants are employees from the following ministries: Advanced Education, Agriculture, Economy, Education, Environment, Government Relations, Health, Highways and Infrastructure, Justice, Municipal Affairs, Parks, Culture and Sport, as well as employees from the Office of the Provincial Auditor and the Legislative Assembly Service.

The program includes an in-depth history and tour of the Legislative Building; briefings presented by the Legislative Library, Legislative Assembly committees branch, and Executive Council; an opportunity to sit in the public galleries to observe question period and other House business; and a briefing with members from both sides of the House. I ask all members to help me welcome these fine public servants to their Legislative Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you, no stranger to this Legislative Assembly, Michelle Englot.

Michelle, if you could stand up and give us a wave. All right. Recently Michelle made her ninth appearance in the Scotties Tournament of Hearts as the skip for Team Manitoba. It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that never have so many Saskatchewanians cheered for a team from Manitoba. Certainly not the Bombers. Maybe the Winnipeg Jets, but not the Bombers.

Curling out of the Granite Curling Club in Winnipeg, Michelle's team consisted of lead Raunora Westcott, second Leslie Wilson, third Kate Cameron, alternate Krysten Karwacki, and coach Ron Westcott. Finishing with an impressive 10-1 record in the preliminary rounds, Michelle ended up losing a close game in the finals to Ontario's Rachel Homan.

Though representing Manitoba at the Scotties this year, Michelle has a long history of representing Saskatchewan on the curling ice. Through her career, Michelle brought Saskatchewan two back-to-back bronze medals from the Scotties in 1988 and 1989. She also represented Saskatchewan in the 1983 Canada Winter Games. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to help me in welcoming Michelle to her Legislative Assembly and to tell her how proud we are of her.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'd seek leave to make an extended response to the introduction of the minister, if I might.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. And to colleagues, certainly thanks for agreeing to an extended response to the introduction. But first off, as the opposition critic for the Public Service Commission, I'm very glad to see yet another group of interested, engaged public servants here at their Legislative Assembly.

It's certainly a valuable program and, you know, enriches the experience of public servants and I think aids them in the work that they do serving the public in Saskatchewan. And it's critical work that is very valuable, Mr. Speaker. And I guess the hope is that once they come away with a better understanding of how things work in this Assembly, that they might then go back and help the government figure a few things out themselves, Mr. Speaker. But I look forward to meeting with them later on today. And certainly I want to say on behalf of the official opposition, thank you very much for the work that you do each and every day for the people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, of course I want to say a word of hello and congratulations to Michelle Englot. As someone with roots out in the Montmartre neck of the woods, we're always glad to see Englots doing good things the world over. And certainly there's always going to be room on home ice back in Saskatchewan for Michelle Englot certainly, Mr. Speaker, but that pride is not diminished in this individual's many accomplishments and the

amazing work in curling.

Anyway, so I join with the minister in welcoming these public servants and Michelle Englot to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce, in the west gallery with the school group up there, my niece from Regina, Petra Ottenbreit-Born. So I would ask all members to welcome my niece to her Legislative Assembly.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join my colleagues in recognizing our French-speaking delegation that are here today. As many of you may or may not know, I'm one of the few indigenous members of the Assembly, and we're considered Métis. And of course Métis of course is a French word. And as an Aboriginal person growing up having a French grandfather and an Aboriginal grandmother, we tended to be exposed to both the Cree language and the French language. So growing up I could understand the words like "la table" and "la porte," "la fourchette," "le couteau." [Translation: the table, the door, the fork, the knife.]

I can hear all these words when I was a kid, but I could also hear the Cree words of:

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

So what happens in our culture is the Aboriginal community and the French community actually intermarried and they created their own customs. They also created their own language called Michif. So a lot of times you will see there will be a lot of words in our Cree language that are married to the French words, and often we confuse ourselves, never mind the average person.

So I want to say that one of the things we aspire to do in the Aboriginal community is to connect with our other history. And one of the things I want to do with the member from Riversdale and the member from Saskatoon Nutana, who both speak French, I want to be able to speak French more to connect with my French heritage and stay very strong with my Aboriginal roots as well.

So merci beaucoup, monsieur le Président. [Translation: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.] And when I'm asked if I speak French, I always say, un petit peu. [Translation: a little bit.] So thank you very much.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, I'd like to introduce an individual seated in your gallery, Ms. Crystal Giesbrecht. She is here on behalf of PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of

Saskatchewan]. She works there as their director of research and communications. PATHS, Mr. Speaker, for those who don't know, stands for the Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, and they do great work throughout the province, both as a communication and support network for all of the shelters in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And since Crystal can't tell me that I can't say this — I do know her a little bit personally — although she does amazing work as a full-time job, she also does some incredible work in her volunteer capacities as a social justice advocate, especially in Regina but in the province. She's a field worker for Amnesty International's Regina chapter, and she is formerly a board member for the Regina Sexual Assault Centre, Mr. Speaker. So she's quite an amazing woman. I'm very happy to have her here today, and I ask that all members join me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join my colleague from Regina Douglas Park in welcoming Crystal.

But some other activists that are in your gallery, in the east gallery, have come out in support of victims of domestic violence. And in your gallery today with us are Catherine Gendron from SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West]. She can give a wave. And also Terrilyn St. Amour from SEIU-West young workers committee. They've been really active in searching for positive solutions to this horrible thing in our province.

As well in the east gallery we have Larry Hubich, the president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, as well as Lori Johb, also with the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] executive. They've also been activists in this.

And I've been looking around, scouring. There's two more that are with us or will be joining us shortly, and that is Darla Deguire from Canadian Labour Congress and Wendy Daku also from the Canadian Labour Congress, also very active in reaching out for supports for people fleeing domestic violence.

So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature today. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier and Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these people to the Assembly today. We appreciate that there are difficult times in labour negotiations, but we should never forget the fact that we thank these people very much for the great work that they do that continues to make our province the wonderful place that it is, and that this Assembly is a place that they can always come so that their voices are heard. And that's something that should be paramount for all of us. So on behalf of all the members on this side, I want to thank them for what they do, and we will work and endeavour to the do the best we can to get through some issues. And we thank them for being here.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Crystal Giesbrecht to the House today on behalf of PATHS. PATHS is one of the organizations, Mr. Speaker, that my ministry engages with on a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, to help guide the development of policy within the Ministry of Justice, relative to the issue of domestic violence. So I'd like to welcome her to the House, Mr. Speaker, and those others in the House that are here in support of this very important issue.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again to present a petition to reverse the cuts to the Lighthouse program, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners point out that in April 2014 the minister of Social Services said that 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." That same day, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners point out that the minister of Health said, "We want to ensure that individuals who have mental health and addictions issues have a safe place to stay."

And it's important to note, Mr. Speaker, that this government has repeatedly indicated that the Lighthouse stabilization unit keeps individuals out of hospital emergency rooms and jail cells. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more. We only need to look at over capacity at our hospitals in Saskatoon for example, where people are waiting for a very long time in emergency rooms where folks get turned away from the Lighthouse and often end up at the emergency at St. Paul's or in our police cells, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — 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 this province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Melfort, Naicam, Gronlid, Beatty, Spalding, Fairy Glen, Pleasantdale, Nipawin, Englefeld, Kinistino, and LeRoy. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in my place to petition the provincial government to build a second bridge for Prince Albert. And, Mr. Speaker, the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today. Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and the business community that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution and leadership. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition, as I say day in and day out, are from all throughout the province of Saskatchewan. And on these particular pages they're from Saskatoon. They're from Carrot River. They're from Holbein and, as I mentioned, they're also from Prince Albert. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I do so present these petitions today.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always pleased to rise in the House to present petitions, and this particular one is a petition opposed to Bill 40 and the potential 49 per cent Crown corporation sell-off. The individuals who are signing this petition wish to bring to the attention of the Assembly the following: that Sask Party's Bill 40 creates a new definition for privatization that allows the government to wind down, dissolve, or sell up to 49 per cent of the shares of a Crown corporation without holding a referendum. That in 2015-16 alone, Saskatchewan Crown corporations returned \$297.2 million in dividends to pay for schools, roads, and hospitals. Those dividends should go to the people of Saskatchewan, not private investors.

That our Crown corporations employ thousands of Saskatchewan people across the province, and that under section 149 of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada, Crown corporations are exempt from corporate income tax provided not less than 90 per cent of the shares are held by a government or a province.

The Sask Party's proposal would allow up to 49 per cent of a Crown to be sold without being considered privatized. And so this short-sighted legislation risks sending millions of dollars to

Ottawa, of Crown dividends to Ottawa rather than to the people of Saskatchewan. And I'd like to read the prayer:

The prayer reads as follows: they respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately stop the passage of Bill 40, *The Interpretation Amendment Act*, and start protecting jobs and our Crown corporations instead of selling them off to pay for Sask Party mismanagement.

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who are signing this petition are from the city of Prince Albert. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition regarding pay equity here in Saskatchewan. The people signing this petition want to bring to our attention the following: that the citizens of this province believe in an economy powered by transparency, accountability, security, and equity; and that all women should be paid equitably, and that women are powerful drivers of economic growth and their economic empowerment benefits us all.

Research published by the World Bank suggests that closing the gender wage gap could be worth the equivalent of 10 per cent of Canada's GDP [gross domestic product]. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives found that in Saskatoon in 2016, women earned on average 63 cents for every dollar that a man makes, and in Regina women earned on average 73 cents for every dollar a man makes. According to the most recent StatsCan data, the national gender wage gap for full-time workers is 72 cents for every dollar a man makes. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan eliminate the wage gap between women and men across all sectors where the Government of Saskatchewan has jurisdiction, provide a framework under which this can be done within the term of this Assembly, and that the Saskatchewan government call upon workplaces within Saskatchewan within the private sector to eliminate the wage gap between women and men.

And the people signing the petition today come from the city of Saskatoon, Martensville, and Grandora. I do so present, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of sexual child abuse prevention curriculum in Saskatchewan. Those who have signed the petition, Mr. Speaker, wish to draw our attention to the following: the fact that Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of child sexual abuse in Canada; that child sexual abuse has lasting impacts throughout a child's lifetime, and these effects include depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, decreased school attendance and achievement, as well as decreased productivity throughout the lifetime. Physical impacts include conversion disorder, and other impacts include heightened anger, alcohol

and drug addiction, eating disorders, problems with relationships, dating, marriage, and parenting.

Mr. Speaker, tragically, victims of childhood sexual abuse are four times more likely to commit suicide. And there is no comprehensive elementary or secondary curriculum regarding the prevention and the reporting of child sexual abuse in Saskatchewan. And as a province, it is our shared responsibility to protect children and youth and to educate them as every child has the right to be protected and safe. I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Ministry of Education, takes immediate and concrete action to develop and implement Erin's law. Such legislation would ensure that a comprehensive health education program be developed and implemented which would require age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education in grades pre-K through 12, along with training for school staff on the prevention of sexual abuse.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, those who are signing the petition today reside in Weyburn and Regina. I do so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions calling for a reverse to the cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that the Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-17 provincial budget. They point out that Aboriginal court workers play an important role in helping Aboriginal people in criminal and child apprehension cases. They point out that Aboriginal peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres, and they point out that Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, would also be well aware that when it came time for this government to demonstrate what they were doing on the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, they pointed to this program, sadly of course, Mr. Speaker, at the same as cutting this program:

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular set of petitions is signed by individuals from Stoughton, Esterhazy, Delisle, Marquis, and Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present yet another petition to ensure job security for victims of

domestic violence. The individuals who signed this petition today wish to bring attention to the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence by intimate partners amongst all Canadian provinces. Citizens of Saskatchewan are concerned at the lack of support for victims of domestic violence. One in three Canadian workers have experienced domestic violence, and for many the violence follows them to work. Victims of domestic violence should not be further victimized at work. And employers lose \$77.9 million annually due to the direct and indirect impacts of domestic violence.

Manitoba's already enacted such legislation, and Ontario is on its way to enacting legislation that ensures job security for victims of domestic violence. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact legislation that requires all employers to provide a minimum of five paid work days and a minimum of 17 weeks unpaid work leave with the assurance of job security upon return for all victims of domestic abuse in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today come from Yorkton, Regina, Lumsden, Cupar, Indian Head, and Melville. I do so submit.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I present today a petition to stop the redirection of the funding of the Northern Teacher Education Program Council, Inc. As we know, Mr. Speaker, NORTEP [northern teacher education program] is a very fine program, a program that has been operating for 40 years and has been educating people from the North to be teachers for students in the North. It has a very high rate of retention of those teachers within the profession of teaching and within the north of our province. And that is very much due, Mr. Speaker, to the control of this program by people from northern communities.

This program has been very much in line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which recommends that we have more control by local organizations and that we have opportunities for young people to learn indigenous culture and indigenous language, Mr. Speaker, something NORTEP has excelled at.

Today we've heard that this program may be going to another school, another organization's control, a process that does not seem to have been followed according to the letter of the described process. We're also very concerned to hear, Mr. Speaker, about potential risks to the accessibility of housing due to risk to the assets, housing assets that belong to NORTEP at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge, Stanley Mission, Buffalo Narrows, Creighton, Southend, La Loche, Sandy Bay, and Cumberland House. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the hard work of groups like PATHS and Saskatchewan's labour movement in addressing the very serious problems of domestic violence in our province. Saskatchewan has the highest rates of intimate partner violence, intimate partner homicide, and sexual assault of all Canadian provinces, and our women, young people, and indigenous populations are suffering the most. Mr. Speaker, right now victims of domestic violence in Saskatchewan do not have the supports that they need. Employers are not obligated to accommodate or give paid leave of absence to victims of domestic violence, and victims are not able to end rental agreements in order to leave dangerous situations.

This is simply not okay, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan can and must do more to prevent domestic violence in our province and give women and children that face domestic violence the resources they need to flee violent home situations.

This is why the work of PATHS, the SFL, CLC [Canadian Labour Congress], and SEIU-West young workers, as well as others are so important. PATHS, in partnership with our unions, is currently working on a three-year project to ensure job security and supports for victims of domestic violence. This project has the potential to create positive and long-lasting changes in regards to how our institutions and Saskatchewan people understand and react to domestic violence in the workplace.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me today in recognizing PATHS and Saskatchewan's labour movement for working hard to educate the public and fight to change our province's inadequate policies on domestic violence. Thank you.

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

Women's Suffrage in Saskatchewan

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday marked a very important day in Saskatchewan history. It was the 101st anniversary of some women obtaining the right to vote in Saskatchewan. Over 100 years ago, Violet Clara McNaughton, a farmer from Harris, led the Women's Grain Growers' Association in a successful suffrage campaign in partnership with Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Political Equality League. They worked tirelessly to obtain over 10,000 signatures from citizens across the province to present

petitions to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

After years of work and perseverance by many women across the province, March 14th, 1916, the bill granting some women in Saskatchewan the right to vote in provincial election received Royal Assent. I am proud to say that Saskatchewan was the second province in Canada to give some women the vote provincially, especially as the last province waited until 1951. Mr. Speaker, the work did not stop after 1916. Indigenous women obtained the right to vote in the 1960s in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, non-partisan organizations like the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians encourage women to run for public office, whether it be municipal, provincial, or federal. It is so important to ensure that we have capable, competent women run for public office.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we remember and recognize the hard work that was undertaken to make sure that all women in Saskatchewan have the right to vote. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Co-operatives Pioneer Appointed to the Order of Canada

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to stand today and congratulate Harold Chapman of Saskatoon, one of this year's distinguished recipients of the Order of Canada at a young and spry 99 years of age. Harold Chapman has been a leader in the co-operative movement for decades, helping people across Saskatchewan.

Harold grew up on a Saskatchewan farm in the '20s and '30s where he learned the value of family, friends, and neighbours working co-operatively together from a young age. These experiences, along with his farm management education at the University of Saskatchewan, fostered his commitment to co-operatives.

Harold has been a committed co-op organizer for over 80 years, a policy-maker, and an educator. He was a founding member of the Saskatoon Community Clinic, which paved the way for Canada's universal health care system, and helped establish co-operatives for veterans, machinery co-ops, housing co-ops, shopping and fishing co-ops, and more.

Harold recently published a memoir titled *Sharing My Life: Building the Co-operative Movement*, but he feels that his single greatest achievement was establishing the Co-operative College in 1955, an institute that, under his 18 years as principal, eventually became the Co-operative College of Canada.

Harold and his good friend Joan Bell have been supporters and mentors of mine for a long time. I admire his accomplishments and look forward to celebrating his hundredth birthday this April.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like all members to join me today in congratulating Harold Chapman on his appointment to the Order of Canada, and in thanking him for all that he's

accomplished for the co-operative movement and for our province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Melfort Rink Wins Special Olympics Team of the Year

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm humbled and honoured and a little bit excited to speak today about the Melfort Special Olympics curling team, who were named the Canadian Special Olympics Team of the Year. Last year, the curling team won gold at the Special Olympics games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland against British Columbia, actually winning 7-6 in the last end without the hammer.

The team is led by skip Danny Fiedelleck; his third, Scot Earl; second, Lorin Bussiere; alternates Rodney Mitchell and Neil Sullivan. And they were honoured in Toronto with this award last year.

Due to health reasons, Neil Sullivan will no longer be able to curl anymore, but he is proud to have represented Saskatchewan on this team across Canada. Like Henry Burris, Neil will be going out on top.

Mr. Speaker, on January 4th, the team was recognized at a Melfort Mustangs game to a welcoming crowd, later receiving their Team of the Year rings — and fantastic rings they are — as well as plaques at the Melfort Curling Club.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to join me in congratulating the Special Olympics curling team on being named the Special Olympics Canadian Team of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Champions of Mental Health Dinner and Auction

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of the Premier last Monday at the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan's event for mental health awareness. The Champions of Mental Health dinner and auction was a moving evening, featuring Silken Laumann as a keynote speaker.

Silken Laumann is a champion of both sports, mental health, and serves as an inspiration for us all. Ten weeks before she was to represent Canada in rowing at the 1992 Olympics, a devastating boat collision left her right leg shattered. While many would have given up . . . but she persevered. And after multiple surgeries she was able to compete and even brought home a bronze medal for Canada. Mr. Speaker, I was moved and inspired by this beloved Olympian who was born and raised in Ontario.

The Schizophrenia Society has been active in our province for 35 years and has been offering mental health services for the last 13 years. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in thanking the Schizophrenia Society for all the work they're doing, bringing awareness to mental health. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Estevan Educator Named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals

Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize a member from the Estevan constituency, Cheri Habershtock. I've known her for the past 20 years when she started dating my cousin, Keith, who she's now married to.

Cheri was named one of Saskatchewan's two outstanding principals of 2017 at the 13th annual Canada's Outstanding Principals gala in Toronto on February 28th. She was nominated by her colleagues, staff members, and community for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to her students and her community. Mr. Speaker, she even writes her own musicals for the grades 6 to 8 class to perform each and every year.

Recently Cheri led a fundraising campaign bringing in \$75,000 to build an inclusive playground to accommodate children with autism and mobility challenges, making Westview school's playground a space for all children to have fun. And, Mr. Speaker, Cheri will now be participating in a five-day leadership training course at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.

Upon receiving this award, Cheri immediately emphasized this award belongs to her entire school — a sign of her humility and community-mindedness. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Cheri Habershtock on being named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2017. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Business Women of Moose Jaw Annual Awards Gala

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Saturday the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Moose Jaw North and I had the pleasure of attending the 4th annual PRISM [perseverance, role model, influential, successful, mentor] Awards of Excellence in Moose Jaw. This annual event, which is hosted by the Business Women of Moose Jaw, is an opportunity to recognize women in our community for their accomplishments and contributions in various work and volunteer environments.

[14:15]

The PRISM Awards represent outstanding qualities that are displayed by each award recipient. This year's winners were: for perseverance, Marie Wright; for role model, Destiney Gibney; for influencer, Michelle Gallagher; for success, Yvette Moore; and Lorraine Arguin in the mentor category. Additional awards were the Lifetime Achievement Award won by Joyce Walter, and the Youth Achievement Award won by Haley Pearce.

Mr. Speaker, the PRISM Awards are also a fundraiser to support the Moose Jaw Women's Transition House. And since this event began, they have raised over \$70,000 in support of Transition House.

I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating the

PRISM Award winners and in thanking the Business Women of Moose Jaw for not only hosting a wonderful event, but also for supporting this very important local cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Unparliamentary Language

The Speaker: — Before we begin question period, I would like to bring to the attention of members on both sides of the Assembly that members have been using the phrase “making stuff up” and “making it up as they go along.” These phrases have been used in question period by the Leader of the Opposition and from other members off the record through heckling across the floor. I’ve ruled, as well as other Speakers have ruled, that these phrases are unparliamentarian. Therefore I would like to remind all members to be more cautious in their choice of words in this Assembly.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Auditor’s Report and Details of Land Transactions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Deputy Premier refused to answer a very simple question about when he learned that the original seller of the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land in the Sask Party’s scandal was the landlord to the former minister of the GTH. Of course he failed to answer that question, just as the Premier’s dodged it day after day.

So today we’ll make this even a little more simple for him. This would be something that only the Deputy Premier would know. Can the Deputy Premier tell us does he, as the Deputy Premier, stand by the contract to buy this land, the land of course that the people of Saskatchewan paid way, were forced to pay way too much for, millions more, and of course made the Sask Party supporters \$11 million. Does he stand by this contract?

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course members know that the auditor has looked into this matter. The auditor has fully canvassed this matter. The auditor had access to all of the documents to which she requested access. The auditor had access to all of the individuals involved in the transaction. She availed herself of that access. She did a very thorough report, by her own testimony, at the Public Accounts Committee. She made a number of recommendations. The government accepts those recommendations. We are implementing or have implemented all of those recommendations, Mr. Speaker.

Further to that, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] have said that they’re looking into the matter. We’ve pledged full co-operation with that investigation. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Bypass Project

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Pretty sad, Mr. Speaker. The question was simple. Obviously too difficult for the Deputy Premier to take to his feet and offer an answer. I’ll try another question about another growing scandal and another contract, the one that they signed with the Regina bypass with a multinational conglomerate from France and beyond.

Yesterday they tried to say that the contract was on the website, was online. Mr. Speaker, the title pages and the definitions are on line, but the agreements are blank and unsigned, and they include no facts, no details, no costing. Basically all that’s online is a Post-It Note, an IOU [I owe you]: \$2 billion to Vinci with love.

Mr. Speaker, why is the Sask Party hiding the details of this contract? That project is now well over a billion dollars over budget and they’re saying, just trust us. The Deputy Premier is standing behind their disgraceful plan to scrap the jobs of 250 of the lowest wage public servants in this province at the same time as the Deputy Premier is unwilling to open up the contract and the billion-dollar-plus overrun with this conglomerate from France and beyond. Where is the justice in this?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I answered this question yesterday. The contract document is online. The value-for-money report is online. The fairness opinion is online, as are a number of other documents relating to this contract, Mr. Speaker.

There is significant transparency with respect to this agreement. And, Mr. Speaker, as he mentioned today . . . He starts talking about an IOU to Vinci, Mr. Speaker. I’ve mentioned in this House yesterday that over 70 per cent of the work that’s being done on that bypass is being done by Saskatchewan companies, good Saskatchewan companies like Graham Construction and Broda Construction, Mr. Speaker. There’s great value going back to the people of Saskatchewan, not only with respect to the contracts that are being performed on that bypass, Mr. Speaker, but the fact that the bypass is being built at all, Mr. Speaker.

This bypass was budgeted at \$1.2 billion, Mr. Speaker, and it is on budget and it is on time. Mr. Speaker, he only has to look at the website, and if I had the website in front of me, Mr. Speaker, I’d tell him exactly where to look it up on the Internet.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, another question, no answer. A bunch of nonsense from the Justice minister who should take a look at what’s actually there. This is a project that went from 400 million to \$2 billion. You know, the scope of this project could have doubled, which it didn’t, but this is a five-time increase on the original cost. You know, and of course they’re hiding the answer of how much of that \$2 billion is actually staying in Saskatchewan, won’t answer that and any basic information like how much they’re spending on dirt, how much per kilometre for asphalt — all the kind of things that basically used to be order of the day to provide to this

legislature. In fact they used to have signs beside these projects detailing these costs. Now it's blanked out on a government website.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan shamefully announced that he wants to rip up contracts with teachers all across Saskatchewan, that he wants to cut \$100 million out of our kids' under-resourced classrooms, and he says it won't affect their education. It's not believable and it's damaging.

So to the Deputy Premier: how can he justify going after the education of Saskatchewan kids at any time, but particularly when he refuses to open up a billion-dollar overrun in a contract that's been mismanaged every step of the way by the Sask Party?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the interim Leader of the Opposition was to go online and actually look at the documents that are there, Mr. Speaker, he'll see a fairness opinion, Mr. Speaker. And that fairness opinion points out that we're saving, the taxpayers of this province are saving \$380 million as a result of moving forward with the P3 [public-private partnership] project, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's 40 kilometres of dual lane highway, 12 overpasses, Mr. Speaker. I've invited the interim leader to a technical briefing last year, Mr. Speaker, which he attended, notwithstanding the fact that he was prepared to draft his press release before he went there. But, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you this: I'll offer him a tour of the facility. I'll take him out and show him every square kilometre of that project. And then let him stand up and say it's not worth the money that we're spending to build this facility, Mr. Speaker.

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

Local Agreements and Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that minister has already walked away from his signature on the teachers' contract, and now he's trying to justify ripping up their local agreements. In fact when asked point-blank by a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] reporter if he would like to rip up these agreements and withdraw even more supports from our kids' classrooms, the minister coldly and callously responded, "Yes, I would."

Mr. Speaker, these agreements have been in place for years, in some cases more than a century. But now they're using a massive deficit that they created as an excuse to attack Saskatchewan's teachers. Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable. How can the minister possibly think that it's okay to rip up these agreements and cut even more from our kids' classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite likes

to twist and torque and take things out of context.

Mr. Speaker, the reality of it is simply this: we have in this province 28 school divisions. There are a variety of different local implemented agreements, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would like to have the discussion at some point how those play out if we do something more appropriate with school divisions, whether we have teachers that have the ability to move back and forth between school divisions. There's an inherent unfairness in those contracts across provinces.

We want to do what's best and what's right for teachers. For them to put the spin on it that it's somehow that we want to do something against teachers is just dead wrong.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think the teachers are feeling the love on this one. The minister claims that this is about consistency, but let's be very clear: this is about making more cuts to our children's classrooms to pay for the massive deficit that they created.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has already made deep cuts to our kids' classrooms which are under-resourced, understaffed, and overcrowded. The minister is threatening to take the reserves that have been saved for education, and now he wants to take the cuts even further by ripping up local agreements, and putting everything, from teacher prep time to our kids' sports and extracurricular activities, on the chopping block. So will the minister admit that he was wrong this morning? Will he admit that cutting even deeper into our education system will obviously have a negative impact on our kids' classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I take the caution that you gave to members at the beginning of this session very seriously. But what I would like to do is give the member of the opposite . . . I did no media today on anything, none whatsoever. So if she wants to make an accusation I did something in the media today — flat out wrong, didn't do it, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give her the chance to withdraw and apologize for that statement.

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

Provision of Teacher Education Programming in the North

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, these deep cuts that undermine our future, undermine our education, they just keep coming. We've now heard, Mr. Speaker, that Northlands will be taking over NORTEP. Handing it over without due process is a serious blow to the North. There are serious questions about why the minister wasn't straight with students, with teachers, the whole community, Mr. Speaker. What's next? Are their assets on the chopping block as well? Yesterday when we asked about the residence buildings, Mr. Speaker, they exaggerated the problem and shifted the blame. This from a government with a \$1.5 billion backlog in needed school repairs, \$2.2 billion in

desperately needed repairs in our health centres and care homes.

The minister cannot be so condescending when they've sold off and cut away the high ground. Now that the plan to sell out NORTEP is out in the open, can the minister at least commit to ensuring NORTEP's residences will continue to house and provide access for students from across the North? Will she give that promise for those who are looking to benefit from the hope and opportunity that NORTEP has provided for 40 years?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Northlands College was chosen, and what we hope will be close collaboration between it and Gabriel Dumont Institute for teacher education programming, as well as the U of R and the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] on the advisory board because, Mr. Speaker, it makes good common sense. Northlands is already on the ground in La Ronge. It has a very well-respected, solid board made up exclusively of northerners. It's also well experienced with providing full- and part-time university programming in La Ronge, but also to Creighton, Buffalo Narrows, and Ile-a-la-Crosse.

Currently, Mr. Speaker, 160 students — 90 per cent Aboriginal, almost all northerners — are enrolled in Northlands in certificate and degree programs, including in nursing, business administration, and social work. And most of all, Mr. Speaker, Northlands wants to expand that university programming across the North so we can build on all its potential with a made-in-the-North solution, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provision of Crop Insurance

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jim Liggett is here today in the gallery, and he's a producer for over 40 years. He lives down in Pangman. Over the last few years, Jim has struggled to deal with the real consequences of climate change, but he's also struggled with a constant and costly battle with Crop Insurance.

Crop insurance is supposed to be there for producers when they need it but, Mr. Speaker, it has not been there for Jim. And Jim is not alone; producers across the province are facing the same struggles. In his last letter from the appeal panel, Jim was told delayed seeding to control weeds is a management decision and therefore not an insurable cause for loss.

Mr. Speaker, insurance provides no assurance if the only protection is to the fund and not to the farmers. Can the minister tell us why instead of insuring producers under the Sask Party, Crop Insurance is now telling them how to farm and punishing them for not predicting an unplanned 8 inches of rain?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank

the member for that question. Crop insurance is a very popular program, Mr. Speaker. It's the fundamental farm program in this province. It's the backbone of all of the basket of farm programs that we have. It's the most well-used farm program that we have. In 2016 we insured a record 29 million acres, Mr. Speaker.

Producers find that Crop Insurance is very fair to deal with, but there are some things that crop insurance doesn't cover that are matters of management and choices the producers make that lead to claims down the road. And those things are just not covered. That's clear upfront, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Regina Bypass Project

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you about the Coquihalla Highway. It's 186 kilometres. It cuts through the mountains of southwestern BC [British Columbia]. It has a bridge or overpass every 3 kilometres, 18 interchanges, 19 underpasses, 38 bridge and overpass structures, and 50 pipeline crossings.

In 1986 the total cost of that project, Mr. Speaker, was \$848 million. Mr. Speaker, \$848 million. Now I know that people across the way have difficulties with numbers, so I'll translate for them. Accounting for inflation, that's about \$1.7 billion, folks. Now I'll put it another way. That highway through the Rockies cost a few hundred million dollars less, Mr. Speaker, less than the Sask Party's 40-kilometre bypass being cut through the treacherous mountain range of our southern prairies. To the minister: how does it make any sense?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that question's laughable. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned time and time again in this House and at technical briefings that have been offered to the opposition, Mr. Speaker, that the value-for-money report that's been filed, that's been done by Ernst & Young, Mr. Speaker, identified a \$380 million saving with respect to this bypass over a traditional build, Mr. Speaker. And we don't just make those numbers up, Mr. Speaker. Those numbers come from professionals. Those numbers come from officials within the Ministry of Highways, Mr. Speaker. So we stand by the numbers, Mr. Speaker.

There is huge value in this bypass to the people of Saskatchewan, not only from an economic development perspective, Mr. Speaker, but from a safety perspective and from a job-creating perspective, Mr. Speaker. We stand by these numbers. And if the member opposite wants to stand up and criticize Ernst & Young, one of the foremost accounting firms in this country, Mr. Speaker, let him go ahead and do that.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, we don't need a technical briefing. We need some serious financial oversight, Mr. Speaker. And if they, if they are so confident, why don't you show us the full contract? Why won't you tell us how much of

that \$2 billion is going to stay in our province? We hear concerns about local contractors and workers who feel shut out of this project.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's no shortage of reason for concern when it comes to Vinci, as we have been speaking about. There have been some serious legal investigations in Russia, France, and Qatar. They are dealing with accusations for fraud and corruption.

Two billion dollars, Mr. Speaker. What is the Sask Party hiding in this contract? And why are they shipping Saskatchewan dollars to an overseas corporation with a history like this instead of keeping all of the money, all of the contracts, and all of the jobs here in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, they can keep asking questions. The answers are going to be the same. Over 70 per cent of the work that's being done on that bypass is being done by Saskatchewan companies, by Saskatchewan workers. Mr. Speaker, 8,200 construction jobs on this project alone, Mr. Speaker.

The contract is online, Mr. Speaker, and the member knows and the interim Leader of the Opposition knows that all contracts are going to be redacted for commercially sensitive information, Mr. Speaker. That's consistent, Mr. Speaker, that's consistent with the Information and Privacy Commissioner's guidelines, Mr. Speaker. He only has to look online to get the details of the contract. And while there's commercially sensitive information that has been redacted, Mr. Speaker, that has been done consistent with the law.

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

Donations to Political Parties

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we have legislation before the House to take big money out of politics. And I was pleased earlier last week to hear that the Premier finally saw the writing on the wall and agreed to ditch his salary top-up funded by wealthy Sask Party donors. It seems that he was following the lead of BC Premier Christy Clark, who was the second-last premier to collect a salary top-up from a political party.

But there are more changes afoot in BC that this Premier should follow up with here at home. On the eve of an election and in response to a scathing media report about big-time donors to her party, Premier Clark has announced that she will review corporate and union donations in that province too. Will this Sask Party government follow her lead and take action to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is rich coming from that member, Mr. Speaker. In the last session of the legislature, Mr. Speaker, this was a party that was looking for

corporate donations for a leadership dinner, Mr. Speaker, at the same time that that member was standing up and asking for us to do that, to cut corporate donations, Mr. Speaker. So as long as they're sitting there going . . . It seems hypocritical to me, Mr. Speaker, that that member would stand up and ask this question when their party is out looking for corporate donations for their leader's dinner, Mr. Speaker, at the time.

Mr. Speaker, we have no plans of changing any of the legislation around this matter, Mr. Speaker. We're proud of the Premier's decision, the decision that he made a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. But as far as corporate donations, Mr. Speaker, or union donations, Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of changing those laws.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, that answer is so weak and out of touch with what people are talking about here in Saskatchewan. We in this House have been trusted to guard the sanctity of Saskatchewan democracy. People in Saskatchewan are concerned about where the party behind their government gets their money.

With so much money on the table and the Sask Party attacking workers and families, people wonder who they're working for. We need a cap on donation limits and a ban on corporate and union donations. Why won't the Sask Party support our bill and get big money out of Saskatchewan politics today? Tens of thousands of donations from a lobbyist who used to work for the Sask Party, millions from big out-of-province corporations, individual donations of 5, 20, even \$30,000 — don't they see a problem with that? Don't they agree that's bad for democracy?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, many of the corporations that provide donations to our party, Mr. Speaker, have workers in this province spending, earning money, paying their taxes in this province, Mr. Speaker. And so they deserve a voice, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you this, in over 16 years when they were in government, Mr. Speaker, this didn't seem a problem for them when they were raking in union donations to support their party, Mr. Speaker.

And I might also point out, Mr. Speaker, that nearly three-quarters of their election budget that they spent, Mr. Speaker, was spent on out-of-province companies, Mr. Speaker, during the last election. Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of making any change to this legislation at this time, at this time, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue on with the path that we've undertaken.

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

Legislative Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's not just public servants across the province who are concerned about the future of their jobs. Victims of domestic violence in our province have no

protection to keep their jobs while they try to escape a dangerous relationship. Saskatchewan employers have no obligation to make sure that victims of domestic violence are protected while they're at work. Other provinces, Manitoba and Ontario have made progress on this front with common sense reforms. In Alberta all parties unanimously agreed to changes that help women get out of rental agreements without penalty when they're fleeing domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for Saskatchewan to make sure our women and children are protected too. I know the Minister of Justice has spoken about taking action in the past, but when will he actually take meaningful action to help women facing domestic violence?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member opposite for raising a very important issue on the floor of this Assembly today, Mr. Speaker. And she and I have talked about legislative changes that I'd like to bring forward in this session of the legislature, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the very things that she's talked about: job security, rental contracts, Mr. Speaker. I've also mentioned to her, Mr. Speaker, that I've instructed my officials at the Ministry of Justice to pursue the development of a long-term integrated domestic violence strategy for this province.

There's certainly no blinking at the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we have a problem in this province. And this government has spent some time and taken some concrete action over the last number of years to address it, Mr. Speaker. There's certainly more to do, Mr. Speaker, and some of the examples that the members have brought forward from Alberta and Manitoba and Ontario certainly have some merit, Mr. Speaker. We will be moving forward with some legislative initiatives in this area, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for raising it today.

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

The Water Security Agency Amendment Act

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, concerns about this government's mismanagement and ham-fisted handling of Bill 44 is growing. There's no question illegal drainage has been a huge problem in Saskatchewan and has been for years. But, Mr. Speaker, agricultural organizations, producers, and RMs [rural municipality] have concerns about some of the consequences of this new legislation. People are concerned about the loss of land, increased cost to producers, and loss of tax dollars to municipalities. And there are also concerns about how this new law will be enforced.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is a crucial part of our economy, and we certainly agree that we need to address illegal drainage. But we're concerned that the Sask Party may be in over their head, and we worry about the consequences of their trademark shoot-first, ask-questions-later approach to policy. Has the Ag Minister done an impact assessment of this new legislation? And what's his plan to address the overall economic impacts on

farmers in particular and to Saskatchewan's economy in general? Mr. Speaker, has he requested that analysis from his ministry and could he maybe share it with this House and the Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question with respect to agriculture and with respect to a topic that's very, very pertinent to agriculture and the economic stability of agriculture here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there's been adequate engagement and much engagement over the last number of years, starting back in 2013, Mr. Speaker, with online surveys, continuing with the minister of Agriculture and myself, of the day, with consultations with agricultural groups.

And that has continued, Mr. Speaker, throughout the weeks and throughout the years, Mr. Speaker, right up until yesterday and today at the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, Mr. Speaker. Of which I would like to mention at the SARM convention, Mr. Speaker, all of the work and the effort that went in from the Government of Saskatchewan, and the members on this side, Mr. Speaker.

And there was a couple of things that I did not see up there, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that I did not see, Mr. Speaker, was any support for a federally imposed carbon tax. That, Mr. Speaker, lies with members across the way, Mr. Speaker. And the second thing I did not see was members of the opposition up there talking to our rural people across the province to talk about what's important to them.

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

May I first ask why the Government House Leader is on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I will hear the point of order. I recognize the Government House Leader.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of today's session, you reminded us all to be using our language very carefully. And the member for Meewasin used a phrase of "wasn't straight with us," which tends to lead ... the line which would be directly from 47(2) of using provocative language, Mr. Speaker. And I'm wondering if you could rule on that, please.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

[14:45]

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, this one ... How to put this accurately? I guess it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, from a side that comes forward with a lot of twisting and torquing in a lot of their rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, that suddenly when it comes to

imagined slights, you know, from members opposite, suddenly they couldn't be more enthusiastic about the rules. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the member from Meewasin put his statement very much in accordance with the rules, and certainly that was the way that it was put and also the usage. So, Mr. Speaker, I would urge you to find the Government House Leader's point of order to be not well taken.

The Speaker: — I will review *Hansard* and make determination on that point of order at a later date. With that I will recognize Regina Douglas Park.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 603 — *An Act to Provide Critical Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence*

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 603, *An Act to Provide Critical Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Regina Douglas Park that Bill No. 603, *An Act to Provide Critical Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence* 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.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 268 through 278.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 268 to 278.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 43 — *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016*. I guess some of the comments, my opening comments I want to talk about, and I think expanding the licensing regulations to flow lines is a good thing. We support that. I think many, you know, our side and many Saskatchewan residents who are concerned about the environment and about our water protection have called for this, and we're glad to see the government's moving, bringing forward the licensing and regulations. And I guess they're going to, and we're hoping at the end of the day they will strengthen the regulations.

And when you talk about the flow lines, and I believe right now flow lines are not being inspected. There might be different regulations, and if the government is actually strengthening those and going to make sure that there's inspections of those flow lines.

And I want to talk a little bit about the process that they're going to use, the concerns that have been out there. We've seen what we've had. Pipeline oil has done tremendous damage to our environment, our water. I think about the North Saskatchewan River. I think about the many, many residents of this province that suffered and, you know, the damage to the environment, to wildlife, to the traditional lands. And you know, you heard the concerns from many of them. Many First Nations, Métis leaders, mayors, we heard the concerns.

And I think it's a wake-up call, and I hope it's a wake-up call and the government's saying, okay, it's time. The people of this province are saying it's time the government reacts and they do something to strengthen the regulations. But it's not just about strengthening the regulations and giving powers to those that will do the inspection. And if we're going to do inspections of pipelines . . . And I think about the last year, in Alberta they did over 2,000 inspections. My colleagues have expressed that and they've talked about that process that's been there. Two thousand inspections. In Saskatchewan I think we did something like 78 inspections of pipelines.

So if we're going to come up with new regulations, new powers for inspectors, let's make sure, Mr. Speaker, that those inspections happen; there's penalties if you're going to say that, you know, we're going to do the inspections of the flow lines. Like I said earlier, the bigger pipelines where they flow into, that's fine. They're doing that.

They're not doing enough. That's obviously what we're hearing. We need more inspections. We've been calling for that. I think many leaders, First Nations communities, residents have been calling for that and asking and demanding the government take action on that.

We don't want to see any more incidents of oil spills when it comes through pipelines, and especially because they are not being inspected. And let's just make sure at the end of the day that if we're going to give credit to a government that is coming in with some new regulations and licensing to those flow lines, that they are inspecting them, that it's not just, oh we'll just put this out so . . . just for the public and so those people out in the

community that are raising this as a concern, or the opposition or those members.

It's not just a game; it's serious. The people of this province, First Nations, those traditional land users, trappers, I think about them. Those people who . . . Medicines off the shorelines of the rivers where those lands that were contaminated. They want to make sure that this government is taking it serious, that you put in the regulations, the licensing. But the inspections are crucial.

Giving powers to the inspectors to make sure, whether it's fines and how that's going to play out, it'll be interesting to see as the ministry rolls this out, as the officials . . . And I'm hoping they're consulting with many of our First Nations, our Métis, our mayors, those communities that have been impacted and those communities that are very concerned about the water, the environment.

We've talked about that and we've seen that, and we've seen some of the challenges that some of the city . . . And I think about Prince Albert and I watched as we had the oil spill there, and I watched how many of the First Nations and the mayors came together to discuss and how to ensure that there was safe drinking water.

And in Prince Albert, you know, you've seen the lines of water piped that was through the city, but also they had to find another source of water that was safe for Saskatchewan people. So I commend the good work of the city of Prince Albert and those that partnered with them to make sure there was good drinking water. But unfortunately I go back to these regulations, and like I said earlier, we want to make sure that those inspectors . . . If you're going to hire inspectors, like who's going to be doing it? Are we going to have more? Obviously we can't do just 78 pipeline inspections on any type, whether it's like I said, you know, the flow lines or your main pipeline. You have to make sure inspections are done to protect Saskatchewan people, to protect the water, the environment.

And I've talked about that. It's crucial and people want that and they're demanding that of the government. So at the end of the day I hope . . . You know, I think from our side we have called for this. Many I've said have called for more inspection of the pipelines. It's crucial that those individuals have the powers to do that. And it's going to be crucial that the government put the proper resources to make sure that there are inspectors going out and doing what they need to do.

Now overall I think on this side we're saying, looking at the bill, I mean my colleagues have expressed great concern. Over time we've talked about this. But I've seen how my colleagues have talked about this bill, talking about what needs to happen, how we need to . . . [inaudible] . . . our environment for our next generation. It's crucial.

And we see change, and I think a lot of people are saying the economy is important, but the environment, the environment is so important, the waters that we all need to survive. We take many of our First Nations communities, and I was in North Battleford and met and was in a meeting where I've seen the chiefs talking about . . . And those that traditionally use certain areas that were impacted and their lands and their traditional

lands that were impacted by the oil spill and the concerns they had. And they're calling for more inspections and more . . . They want to be involved more consultation and more.

So I'm hoping that the government will make sure that they've reached out to those individuals that were impacted, but reaching out to anyone in our province who are saying you want to get in and share your ideas, your concerns, your recommendations, here's a government. So I'm hoping the government will work with the individuals, will work with the members opposite to come up with proper regulations. But inspections, like I say, that's so crucial. We can have all the regulations and all the licences you want. If you're not doing the inspections, then exactly what's going to happen?

We've had a number of oil spills, and how many times. The people of our province want this to stop and they're concerned about it. So I'm hoping at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the good people of this province will hold the government to account and say, yes you're moving on this; we support this. Let's make sure the regulations . . . Let's make sure the inspections are being done. Let's just make sure we can do all we can do to make sure they're as safe as they can be so that they're not going to have an impact that will impact many of us, our next generation, or any community. And I know there's been some communities that are still not very happy and are very concerned about the oil spill, that are still being impacted. We don't know. So there's lots of reports. There's people saying different things. At the end of the day, those individuals will come forward, and they'll make their case known, you know, if they're fine with it, if they think it's been a fair process. That'll all happen.

And I think those in the industry need to be held accountable, and we have to hold them accountable. Yes, the regulations. So I'm hoping this strengthens. But the inspections will be crucial, the regulations and the fines, and at the end of the day, you know, making sure that the good people of this province are 100 per cent protected at best ability that we can do as a government. And I would . . . I know it's a challenge to the government, but I would hope the government will consult, will come up with the proper regulations with everything else.

And I know in committee, my colleagues will have opportunity to ask questions. I know more of my colleagues will want to, you know, weigh in on this and take the government to challenge but also I guess tell the government. Sometimes it's tough, you know; we're opposite sides. But sometimes it's the right thing to do. And I've seen how this legislature have, times before, worked together to make sure things are done right, that we have to get this right. This is about our environment. This is about our children's future. We have to make sure this legislation is the right legislation, that those protections are there for our next generation. We have to do that. I think it's crucial.

So I'm hoping at the end of the day, you know, as we go through the process, those recommendations, those that are consulted, those individuals that want to have the input and the protection will be listened to and those inspectors will do what they need to do to inspect and protect our environment and protect many of our waterways, our rivers, our lakes. It's crucial. You know, at the end of the day, when I think about

this, we get one shot at this, and I hope we get it right for our grandkids, for the next generation.

So having said, you know, the comments I did, I didn't want to get into too much areas of this, but I know my colleagues have more. And in committee we will ask more questions. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member from Cumberland 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.

Bill No. 44

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Moe that **Bill No. 44 — *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am absolutely awash with pleasure today to be able to speak to *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act* of 2016. I admittedly am just dipping my toes into this subject matter, Mr. Speaker. I haven't had a chance to soak up all of the information, so this might be a bit stream of consciousness today but I will do my best to dive right into this turbulent topic. I will dive right in.

And as we know, things have not, in terms of drainage in this province, been going swimmingly, Mr. Speaker. And this issue deserves more than a surface exploration, as there has been, Mr. Speaker. There's been a slew of reports of difficulties from around the province. So let's get into these troubled waters a little bit.

What troubles have been arising from the inappropriate drainage practices? We've been hearing stories, Mr. Speaker, of water encroaching on farmhouses as water is coming from one farmer's land to another, or one RM to another; water coming up towards the basements and foundations of another farmhouse, or coming up on cabin properties, Mr. Speaker, in our lakelands here in the province.

We hear, Mr. Speaker, of the loss of thousands of acres of pasture and cropland, Mr. Speaker, no longer accessible because of water that has been improperly drained onto that land.

We hear, Mr. Speaker, of the costs that are associated with that damage. Costs from crop insurance, costs of the repairs of grid roads, costs from disaster relief. We hear also, Mr. Speaker, about less availability of habitat for wildlife, as stands of trees or ponds are taken down to make room for more arable land. That gives fewer opportunities for wildlife to be able to gather safely.

We also hear, Mr. Speaker, about the challenges that come from nutrients from runoff, where you have drainage coming from fertilized fields with nutrients and phosphates going into bodies of water, causing an increase in growth in algae — that green water that we know from lakes like at Fort Qu'Appelle or in Buffalo Pound.

[15:00]

And this offers a risk, Mr. Speaker, to the local aquatic life. There's also, Mr. Speaker, a risk to contaminating well water and, potentially, drinking water as we start to see those nutrients, phosphates, other chemicals get into local water sources, and the risk that that poses to drinking water or water used for livestock.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about really a process that is understandable. You understand why any individual landowner would want to perhaps drain a slough or find another way to remove a stand of trees in order to have access to more arable land. It makes perfect sense on that individual farm, but when you start to extrapolate that to the effects on downstream neighbours, Mr. Speaker, it starts to make less sense as the water that is being drained from one farm goes on to another, or from one RM into another RM, or, Mr. Speaker, from our province here in Saskatchewan affecting our neighbours in Manitoba downstream from us.

So we need a better process for this, Mr. Speaker. We need more attention. And the reality is that there are problems with the current process. The current process, Mr. Speaker, really involves neighbours having to first speak to neighbours — a conversation that I assure you, Mr. Speaker, is rarely an easy conversation to have, to go to your neighbour and say, what you're doing on your farm is causing a problem on mine. I need you to stop it; I need you to fill in that trench. That's not an easy conversation to have, Mr. Speaker. Peoples' livelihoods are in question.

And when that doesn't work, if the neighbours don't resolve it together, we're then asking people to complain about their neighbours to another source, something that can also cause significant conflict. And we're hearing these stories, Mr. Speaker, about conflict between neighbours, even threats between neighbours, as there are such high feelings that go along with these practices.

Another concern, Mr. Speaker, is that these practices, while not legal, while not allowed, and while there is a fine associated with them, that fine is rarely, if ever, applied. So the likelihood of getting change in behaviour, even with an existing deterrent like that fine, is very low if there's no one inspecting it, no one doing the work to actually deal with that fine.

Mr. Speaker, this points to some of the existing challenges. And one of the major existing challenges that we hear are that the people who are actually tasked with enforcing this work find themselves really under water. They find themselves under-resourced in their ability to rein in the infractions that are taking place.

So what does this bill do? I think we should plumb the depths of this bill a little bit more and talk exactly about what has been

proposed. *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act* has been described as streamlining the process for resolving drainage disputes between landowners; giving the Water Security Agency the authority to order the closure or alteration of any drainage works constructed before 1981; replacing the old two-step process for complaints of illegal drainage by a neighbour with a one-step process that the government says will be resolved in 90 days or less; allowing appeal of decisions by the Water Security Agency to be heard by the Court of Queen's Bench rather than the Water Appeal Board; expanding the Water Security Agency's authority to enter lands with machinery and carry out work required to enforce an order by the WSA [Water Security Agency] when a landowner fails to comply; expanding the WSA's ability to recover costs for work carried out to enforce an order by the WSA when a landowner fails to comply; removing the mediation of disputes between landowners from the mandate of the WSA; and increasing the maximum fine under the Act from \$1,000 per day to an amount not exceeding \$1 million per day.

So, clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is necessary that we shore up our response to illegal drainage in the province, but this bill really does represent a sea change in the legislature around this topic. And while I would love to shower it with praise, being in opposition, my role really is to see the glass as half-empty, and this is a multi-fauceted issue so we must dig into it a little bit more deeply, Mr. Speaker.

So some of the concerns that have been raised around this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one is the degree to which the consultation was adequate. We've been hearing in recent days greater concern raised by specific stakeholders. We've been hearing anger from farmers who are very upset about this direction, concerned about the impact on their livelihood, on whether they will be compensated for lands that continue to be covered with water, or whether they will be penalized for past actions.

We're also hearing from other stakeholders like the Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and of course yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we heard from the delegates at the SARM convention that there were serious concerns, and they've asked that this bill be rescinded, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And these concerns seem to revolve primarily around the effects on farmers, and the concerns that this will have on them. We definitely need to be looking at what the impacts will be on farmers, whether there will be compensation if land is taken out of production and what that will mean for individual producers, but also whether or not there would be incentives for producers to not take these actions, not drain land and leave it as a wetland, Mr. Speaker, when it was viable arable land.

The other thing we're hearing a lot of concern about, Mr. Speaker, is the complaints process itself. So as I said, the complaints process to date, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has been to complain to your neighbours, to have a process in which you bring this forward to your neighbour and you say, let's resolve this. As I said before, that's a very difficult conversation to have from one farmer to another, both concerned about livelihood, both concerned about access to the most productive land they can have. And certainly it pits one farmer against another, and even more difficult for smaller farmers that are talking to larger

producers who may have more financial or other types of influence.

So the change in that process is necessary, but one wonders if it goes far enough in this current iteration, where we've gone from a complaint to your neighbours to a complaint about your neighbours. It's still going to cause all kinds of conflict. It's still going to be public, who spoke out about this concern.

And perhaps, primarily, the biggest problem is it leaves all of the onus on the actual downstream neighbour, the person who's been affected, to make a complaint, rather than making it about making the producer who's making the change have the primary responsibility. Really the onus should be on those who are changing the landscape to ensure that they're doing so in a proper way, that they get the proper permits, that they get the permission in advance of causing potentially irreversible damage to the land of those around them.

We also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, need to have some greater clarity around the fines involved. We've heard of the change from \$1,000 a day to up to \$1 million a day. What exactly does that mean, Mr. Speaker? Is that going to be the same for small farmers? Is that going to be the same for large farmers? Will this even be used?

And that's, I suppose, the other question that's of considerable import here, is we've heard about the change from 1,000 to \$1 million a day, but if it was never enforced in the first place? If it's never actually applied, well it doesn't really matter if it's 1 cent a day or \$1 billion a day. It's really only an imaginary concern.

Is this going to be clearly described to people? Are the warnings going to be clear and are the penalties going to be clear? And when those infringements continue, will they actually be enforced, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

And all of this comes down to perhaps the issue at the crux of this bill, and some of the others in front of us including the pipeline safety Act, Mr. Speaker. And that comes from the concerns around resources available to actually enforce what's going on, to support those who've experienced damage or even to help those who want to do work and want to do so in a lawful and safe way, to be able to actually have that input and influence on their decisions so that they do the right thing from the beginning.

And as we have these new changes and we have the growing numbers of concerns about drainage, the number of complaints may be moving, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from a trickle to a flood. And we already have a backlog of cases and we've been hearing from people currently in the system that the flow of resolution of these is already bottlenecked.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is in no way my intention to be a wet blanket and to criticize this outright. I think there is definitely some important work being done within this bill. We don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater by any means, but I would like to float some suggestions that this bill requires some deeper investigation, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps we need to go back to the well and improve the degree

to which we have done consultations on this matter. Speak once again to those members at SARM, to the folks at SFSA [Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Association], at Ducks Unlimited; speak to the scientific experts who really understand drainage, who understand what we need for a systemic response, an overview of this problem at the provincial level in order to really be able to plan ahead.

You know, before this bill is entirely in the tank . . . Well all levity aside, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to have a little bit deeper of a view of this. It is extremely important that we get this right.

We need to use the best evidence available. Speak to the experts, and that means the experts on the ground, the experts on the farm, the experts in lake country, the experts who are experiencing this but also the experts in hydrology who understand the way that the decisions made now will affect our future ability to protect farm land, to protect homes, to have the fairest possible process for farmers, to protect drinking water, to protect well water, to preserve wildlife habitat on land and in water.

If we don't do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we don't have the fairest possible process, if we don't get this right, then we may find ourselves with a further deluge of complaints, and we may find ourselves up the creek without a paddle.

With that I'll adjourn my comments on Bill No. 44, *The Water Security Agency Amendment Act*. That will be the end of my comments. I'll move to adjourn debate. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Meewasin has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 44, *The Water Security Amendment Act, 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wyant that **Bill No. 40 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'interprétation*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Following my comments, I want to point out that we have had a lot of my colleagues that have debated this particular bill, and with a lot of thought, a lot of energy, and certainly a lot of vision as it relates to the interpretation of sale as it concerns our Crown corporations of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before I begin my comments, I want to commend our research staff in the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus office because they have put a lot of effort into researching this particular bill. There's no question that when

we ask for a bit of information on to the Crowns and the history of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker . . . I want to share with the Assembly and with the people of Saskatchewan how well served we are by our research team within the NDP caucus office because, Mr. Speaker, as you may or may not be able to see from your vantage point, we've got a binder that's almost a foot thick of information as it pertains to the history of our Crowns and certainly as to the value of the Crowns and what the Crowns do for us.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, they also talk about, the research team talk about all the legal justifications for the NDP defending the ownership of the Crowns by the Saskatchewan people. And as you look through the actual book, Mr. Speaker, I want to say publicly that I am very, very impressed with our research team and staff at the NDP caucus office because it is this kind of foresight and work and effort that is required to arm MLAs with the right information and certainly to give us the opportunity to share with Saskatchewan people all the relevant information as it pertains to Bill 40.

[15:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, the problem we have with Bill 40 is they're basically, the Saskatchewan Party are talking about interpretation of the Crown sales aspect of what we think the agenda is all about across the way. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier got up in the Assembly and basically said that SaskTel was not for sale. That was what he said in the Assembly not more than three or four days ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, the question we have on this side of the Assembly is first of all, if you're serious about that particular statement, Mr. Premier, then you have to withdraw this bill because this bill has all kinds of implications and complications on the future operations of our Crowns. And the Premier would not withdraw that bill. So like anything else, whether it is the Regina bypass scandal, Mr. Speaker, or whether it is the finances of our province, we certainly do not take the Premier's word nor do we trust the Premier when he makes statements of that effect. And all the while these bills of this magnitude, Bill 40, continue to be in the Assembly.

And that's why in the opposition we continue raising the issue around Bill 40. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, when the Premier makes a statement in this particular Assembly, the opposition simply does not buy his position. We don't agree one iota that he has no intentions of selling any Crown, and the reason why, Mr. Speaker, the reason why . . . Before I get into the specifics of this very thick research binder — and it is very thick — I want to just give just a quick little history of the Sask Party since they've been elected, Mr. Speaker.

And this is some of the information our research team dragged out of the archives and certainly the history of what the Sask Party's been doing with the Crowns. It's not a long history but certainly there is some history.

We'll start, Mr. Speaker, in January 2008, shortly after the Sask Party became government:

The Saskatchewan Party government creates a provincial public-private partnership (P3) Secretariat . . . [And this

department or the secretariat had] a mandate to review all infrastructure projects over \$25 million to be considered to be built as P3s. After nine months, the government disbands the P3 Secretariat determining that there weren't enough large capital projects in the province to qualify as P3s.

Well what does P3s have to do with the bill, Mr. Speaker? Well what they're doing with P3, a lot of people may know, is they go to private sector companies and they ask the different companies to build certain things for the government and the companies not only build the project, but they also charge interest on the money they give to the government to build that project and, Mr. Speaker, they continue controlling the asset.

So when they control the assets, such as schools and hospitals, Mr. Speaker, you begin to wonder what the privatization agenda is all about. And I think the P3 model is a good indication of how the people of Saskatchewan have asked the government, what do those P3s cost? And that information, Mr. Speaker, certainly has not been forthcoming by the government, and yet another example of how we cannot trust the Saskatchewan Party government or the Premier when they make statements in the Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, May 2008, this is a short five months after they've been elected. "SaskTel contracts out some installation service of SaskTel Max and high-speed Internet services in homes to jump.ca." That's what the Sask Party done. So the installation services that SaskTel used to do all of a sudden are contracted out.

In June 2008, "SaskPower initiates a request for proposals for private baseload power generation." So what's that about? We want to know the details of that particular action. June 2008 — these guys have been really busy since the day they were elected, Mr. Speaker — June 2008.

July 2008. The Saskatchewan Party government finalizes the sale of its share of SaskFerco to Norway-based Yara International for \$783 million. Investment Saskatchewan has received more than \$209 million in dividends since its original investment. The province invested . . . [\$68 million] in the company between 1989 and . . . [1983].

So that Saskferco was sold off under the Sask Party government.

October 2008. The Saskatchewan Party government announces its "Saskatchewan First" policy for Crown corporations. The policy will focus the Crowns on investing within Saskatchewan and not out-of-province [not out-of-province]. Where feasible, existing out-of-province investments will be divested although an exception to this policy will be permitted if the Government determines the investment supports in-province operations.

So what they've done, Mr. Speaker, is they've said, in October 2008, we're going to put Saskatchewan first. Well, Mr. Speaker, they put the Crown corporations dead last with that particular exercise. And we all knew it in the Assembly. The people that knew what was going on within the Crown sector

also knew what the Sask Party was up to, Mr. Speaker.

So what they've done in October of 2008 is they've basically said, look, we're going to hamstring our Crown corporations; we're not going to allow them to expand like other companies can because that would simply prove that the Crown corporations were highly valuable. So what they did was they constricted the Crown corporations to operate within the provincial boundaries of Saskatchewan, and they as politicians would determine whether investments out of province were warranted to strengthen our Crown corporations.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry to say this, but the people across the way, I would much rather have the executives, the managers, and those that know what's going on with our Crown corporations drive the future of our Crown corporations as opposed to a bunch of politicians that are only here on a temporary basis, Mr. Speaker. The Crowns deserve better.

Because what the Crowns do, Mr. Speaker, what the Crowns do that the Sask Party cannot do, Mr. Speaker, is they provide good service in a reasonable price range, creating jobs and profit. And that's the significant difference between a Sask Party government and our Crown corporations. The Crowns get it, Mr. Speaker. They have done things. They have achieved objectives within Saskatchewan that the Sask Party failed miserably on, Mr. Speaker, and that is they have created profit, they have provided services, they have provided reasonable costs for their services, and above all, Mr. Speaker, they have created jobs — something that the Saskatchewan Party simply can't figure out.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in October 2008 this is yet another one of their ludicrous ideas around how they could figure out how the Crowns could be strengthened. They ended up looking at the possibility of saying okay, we'll constrict. We will constrict the operations. We will constrict the network. We will constrict the outreach of our Crowns so that they can only operate within Saskatchewan. Which CEO [chief executive officer], if that's how they view themselves, would constrict their company to only operate within a certain parameter, and still expect them to perform well? Well, Mr. Speaker, the Crown corporations saw this for what it was. It was an obvious attempt, it was an obvious attempt to weaken our Crown sector, Mr. Speaker.

In March 2009, "SaskTel outsources its email and conference call services to an out-of-province private company," Mr. Speaker.

In April 2009, the "Saskatchewan Party government announces its plan to sell off 23 Ministry-owned and operated rental cabins at Greenwater Lake Provincial Park."

October 2009. The Saskatchewan Party government releases its "Patient First Review" which advocates for greater private sector participation in healthcare delivery.

October 2009 [again]. The Saskatchewan Party government licenses the province's first private specialty wine stores [Mr. Speaker].

October 2009. To comply with the government's "Saskatchewan First" policy, SaskTel sells Navigata —

which provides voice, data and Internet services. A perennial money-loser, Navigata is sold for a mere \$1.5 million [according to them, Mr. Speaker].

Again in November 2009:

To comply with the government's "Saskatchewan First" policy, SaskEnergy sells its 50 percent stake in Heritage Gas — a Nova Scotia-based natural gas distribution ... [system] — for ... [\$73 million, Mr. Speaker].

So this is again my argument around how you constrict the Crowns from operating beyond certain parameters, and still expect them to succeed, Mr. Speaker.

In November 2009, "SaskTel divests its remaining out-of-province holdings in DirectWest Canada in order to comply with the government's 'Saskatchewan First' policy."

Again, the Saskatchewan Party have no experience whatsoever, are telling our proud and robust Crown sector how to run their business.

In February 2010:

SaskPower announces that Northland Power Inc., a private power producer based in Toronto, has been chosen to provide 261 megawatts of power to the provincial electrical grid by 2013 [Mr. Speaker].

Now we've heard of this particular contract. It was very rich, Mr. Speaker. It provided a base of support and a base of income to Northland Power to be maintained for the life of the project. That was a guarantee that Northland Power got at the expense of SaskPower and all the power bills that we pay, Mr. Speaker.

February 2010. The Saskatchewan Party government announces that more than 60 per cent of its internal information technology work has been contracted out to private, for-profit companies [again, Mr. Speaker].

March 2010. The Saskatchewan Party government announced its intention to sell SCN, the Saskatchewan Communications Network — a Treasury Board Crown Corporation that specializes in educational television ... [programs especially when it comes to provincial budgets].

May 2010. The Ministry of Health announces a pilot funding project for a 100-bed long-term care facility to be privately built, owned and operated by Amicus Health Care in Saskatoon. The funding arrangement closely resembles the P3 model [that we spoke about].

June 2010 [and I am quoting a document, Mr. Speaker]. Health Minister Don McMorris announces that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region has put out a request for proposals seeking a "third party supplier" that could offer CT services in a publicly funded private facility starting in 2011.

June 2010. Saskatchewan Party ... completes sale of SCN to Bluepoint Investment Corporation, a privately owned Ontario-based business. Bluepoint will pay \$350,000 for

the physical assets and the film and video assets of the educational broadcaster [\$350,000, Mr. Speaker].

2010. SGI sells its shares in the Charlie Cooke Insurance Agency for ... [\$1.1 million, Mr. Speaker.] The sale was to remain in compliance with the out-of-province investment restrictions within the "Saskatchewan First" policy [orchestrated by those folks across the way.]

July 2010. The Ministry of Health releases its "Third Party Delivery Framework" for the contracting-out of day surgeries and diagnostic imaging to private health [care] providers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in July 2010 again the Saskatchewan Party outsources responsibility for inspecting boilers, pressurized storage tanks, elevators, escalators, and amusement park rides. Government inspections were transferred to the newly-created Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan, a not-for-profit company with a strong industry presence on its board.

August 2010. Omni Surgery Centre — a private clinic — begins taking bookings for patients who are to undergo dental and arthroscopic knee surgery through the provincial government's Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative.

October 2010. The Saskatchewan Party government announces a contract with Saskatoon Surgicentre — a private surgical clinic — to provide publically funded day surgeries.

October 2010. The Saskatchewan Party ... merges the Milk Control Board, the government body which had overseen milk testing, with the Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan to form the industry-run marketing board SaskMilk. Through SaskMilk responsibility for testing milk now rests with the milk industry.

November 2010. DirectWest — a subsidiary of SaskTel — sells off AgDealer, a speciality agricultural equipment publication, for \$1.55 million as part of the "Saskatchewan First" policy.

December 2010. SaskTel sells [off the] Saskatoon Square building for ... [\$27 million] as part of its divestiture of "non-core assets" as ... [defined] by the "Saskatchewan First" policy review.

January 2011. SaskTel sells [off] Hospitality Network Canada Inc. (HN) assets to PFM Capital Inc. of Regina for ... [36 million]. The sale of HN complies with the provincial government's "Saskatchewan First" policy, which requires Crown corporations to divest themselves of assets that are not core to their business.

[15:30]

[Mr. Speaker] May 2011. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) begins contracting out 42,500 CT scans ...

June 2011. SaskEnergy sells its 30 percent ownership of

Gas Sur, a Chilean natural gas company, for \$6 million. The sale is to comply with the “Saskatchewan First” policy.

June 2011. A private company advertises that it is leasing private seasonal campsites in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. The cost is \$30,000 for a ten-year term. Services like cutting firewood, maintaining hiking trails and cleaning visitors’ centres that were once provided by park staff are [now] being handed to private contractors.

September 2011. SaskEnergy announces the sale of SaskEnergy International’s 40 percent interest in Igasamex, a Mexican natural gas distribution company for \$17 million US [again] as part of . . . [their] government’s “Saskatchewan First” policy . . .

February 2012. Saskatoon’s privately operated surgical centre — Prairieview Surgical — begins taking patients . . .

April 2012. The Saskatchewan Party government . . . acknowledges that Ministry of Highways engineering services work is increasingly being contracted out to private consultants and that it plans to shut down the province’s public engineering services labs.

In October 2012, the Sask Party government creates a new treasury board Crown corporation, SaskBuilds, which advocates private-public partners again to do large-scale investments in the province of Saskatchewan.

In November 2012, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party government privatizes Information Services Corporation and this of course is the land titles department and they’re responsible for personal property and corporations registry and certain vital statistics. The government sells 60 percent of ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] for up to 120 million. And, Mr. Speaker, the dividends that the Crown corporation had returned in 2010 and 2011 were 14 million for 2010 and 15.5 million in 2011.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we invested in the Information Services Corporation as a government, Mr. Speaker, the intent behind Information Services Corporation was to strengthen our land titles registration. And of course there’s some very important private information as it pertains to vital statistics. And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that that particular Crown corporation generated profit for the government after initial investments, and those profits served the people well.

And again, Mr. Speaker, November 2012, the list goes on:

The Saskatchewan Party government begins private sale of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration pasture land that was transferred back to the provincial governments.

The Saskatchewan Party announces all future liquor stores in the province will be privately owned and operated. Again quoting from the document, “Premier Brad Wall promises existing public stores will remain publicly owned” which never happened.

May 2013. The Saskatchewan Party government authorizes two new private liquor stores in Regina and two more in Saskatoon.

June 2013. The Saskatchewan Party . . . outsources enforcement and compliance services at Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park to Ghost security.

July 2013. The Saskatchewan Party government announces the construction of a new long-term . . . facility in Swift Current will be built using . . . a (P3) model.

July 2013. The Saskatchewan Party government contracts with a private company to undertake highway photo . . . [lab] enforcement in construction zones.

October 23, the Saskatchewan Party government announces its intention to use PPP [public-private partnership] model for the construction of schools in our province.

The Saskatchewan Party government sells 25 per cent of its interest in the Meadow Lake OSB [oriented strand board] plant for \$30 million.

December 2013. 3S Health signs a 10-year contract with a private Alberta company [called] (K-Bro) to launder the bulk of the province’s hospital and health care linens. Publicly run central laundries in Regina, Prince Albert, Weyburn, Yorkton and Moose Jaw will be replaced by this newly privately operated laundry facility here in Regina. The deal cost Saskatchewan people 350 jobs.

The Saskatchewan Party government transfers control of livestock brand inspections from the Ministry of Agriculture to an industry-led, non-profit corporation called Livestock Services of Saskatchewan.

Again the Premier suggests in February 2014 that he wants the government to sell both casinos Regina and Moose Jaw to the Saskatchewan gaming authority, but only if the provincial NDP Cam Broten — according to his note — supports a change of the province’s law protecting Crown corporations. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, all we know that was . . . And this really offended a lot of the First Nations. It was just a political game played at the expense of both the First Nations and the people that really wanted to make a difference when it came to positioning First Nations to be an integral part of our economy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in April 2014, the Saskatchewan Party announced that four public liquor stores would be privatized in the communities of Langenburg, Ituna, Ponteix, and Kerrobert, resulting in a termination of 12 union jobs.

In April of 2014 again, the Saskatchewan Party announced that a new integrated mental health rehab hospital and provincial corrections centre in North Battleford will be built using a PPP model.

In May 2014, the Sask Party announced the construction of the bypass which is now \$2 billion to a private company, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, again we talked about the wholesale

privatization of the province's public liquor stores, raising the possibility that the liquor privatization was an agenda that the Saskatchewan Party had all along. In November 2014, the Saskatchewan government released its green paper, *Future Options for Liquor Retailing in Saskatchewan*, and it asks the citizens to consider retailing options. And, Mr. Speaker, this was something that the people of Saskatchewan went through only to find out later that the Sask Party simply had their own agenda and that they were going to do what they wanted with this particular exercise.

Now in April 2015, the Saskatchewan Party government announced this social impact bonds which allows private investors to invest and profit from selected social programs.

The Saskatchewan Party . . . proposes new legislation to allow individuals to pay out of pocket for private MRIs.

The Saskatchewan Party privatizes correctional food services to Compass Group Canada for \$8 million per year . . .

And, Mr. Speaker, this is just four pages of some of the history of the Saskatchewan Party government. And we can go on. And we can go on as to what they have done, not only in the last eight years that they've been in government, but what their intentions are around SaskTel, SaskPower, and SGI. And the list goes on as to the Crowns that people wanted to sell.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell the people of Saskatchewan this, is that the reason why the opposition do not trust the current Premier and do not take any word that he says in this Assembly with a grain of salt at all, Mr. Speaker, is primarily because of the activities of the past number of years. They have a history. The Premier has a history of saying one thing in this Assembly and doing something totally opposite outside of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And I think the people of Saskatchewan are quickly finding out — the people that have lost their jobs in Prince Albert for the laundry services, and they were doing an excellent job, Mr. Speaker; the people that worked in our liquor stores and generating profit, Mr. Speaker. They were doing an excellent job. Their prices were certainly competitive, Mr. Speaker, and also the Information Services Corporation, our land titles branch.

And now you look, Mr. Speaker. Now you look at him saying, oh we have no intentions of privatizing anything. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have page after page after page of things they've privatized or put under a P3 model that will encumber Saskatchewan's financial situation for years to come. Why? Because they believe in privatization, Mr. Speaker. They have always believed in that, and that's why we don't take any word in this Assembly. And that's why as long as this bill, as long as this bill is in the Assembly, the NDP opposition will not rest. And we will call the Saskatchewan Party out on their privatization agenda because this bill talks about the definition of privatization. It doesn't eliminate the argument that they have been exercising for years when it comes to the whole notion of privatizing everything that they can.

So I want to summarize the history of the Saskatchewan Party when it comes to them talking about privatization. Mr. Speaker, they have had a wall-to-wall sale on every asset that hasn't been

nailed down in the history of Saskatchewan. They have plans to sell even more. And that's one of the reasons why the NDP, the opposition, are telling the people of Saskatchewan that it's not too late, that it is not too late, that we can indeed fight back. And it's on bills such as Bill 40 where the people ought to know exactly what the plans are for the Saskatchewan Party.

So if you don't want to continue this whole notion of selling off our Crowns, why are you bringing bills forward like this, Mr. Speaker? And that's the fundamental question that those who may not believe that the Saskatchewan Party want to sell off SaskTel . . . Ask them that question.

If you want evidence, pull Bill 40. There's no reason for us to talk about the interpretation of sale of our Crown corporations Act, or this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, if we have no intention of selling these assets. And that's what's really important.

So I'm going to tell the people of Saskatchewan this, Mr. Speaker. I want to share with them very clearly the message I have around the Crowns.

The history of the Saskatchewan Party, including the Premier, when it comes to the Crown corporations is a dismal history when it comes to protecting the vital importance of our Crowns. I have read you but a few examples of what the Sask Party have done the eight years or nine years that they have been in power. They have decimated the Crown sector as much as they possibly can without being called out. And so far, the four big ones, or particularly the larger Crown corporations like SaskTel, like SaskPower, like SGI, Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that people of Saskatchewan know that this is a real threat, that this is a real possibility, that those folks across the way have it in their system. They have it in their logic. They have it in their ideology that they got to sell as many of our Crowns as we can and as much of Saskatchewan's interests as possible.

So we sit here and we look at some of the comments made. And I am, Mr. Speaker, I am quoting from a document, Mr. Speaker. And this document talks about some of the comments made as it respects to the Crown corporations and certainly what the Premier said. And I want to quote on the whole notion around SaskTel. And I quote:

"Maybe that's a discussion Saskatchewan people want to have" . . . [Wall] said. "We wouldn't be able to be in a position of welcoming private investment into SaskTel even [though it] . . . was thought to be the right thing, because we didn't campaign on it.

"If it was something [that the] Saskatchewan people, we thought, really wanted to at least talk about, there is the idea of a provincial referendum," said Wall.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell the Saskatchewan Party today that there's no question in my mind that the clear message that the people of Saskatchewan are going to give you is, let's run an election campaign on this. Never mind a referendum. Let's not do this thing half-heartedly. Let's have an election on the idea of selling our Crowns. Let's see how much conviction and let's see how much gumption the Premier has when he comes to the issue of selling off the Crowns. Let's see if he

wants to go there. Let's call an election on this issue, Mr. Speaker, because we are more than prepared to stand up for the people of Saskatchewan and certainly tell them, this has been their practice. This is their intention. It's not too late.

And I say from the official opposition's perspective is to heck with, Mr. Speaker, with a referendum. Let's have an election on this issue. And I can tell you right now that the Saskatchewan Party won't want to do that. And it leads me, and it leads to really credit my argument, is that they do have an objective deep within the bowels of their organization and in their psyche, Mr. Speaker, that they do want to sell off the Crown corporations of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, why is this such an important issue? And I go back to my earlier statement today when I talked about the value of the Crowns. The Crowns know how to provide services. The Crowns know how to create jobs. The Crowns know how to provide those services in a very cost-competitive manner, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, they create profits for the people of Saskatchewan.

So the Crowns have done things, as I've said time and time again, have done many positive things for the people of Saskatchewan, much more than the Saskatchewan Party government could ever figure out. So I would say to them, leave our Crowns alone. They don't belong to you. They belong to future generations and not to the whims of a two- or three-term government, Mr. Speaker. We know that the Crowns will provide many services and good services over the many, many years.

So you look at the practice of the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You look at the practice of the Saskatchewan Party up till this year. They have been privatizing everything that they could possibly privatize without getting caught, Mr. Speaker, without getting caught.

[15:45]

And now they come along and say, well no, the bill we're putting forward is about interpretation around the sale of Crowns. Well we don't buy it. We don't buy it at all in the opposition, and that's why we're closely watching what they do around Bill 40. And that's why we're on our feet today, and we're going to be speaking about how people could fight back and where we need to go.

So I think it's really important, Mr. Speaker, that we sit down and we have this candid discussion, as people of Saskatchewan, as to whether the Saskatchewan Party government have the mandate to sell the Crowns. And I suggest today that they do not have the mandate to sell off our Crowns. The people of Saskatchewan simply do not want that to happen.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to be able to reiterate a couple of things that I think are important. People ask me about the Crowns and what's the value of the Crowns. In Saskatchewan's history, I know I've spoken about this before, but as you look at the history of Saskatchewan and the role that the Crown corporations play, from our perspective, and I've been around the cabinet table and I've been around politics a bit, Mr. Speaker, but when you hear some of the comments made by

some very astute people, much more astute than I, but when they talk about the integration of four or five factors in our economy, you have to listen and hear what they have to say.

And many of the people that are giving the lessons there of course were the former ministers of the NDP government. And you have giants like Allan Blakeney and visionaries like Roy Romanow, Mr. Speaker, and really practical, strong leaders like Lorne Calvert, Mr. Speaker. You hear people like that over the term of your time in office and you begin to soak up some of the information that they give you and some of the information they share as leaders. And of course, the cabinet folks that I sat with, Mr. Speaker, brilliant people and very, very astute politicians.

Now what they tell us and what they've told me — and I share with the people of Saskatchewan this very simple point — is why and how are the Crowns so important? Well in order for us as a province of 1 million-plus people to survive, we've got to have the mainstay economies and industries such as agriculture. We know agriculture is really, really important, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that we have to always remember.

Now the resource industry, whether it's uranium and of course potash and some of the resource sector and some of the commodity prices that we see over the years that we've enjoyed in the past number of years, those of course always add to the economy.

So we're missing a few of the key points when I make my presentation around the Crown corporations, but the point is I don't do that intentionally, that there are many, many sectors that afford a lot of credibility to the building of an economy in what we call a landlocked province of Saskatchewan. So we've got to be very smart about how we do this.

And to me, I've always maintained that there's always, and always has to be, an attraction to have more people move to Saskatchewan. We've got to have a growing population. We have to continue having the welcoming mat to as many people as we can because Saskatchewan needs a lot more people, Mr. Speaker. We can host a lot more families, and we can certainly build a lot better futures here in Saskatchewan. That part is important because the more people we have, the more shoulders that we can lean on to strengthen our economy and build our future for years to come, Mr. Speaker. So people are pretty important.

We also have to have competitiveness in not only the taxation rate we have as private taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, but to attract industry, large and small. So there's no question in my mind that having large corporations and having businesses and the private sector come into Saskatchewan and invest, Mr. Speaker, that it goes without saying that's really, really crucial that that continue to work, and that that work continues, and that we continue to press that importance as politicians.

The other thing I think is also important, Mr. Speaker, is to supply the economic engine with its labour force, Mr. Speaker. That is another crucial component. I think that Saskatchewan, to their labour movement and to the strong union movement, Mr. Speaker, have provided that quality work and the good source of numbers in terms of workers, Mr. Speaker, so they are a

critical part of the economy as well. So as you look at allowing investment to come in, remaining competitive to attract large corporations or medium-sized businesses, Mr. Speaker, those are all thoughts that of course we share on this side of the Assembly.

But, Mr. Speaker, the labour development, the provision of labour services, whether they're electricians, engineers, contractors, Mr. Speaker, those are also an important part of our economy. And they can't be overlooked.

The other aspect that's quite important, Mr. Speaker, is around the whole notion of the Crown sector. As I said at the outset, SaskTel and SGI and SaskPower, they provide services. They provide a lot of services to a lot of these businesses, Mr. Speaker. So having a Saskatchewan-based Crown corporation sector that complements the investment of the private sector, whether it's large multinational companies or medium-sized businesses, along with the complement of good labour force numbers, Mr. Speaker, and can you work in a competitive environment, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that, to the Saskatchewan Party, that the Crown corporation sector is a valuable asset to our economy and that they are needed to continue to be flexible and certainly be nimble in today's challenging world to attract industry here to Saskatchewan. And that's what the Crown corporation and Crown sectors provide to the people of Saskatchewan.

So if you look at the overall economic scheme, Mr. Speaker, of the province, there's no question in my mind that there are mainstays in our economy, and agriculture being probably the biggest one. Mr. Speaker, there's mainstays in other sectors of the economy. We talk about resource development like potash and uranium and forestry and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker. Those are all certainly very, very good agents of economic building.

The other thing that's also important, as I mentioned, is the people that will work in our mines, provide services to industry, and certainly help agriculture stay strong. So the workers themselves, Mr. Speaker, they're also a vital component, and as I mentioned having our own Crown corporations is also a key component of economic building here in Saskatchewan.

So as you look at some of the examples, Mr. Speaker, that I've spoken about as it pertains to our economic blueprint, so to speak, we have such great opportunity, such great opportunity.

Now I'm going to ask the people of Saskatchewan this particular lesson. What happens if you ignore two or three vital parts of that economic building process that I'm speaking about today, Mr. Speaker? And what if you decide to get rid of the Crowns and somebody else decides to own them from who knows where? They get to determine our employment numbers. They get to determine our prices for services, and they get to determine . . . And actually they will take the profits of those services back to their shareholders, Mr. Speaker. So it's really, really important that people understand that the Crown sector is vitally crucial to our economy, not just today but for years and years to come.

Now I have confidence, Mr. Speaker. I have confidence that the executive within our SaskTel, within our SaskPower, that

they're able to position our Crowns to compete in this worldwide, challenging market. I have no doubt in my mind that if you give them the proper supports and direction that they can indeed rise to the occasion. By direction, Mr. Speaker, I don't mean in any way, shape, or form taking orders from a Sask Party government that doesn't know what they're doing when it comes to the Crown sector themselves. And we obviously see that on this side of the Assembly. And I share this with the people of Saskatchewan — that they do not know what they are doing when it comes to the Crown sector at all in the province of Saskatchewan, and that's why it's important to get rid of the Sask Party government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would also indicate to the people that . . . look at their Crown sector themselves. Now I know when we sit down and we talk about the competitiveness of our tax system, you know, when I advocated for greater numbers of people so we can build our province on many shoulders as opposed to a few, that obviously is very common sense and very logical.

But, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the Crown corporations, when I talk about keeping our tax regime competitive, it was really important to the New Democrats years ago and it continues being important to us today. Because we obviously, through time, Mr. Speaker, when we had a big mess to clean up after we left the 1980s in the charge of the conservatives across the way there, Mr. Speaker, we had some tough decisions to make. And there was not the money that we had to pay the bills. And in fact the leader of the NDP at the time, the premier, Romanow, actually had to go to New York and to Toronto and to Ottawa to help Saskatchewan from becoming a bankrupt province where we couldn't even meet payroll, because that's how bad the conservatives left this province in when we ousted them in the 1990s, Mr. Speaker.

So we're back at this now. But at the time when decisions were made, Mr. Speaker, under Romanow . . . And history is really important on this one. And I was not around in those early '90s, Mr. Speaker, but he certainly researched the history. And there was obviously a need for us to take charge of some of the spending costs and some of the deficits that were occurring under the then premier, Grant Devine.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can remember the numbers quite well. It was \$15.4 billion that the province was in debt. I can remember the Education budget being around 3 or \$400 million. The interest alone on the debt, Mr. Speaker, was two if not three times higher than the entire educational budget, if you can imagine days of that sort, Mr. Speaker. And that's why when they spout off different numbers from across the way, we don't listen to anything that they say, Mr. Speaker, because they did not know the tough struggle that occurred in those years. And that's one of the reasons why, Mr. Speaker, they only get specific information, selected information from their leadership on the Saskatchewan Party, and the rest of the backbenchers blindly follow whatever they're being told to blindly follow.

So the history, Mr. Speaker, in how the government of the day were able to recover from that financial mess, one of the assets that proved highly valuable was the whole notion of the Crown sector, Mr. Speaker. We had to go to the Crown sector. We had to set some specific targets for them, telling them that we needed the financial support from our Crown sector because the

province was in such dire straits, and in such dire straits that we had to count on the Crowns. So the Crown sector itself, Mr. Speaker, they came along and they gave us a lot of support at the time.

Now we knew as the government that you couldn't, you cannot simply take every cent from the Crown corporations that you can because what that would do, it would be contrary to their health. So the old story about the goose that lays the golden eggs, you've got to make sure that these eggs are continuing to come. And so the Crown sector did what they could, Mr. Speaker.

So as we look at how we could recover from the financial ruin and mess left by the Grant Devine conservatives, many of them who are still hiding over there behind the Saskatchewan Party banner, Mr. Speaker, we went to the Crown on three or four different entities to help us with the financial mess we were in. Obviously taxation was one of them, and yet they spout off about taxation. Well guess whose mess we were cleaning up? Their mess. And, Mr. Speaker, we had to look at the corporate tax rate as well. We had no choice. And yes, it was a tough thing to do, but the corporations started paying more, and they willingly were, certainly we were on . . . They willingly recognized their role as well.

And of course the Crown sector area, Mr. Speaker, they've come along and they provided a lot of revenues for the people of Saskatchewan. And that really displaced a lot of pressure that we would've had to put on different sectors of resources that we could get from. And that includes things like taxation and, of course, royalties that we often had to sit down with companies on.

So, Mr. Speaker, what happens if the Crowns are gone? As we are witnessing today, this is the rerun of the Grant Devine years in which we've had the deficits. And who knows where the deficit is at now.

And I talk to a lot of conservatives, because I want to see what their thinking is on a few things. And some of them don't like the mismanagement. Some of them don't like what these guys are doing, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Crowns. Some of the conservatives think that we should keep the Crowns because their argument is, well the Crowns generate revenues, right? And I say, yes they do. And those revenues are used for hospitals and schools and roads? Yes they are. And if they didn't have those revenues, what would they have to do? How would they make up those revenues? And I said, well they'd turn around; they'll tax people like you more. And some of the conservative people don't like that idea of paying more taxes, Mr. Speaker.

[16:00]

So if you don't want to pay more taxes, don't sell the Crowns, you know. Talk about the goose with the golden eggs. And that's exactly what Sask Party is doing, Mr. Speaker. They're selling off Crowns left, right, and centre. I've given a history of that. Those are all factual points that I made, Mr. Speaker. And they look at the arguments around the Crowns today, and I tell the people that are of the conservative background, that's what happens when you have people who aren't using common

sense, that use their ideology to run a province as opposed to being practical and pragmatic. And that's exactly the problem with the Saskatchewan Party.

So I sit down and I tell the folks in the conservative circles that. I sit and listen to what they have to say, because I want to know how they think. And I tell them, if you do not have the revenues from the Crown corporations . . . And SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] is one of them. The liquor stores that were generating profit, Mr. Speaker. You look at the Information Services Corporation, our old land titles branch. Well, Mr. Speaker, those entities generated profits. They generated revenues. For who? For the people of Saskatchewan. So as we got revenues from them, Mr. Speaker, we didn't have to turn around and tax people even more because we're in deficit. But we're in deficit today, Mr. Speaker.

Despite the whole argument around this particular bill, we look at what happened in the past, and that's why it was important that I speak of the history of the Saskatchewan Party. When they look at the sale of some of the assets we had, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask those conservative people that I converse with: where's that money gone? Where did that money go from the sale of the liquor stores? Where did that money go for the sale of Saskferco? Where did the money go for the sale of our Nova Scotia operations, our Eastern Canada operations around gas? Where do the dollars go for some of the companies that we're investing on as part of our Crown corporations?

The money is gone, Mr. Speaker. All that money is gone. And what do we have today? We've got a 1.2 or 1.4 or \$1.6 billion deficit.

So the conservatives say to me, well what'll happen if we sell our Crowns? I say, exactly . . . first of all, you're going to have to pay more taxes because the Crowns are not going to generate revenues for you. They're going to generate revenues for their shareholders, who may not be based in Saskatchewan. They're going to be, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they're going to be paying dividends to shareholders, and those shareholders aren't going to be the people of Saskatchewan.

But if they do plan on selling SaskTel, there's two things I'll say to them. Number one is you'll never get it back again. You will never get it back again. Once it's sold, it is gone forever. And that's a chilling message, but the people of Saskatchewan have got to hear it.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the revenues generated from that Crown corporation, those subsidize our tax rate now for the people of Saskatchewan. And it's a good subsidy, because the government doesn't have to count on the taxpayers personally as much because the revenue is in the Crowns. But, Mr. Speaker, if you sell the Crowns, where's that money going to go? Where's the money going to go? It's going to be gone, Mr. Speaker. To what? Cover the debt that we're facing now? And that's what the Premier alludes to — that if we sold our Crowns, we wouldn't have to deal with debts, you guys. That's his argument around selling the Crowns.

But why should the people of Saskatchewan sell an incredible, valuable asset to cover the mismanagement of the Sask Party? That's what gets a lot of people in the conservative circles

angry. Because quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I think people out there ought to know that these Crowns provide an incredible service to the people of Saskatchewan.

And any bill, any bill that talks about anything to do with interpretation or privatization or protection of Saskatchewan's interests as being proposed by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker, that's one of the reason why our basis of non-support, non-confidence, and not believing what the Sask Party have to say on the privatization front is simply something that we are going to stick to. And we're going to continue fighting, fighting the whole matter out.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's a number of documents that I want to make reference to, but in particular I want to read one particular article that was written by one of the leaders that I spoke about, and that leader of course is our former premier, Allan Blakeney. And Mr. Blakeney . . . Again, I'm going to go back to the excellent research ability of our staff. I want to talk a bit about the history of SaskPower, STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], and so on and so forth.

So I want to quote from this document, *The History of Saskatchewan Crown Corporations* as written by Allan Blakeney. And I want to go into a bit of his story, and first of all I'll go to one particular page:

I have worked in this city as a public servant and as a lawyer engaged in the private practice of law. The first house I ever owned was one that I built, along with others, on the 31 Block Montague Street. When I woke up in the morning, I noted that the house was nice and warm. I liked the natural gas provided by the . . . Saskatchewan Power Corporation. I got out of bed and struggled to the bathroom and used the plumbing facilities provided by the City of Regina and the water facilities . . . hot water provided by SaskPower's natural gas.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's no question that if you look at some of the services that people enjoy, waking up to a nice warm home, a home that has power, a home that's heated and a home that is providing shelter from the elements for many families in the province, well, Mr. Speaker, our Crowns play a central role to that.

Now look at SaskTel. Again, this is according to Allan Blakeney's history here. He said, and I quote again:

SaskTel is eighty-eight years old as a Crown entity. [And this was written a few years ago.] It has been here since 1908. It has seen enormous changes. It has lived through them. It has adjusted and it has prospered. Certainly it has borrowed technology from other companies, as other companies have done from SaskTel. It is not a technological cripple. Nor is it a business cripple.

In the 1970s, SaskTel adopted fibre-optic technology. It made a deal with Northern Telecom to build a plant in Saskatoon to manufacture fibre-optic cable. SaskTel then proceeded to construct the then world's most extensive fibre-optic network — not only the wired city, but the wired countryside. The first fibre-optic cable laid from New York to Washington was made in Saskatoon. SaskTel

performed major contracts to install communication systems in the construction of the Chunnel, the tunnel under the English Channel.

So, Mr. Speaker, you look at that particular history of SaskTel and SaskPower.

SaskPower came into being on 11 February 1929. It was then called the Saskatchewan Power Commission. Little progress was made during the 1930s [because of] World War II and early post-war years. The Commission was reorganized as the Saskatchewan Power Corporation late in the 1940s and the Corporation set out to do two major things. First, to build a generating capacity suitable for the rapidly developing Saskatchewan, and to tie it together with transmission lines to establish a system or grid.

And of course the second alternative was to electrify rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Now there's no question, Mr. Speaker, there was other private companies operating at the time. There was ". . . Moose Jaw (National Light and Power), Yorkton (Dominion Electric) and elsewhere." And, Mr. Speaker, ". . . in 1952, SaskPower took natural gas to the cities, towns, and villages of this province. It did it early, it did it efficiently. This natural gas utility became SaskEnergy."

And now SGI has been operating for over 50 years.

With respect to basic auto insurance, the Auto Fund, I would have thought it all but self-evident that if a government makes auto insurance compulsory, then the government has a duty to provide it to a motorist at the cheapest possible cost. All governments of Canada have made auto insurance effectively compulsory.

So, Mr. Speaker, it goes on to talk about STC, the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. It's been around for 50 years.

It has provided a valuable service. The continued loss of population in rural Saskatchewan, and the far greater use of private motor vehicles, has eroded [some of] its customer base. [But] STC . . . are what service should be provided and at whose expense.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are a few of the comments made by Allan Blakeney about the history of our Crown corporations and what he foresaw at the time. There's no question that there is a lot of history. And I wanted to share a bit of that history with the people that might be watching this to indicate that at one time there wasn't the ability to strengthen our communities and to connect our communities because the Crown sector was not around. And in those early years, people that built our province had the foresight to realize that Saskatchewan really needed to have its own Crown sector that could provide affordable light, affordable heat, and that could provide a lot more information as it pertains to communication services, whether that be in cellphone coverage or whether that be in technology, and the list goes on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to share with you a bit of the history of our Crowns. There's a lot more information as to the history, and I'm not going to do justice to it because quite

frankly I think if you look at the overall value of the Crowns, they have proven us a great value year after year after year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I go up to a couple of points when looking at the interpretation, and I understand that my colleague the Minister of Justice certainly has a learned mind when it comes to the issue around law. And I want to share with him a few points around the shareholder rights without obligations. And I just want to read off a few points on this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, because it does legally pertain to what your shareholders' rights should be and what this is all about.

Now again, this is titled *Shareholder's Rights without Obligations*, and I quote:

It is beyond dispute that shareholders have rights. Indeed, those rights, particularly when held by minority shareholders, are among the most jealously guarded by the courts. Despite their array of rights and powers, however, shareholders owe no obligation to the corporation. In the commercial context, the possession of rights, absent any corresponding obligations, is quite unique.

Shareholders do not have a fiduciary obligation to the corporation or to other stakeholders. They need not be concerned with the interests of others when they exercise their rights as shareholders. They can and do act in their own self interest, which is not always in the best interests of the corporation.

That's quite blatant in page number 1. Now under the "Specific Rights," Mr. Speaker, they have a section called "The 'Blocking' Right." And I want to read this out for the record:

Certain corporate activity, even if determined by the directors to be in the best interests of the corporation, can only be effected if approved by a special resolution of the shareholders. Minority shareholders, acting solely in their best interests and without regard for the best interests of the corporation, can defeat such resolutions and block the corporation from pursuing such action.

A special resolution is a resolution which, in order to be effected, requires two-thirds of the votes cast by shareholders who voted in respect of the resolution.

So what does that mean, Mr. Speaker? That minority shareholders can actually legally protect and block corporations from making certain decisions if it pertains to them protecting their own interests, as shareholders protecting their own interests, even minority shareholders.

And under section 2:

"special resolution" means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by the shareholders who voted in respect of that resolution or signed by all the shareholders entitled to vote on that [particular] resolution.

[16:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to try and use the limited

experience I have in law to try and explain in layman's terms what exactly is meant by the blocking right when it comes to minority shareholders. And this bill speaks of minority shareholders, and it has a direct implication not only on the taxation, Mr. Speaker, but who is in charge and who is in control of some of these corporations that we may roll into the argument that even minority shareholders in a minority position that have no influence on the corporation. Not so, Mr. Speaker, not so at all:

For example, a blocked resolution can thwart the restructuring plans of a growing corporation. In the interests of avoiding the impasses which may result from failure to pass a special resolution, a majority shareholder would be well advised in the early stages of a corporation's life to negotiate an option to acquire the interest of minority shareholders. Such option would be triggered should the minority shareholder block action which is strategically important to the corporation.

And there we go again, Mr. Speaker. How is this particular statement on the blocking rights of minority shareholders going to affect the operation of SaskTel, even if we were to say to the Sask Party today — which we are not — that if you guys sell off 49 per cent, you're selling off a lot more than 49 per cent, especially around the blocking rights and privileges of the minority shareholders?

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the role of a shareholder? Obviously the role of a shareholder is to try and gain as much profit as they possibly can from their investments. It just goes without saying that if any shareholder in this Assembly wanted to invest in any particular company, their primary objective is to make sure that company makes money because that's how you invest money.

So if you're a minority shareholder in SaskTel, guess what, you do have a lot of say and a lot of sway on certain things that the corporation may think they want to do but it impacts your bottom line. So, as a minority shareholder, you do have rights in which you could exercise to block some of the opportunities that the corporation themselves deem fit for their expanse, or for their increased operations. So a lot of times there could be that particular challenge on some of these fronts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's another section around here under the legal terms where it says "The Dissent Right." Now what's all that about?

Minority shareholders who do not have sufficient votes to block strategic action which requires a special resolution may, in certain circumstances, exercise the dissent right.

The minority shareholder has the right to dissent and put its shares to the corporation if:

(a) the special resolution which is passed ... [fails] within one of the above categories.

And, Mr. Speaker, which talks about the constraint of the issues, it talks about amalgamations, it talks about dissolution.

(b) the shareholder dissents to the resolution;

- (c) the directors do not . . . [appeal] the resolution; and
- (d) the shareholder complies with the technical procedures in section 184.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's more. There's more, Mr. Speaker. And we're just trying to . . . Like I go back to the excellent advice we're getting from our research team. And there's even more as to how we look at the minority shareholders' rights. As it comes to SaskTel, if we wanted to sell a minority share in SaskTel, as being defined in this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, we've got to know what we're getting into. We've got to know what we're getting into, Mr. Speaker. And I want to go a few other points here. I mean it's always important to share with the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, "In a carefully . . . [crafted] USA a minority shareholder can have his cake and eat it too." Now a USA, Mr. Speaker, just for the information is not the U.S. [United States]. It's a unanimous shareholder agreement. And the member from — I'm not sure where he is from, maybe North Battleford — thought I was talking about the States. Well it's a unanimous shareholder agreement. And in a carefully drafted unanimous shareholder agreement " . . . a minority shareholder can have his cake and eat it too. That is, he [or she] can exercise greater rights without incurring liabilities or giving up . . . rights against the directors."

So, Mr. Speaker, that's from the minority shareholders' perspective.

And I'll go on, Mr. Speaker. And this is for the record. So we have some legal folks out there — you might want to read this as well. Mr. Speaker:

. . . at least 75% of the members of its board. Such a provision leaves the fiduciary obligation with the directors. This method is of value if the minority shareholder, either through a pooling agreement or articles . . . [provided with the] cumulative voting for directors, can ensure adequate representation on the board of directors.

So there we go again. Minority shareholders do have a lot of specific rights. Often an agreement allows the minority shareholder to elect directors to the board who are in a minority position. One's firm impression may be that such a right is not of much value. To the contrary, a right to representation on the board, even if it is not enough in number to control the outcome of the board resolution, is still a useful tool to protect minority shareholder rights.

Discussion and debates at the director levels is foreign to a shareholder, which means that a minority shareholder can certainly organize from their minority perspective to challenge every decision that the corporation makes. And they may not be privy to some of the corporate strategies and some of the board of directors' thinking, but they have a right to block some of these efforts that are being planned for any minority shareholder that may not like what the future of SaskTel would look like if they were indeed allowed to become a minority shareholder in this company.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you have to be very careful here. Because you look at everything that a minority shareholder could

actually do to a corporation, and they could throw any accusation at all or they can challenge any particular direction or they could thwart any expansion plans, Mr. Speaker. They have rights. They have rights within the corporation to do what they think is necessary to protect their investment income.

Now they can come along and they can talk about another section, conflict of interest:

Conflict of interest and inadequate disclosure is also conduct which gives rise to the oppression remedy under section 234. Many successful minority shareholder oppression claims involve some form of allegation of conflict of interest or inadequate disclosure of self-dealing by the controlling shareholder.

So again we go back to some of this point, Mr. Speaker. A minority shareholder is not going to go there blindly and say, you . . . SaskTel can do what they want at any time that they want. They have an obligation, the corporation does, to be responsible and respond to every issue that even a minority shareholder may have. Because those minority shareholders do have rights, and the courts have recognized those rights. And they have different tools that they could use at their disposal and they can challenge a company's or a corporation's objectives in many, many ways. And that's what's really important, Mr. Speaker, as to why I want to read some of these sections into the record.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I go under the oppression remedy, and I'm assuming the oppression remedy is when you've got two or three shareholders, minority shareholders that aren't happy with what's going on and some of their arguments are not being heard thoroughly, and they could bring some of the tools that they want to to thwart any kind of an expansion plan, a future SaskTel under a minority shareholder agreement, what they might have planned to strengthen SaskTel. And that's why you've got to make sure all these are understood. And under the oppression remedy, an overview is quite clear. It says here: "The oppression remedy found in section 234 of the Act is without doubt the most powerful right a shareholder has to protect minority interests."

Most jurisdictions in Canada, including the federal legislation, provide an oppression remedy like section 234 of the Act. So what does oppression remedy mean? Meaning that minority shareholders do have a lot of tools at their disposal to argue against any expansion plan that a SaskTel may have. Never mind the taxation implications. There's a lot of rights and obligations under the Canadian law that would prevent a SaskTel from doing what they think is necessary for their corporate health, and they're going to be held back by minority shareholders in many forms.

And that's one of the problems that we have when we sit down and we talk about the fact that the Sask Party has not thoroughly thought this out. And there is going to be some . . . There's going to be some major implications for SaskTel, some major implications.

So I go back to my point earlier that if you do not have any intentions of selling SaskTel, (a) pull the bill. That's the first thing that you should do. Bill 40 should be stricken from the

record and never to be spoken of again, Mr. Speaker. And secondly, that if the history of the Sask Party has given any indication as to their intentions around privatizing everything they can touch their hands on, Mr. Speaker, and I tell the people of Saskatchewan, well they're pretty blatant in that effort, so you've got to be very careful.

Now I want to go back to some of the rights and responsibilities and obligations that the corporation as a whole may have to minority shareholders, and that's what we're talking about in Bill 40, the minority shareholders. It is really, really important, Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, that some of these minority shareholders do have a lot of rights and tools at their disposal. And let me assure you that there are many lawyers that are more than willing to offer supports for minority shareholders that may feel that their issues and concerns are being oppressed and that their voices are not being heard.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out some of the conduct giving rise to oppression, and these are really fancy titles, but I just want to . . . You have to be very direct in some of the language as being . . . Because obviously there's a number of court cases that speak of some of the activities happening around minority shareholders' participation in some of the companies. And as I said at the outset that a minority shareholder can use any tool that they have, given the federal legislation or provincial legislation, to protect their investment opportunity.

First and foremost, as I said at the outset, that it doesn't matter if you're a minority shareholder or a majority shareholder, you have the right to protect your investment interest. And there's a number of tools and a number of court cases that have staunchly supported that position. And there's no challenge to that particular fact.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to throw out something here in terms of some of the examples. And we talk about the "lack of valid corporate purpose for the transaction." Let's look at what the Sask Party's doing around the GTH, the Global Transportation Hub. Now what if the GTH, Global Transportation Hub, was owned 49 per cent by minority shareholders, as in the case that's being proposed in Bill 40 here? Now what if the GTH was 49 per cent owned by the minority shareholders?

Well I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, we would be in court. We would be in court under conflict of interest. We would be in court, Mr. Speaker, in a number of fronts when it comes to the GTH if we adopted the same principles being outlined in this bill under 49 per cent ownership as we would be under GTH.

And, Mr. Speaker, why would we be in court if the GTH had 49 per cent ownership, as being proposed under SaskTel? It would be a number of fronts. It would be a:

failure on the part of the corporation and its controlling shareholders to take reasonable steps to simulate an arm's length transaction;

[second] lack of good faith on the part of the director of the corporation;

[third] . . . lack of adequate and appropriate disclosure of material information to the minority shareholders in a plan or design to eliminate the majority shareholder.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are serious repercussions, serious repercussions for SaskTel.

Now we alluded earlier about the tax implications, Mr. Speaker, about the tax implications around the sale of SaskTel. Now we hear them every day talk about the carbon tax. I want to share with the people of Saskatchewan, we have that carbon tax already, compliments of the Sask Party. And what that is, Mr. Speaker, is the \$1.5 billion carbon capture boondoggle that the Sask Party put in place. I would tell the people of Saskatchewan this: look at your SaskPower bills. And that's why every time they do a petition on the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, every time they do a petition on the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, we smile because the Sask Party were the ones that are having the power bills in our province rise every two or three months. Because the people of Saskatchewan got to pay and pay and pay for their mismanagement, scandal, and waste, Mr. Speaker.

So you want to talk about the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. Well guess what? The Sask Party ham-handed our power corporation and this carbon capture project, which cost \$1.5 billion. I don't know how many millions we sent to a corporation in Alberta. I just don't know what the amounts were, but I know we sent millions of dollars to Cenovus, I believe, Mr. Speaker. And those millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, were paid by the Saskatchewan people who could be viewed as shareholders in this corporation. And I think those shareholders have a right to certain processes under that particular Act, Mr. Speaker, that'll protect their interests and ensure that the profit lines and the supports of SaskPower does indeed go back to the majority shareholder, which are the people of Saskatchewan. So there is a lot of information, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to go on to the scenario. If the GTH was going to be put in the same proposal as what's being proposed here for SaskTel, and I said, would we be in court from a minority shareholder? Absolutely we'd be in court, Mr. Speaker. And I identified some of those reasons — lack of good faith, lack of adequate and appropriate disclosure, Mr. Speaker. And here's a few other ones, Mr. Speaker. The biggest one I think around the GTH is failure to keep any or proper financial records, Mr. Speaker. If a minority shareholder could find evidence of that under the GTH, then guess what? A minority shareholder would have this government in court basically because since they couldn't do this, really it amounted to oppression, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

Now I'm going to go on a bit more about how the minority shareholders can position themselves quite well. Again I'm not a lawyer by any stretch of the imagination, but under the minority shareholders' agreement, Mr. Speaker, you're allowed, you are allowed, you're allowed to have adequate information on what the corporation does.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a lot of court cases support what we're saying here today when you want to protect the minority interests' obligations and rights. They have the tools. They have the court cases. And they want to get their investment back.

And guess what? No matter what good intention the Sask Party may say they're going to have as majority owners of SaskTel, well you're compromising the majority owners of SaskTel by inviting 49 per cent, even inviting 10 per cent. You cannot let the private sector into the Crown corporation sector because the moment they buy shares into SaskTel, guess what? The ball game changes. The ball game changes, you guys.

And I think one of the things, under and around the . . . Even confidentiality at cabinet is compromised, Mr. Speaker. I go back to the point, "The failure to provide adequate and timely disclosure to minority shareholders of contracts in which the majority shareholder has an interest is evidence of oppression."

Which means if cabinet makes a decision and doesn't let the minority shareholder know about SaskTel's future, well guess what, folks? There's a recourse there as well.

So I'm going to go out and, Mr. Speaker, and these are some of the things that I think we have to really, really, really figure out, Mr. Speaker. And it goes back to my comment around the revenues, revenues for SaskTel. We take revenues from SaskTel. The Sask Party comes along, and they say oh we could take some money from SaskTel as the majority shareholder to not have to lean on taxing our people too much. Well, Mr. Speaker, you've got to be very, very careful on that front too because minority shareholders do have powers on that front as well.

And I'll point out, Mr. Speaker, is that you have to really understand that certain corporations will not allow you to siphon off profits, if there's some interests that minority shareholders may have as to that decision around siphoning off profits. And I want to make a reference to section 10, Mr. Speaker, again on this particular bill, when they talk about injunctive relief, Mr. Speaker: "Injunctive relief is very intrusive into the affairs of the corporation. However, an order to restrain oppressive conduct is suitable when made in the early stages before the damage is done."

And I'll make reference to a court case:

In Re Little Billy's Restaurant (1977) Ltd., Faltakas v. Paskalidis et al., [Mr. Speaker,] the company was enjoined from entering into a franchise agreement which had been proposed, and if consummated, would have siphoned off profits to a company in which the minority shareholders had no interest.

So, Mr. Speaker, is SaskTel and is SaskPower going to run into these problems? And that's why, if the Sask Party don't know what they're doing on this front and on this bill, then they shouldn't do it, Mr. Speaker. They shouldn't do it primarily because you're putting so much at risk for the people of Saskatchewan. You're putting a lot of jobs . . . You're looking at the whole notion around the history of the Crowns, Mr. Speaker.

We spoke about the rights of the minority shareholders. We know they have rights, Mr. Speaker, we know they have rights. We know they can block certain things that the corporation may plan for the future of its growth. And is this another example in the legal context of how the Sask Party want to hamstring the

future of our Crown corporations?

That's why definitions, Mr. Speaker, should not be allowed in this Assembly. That's why Bill 40 needs to be withdrawn because it shouldn't even enter the notion of having 49 per cent of the SaskPower or SaskTel corporation sold off. Because you're going down a very slippery slope.

Now I spoke about the history of the Crown corporations. I spoke about the value of the Crown corporations, of what they've done for our province, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken about the revenues that they bring to our province each and every year, Mr. Speaker. I've spoken about how the Sask Party has constrained the future of our Crown corporations, everything from SaskPower to SaskEnergy to SGI.

They have come along and they have used the guise of Saskatchewan First, and the average person saying, well Saskatchewan should be first. Well we were first, Mr. Speaker. We were first in the Crowns in terms of making sure we had affordable services for the people of Saskatchewan. We were some of the Crowns that expanded across Canada, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to expand into services, Mr. Speaker, but what happened, Mr. Speaker, is the Sask Party put the Saskatchewan Crowns in a neat little box and saying, nothing beyond the borders of our province it shall be involved with, Mr. Speaker.

So that was the death knell, the first shot against our Crowns. And as we sit here and we listen to what the Premier or the minister may say as to the future of the Crowns, not one Saskatchewan New Democrat is buying that argument, Mr. Speaker. We have steadfastly said, we are not in the process of selling our Crowns. That is not on. And if you have the courage to test us on this, let's call an election on this. Let's call an election on this particular issue, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you there'll be a lot less over there. Because the people of Saskatchewan will not stand for a party that has betrayed them, not only on the finances but on the bypass boondoggle, Mr. Speaker, the higher power bills. And now they want to sell our Crowns. For what? To cover the debt that they created, and we'll never see a net gain.

And after the Crowns are gone, they're gone forever. So I would encourage the people of Saskatchewan to pay very close attention. We need to get rid of the Sask Party government because they plan on getting rid of our Crowns. No question about it. And whether it is by 49 per cent or, in the past, their 100 per cent of sale of our Crowns, they are costing even conservatives money, Mr. Speaker. Now how do you do that? Well, Mr. Speaker, they're replacing revenues from our Crowns, and the only option any future government has to go to is to the taxation of people and companies across the province.

And I think from our perspective as Saskatchewan New Democrats, we think we want to see the population continue growing. We want to see our taxes remaining competitive, and the only way you can do that, Mr. Speaker, is start realizing that the values of the Crowns are highly regarded by the people of Saskatchewan. They have done something that the Sask Party cannot do, Mr. Speaker; they have provided profit. They have provided good service. They have provided employment, and they have provided all of this in a very reasonable price. And along comes the Sask Party using our great province's name,

Saskatchewan First, to usher in a new era of trying to kill off the Crown corporations.

The people of Saskatchewan — I don't know how many more ways I've got to tell the Government of Saskatchewan — the people of Saskatchewan do not want their Crowns sold. I don't know why they just can't get it, Mr. Speaker.

You can't bring in an interpretation Act and say, oh, we're just going to look at this. You can't have the statements made by the Premier saying, well what if we get an offer? Well you know, the Premier, the Premier . . . If the Premier had the courage to call an election on this issue, bring it on, because us New Democrats are going to be standing firmly and fairly with the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to the Crowns.

And I dare say, the same manner in which they hid the debt, the same manner in which they hid the debt, and everybody in their . . . Everybody across the way knows they hid the debt. They called an election before the budget because each and every one of the Sask Party MLAs knew how bad the finances were of Saskatchewan. They all knew. They all knew, and they hid it from the people of Saskatchewan.

And that's why there's a lot of anger today. When you see working men and women clawing back their salaries to cover up the mismanagement of the Sask Party, I say shame on them, Mr. Speaker. Shame on them for putting the people of Saskatchewan through that. And they never had the courage to tell the people of Saskatchewan the true state of our financial situation. They never had the courage, Mr. Speaker. They never had the courage, and that's what's so unfortunate in this day and age. I think the people of Saskatchewan feel betrayed.

I got a letter today . . . I'm not going to mention the gentleman's name. I'm not going to mention the gentleman's name. And he talked about SaskTel being sold off. He talked about that. And he said, I voted for the Saskatchewan Party the last two elections, he said, and then I get this call back. I need some more money from my salary. There are going to be forced days off, and you're also going to be taking an extra cut in some of your extra pay, what this gentleman said. And he said, I voted for them the last two terms, and I can tell you today I will never vote for them again, is what he said.

And I texted him back and I said, you were betrayed. Line up with the rest of the people of Saskatchewan because that betrayal doesn't just end on hiding the budget before the election. We all knew what was going on in the NDP circles. We all knew. We all knew.

They hid the scandal behind the bypass. They hid the budget, Mr. Speaker. They hid their agenda around privatizing our Crown corporations. And their history shows, their history shows exactly what I spoke about. If they have done this in the last six years, I would say to the people of Saskatchewan, how could you trust them? How could you believe that SaskTel is not for sale?

And if you can't believe us from the political perspective because you don't believe the NDP's on the right front on this, then check out the corporate world and see where the rights of the minority shareholders are. The rights of the minority

shareholders are pretty powerful, Mr. Speaker. They do have a lot of rights. They do have a lot of tools. And some sharp lawyer will come along the way and say oh, oh, Sask Party, guess what? You forgot about this particular aspect of a minority shareholder agreement. The USA, Mr. Speaker. So the end result is this USA and the minority shareholders' tools and the implications and the slippery slope.

That's why from our perspective, Mr. Speaker, I say we do not entertain anything coming from the Sask Party as it pertains to protecting our Crowns because we have seen this act before, Mr. Speaker. We don't like it. The people of Saskatchewan don't like it, and I dare say, I dare say to any one of them backbenchers sitting there, it's time to wake up. It's time to wake up to the real problems in Saskatchewan.

You have working men and women, working men and women that are now paying three and a half per cent of their salaries being clawed back, plus their forced days off, plus their loss of employment for some of their other brothers and sisters in the union movement, Mr. Speaker. And then you contrast that with the boondoggle called the bypass. You contrast that with the \$1.5 billion overrun on the carbon tax project, compliments of the Sask Party.

So, Mr. Speaker, the biggest thing that I'd point out under the Crown corporation — and this is what people ought to know — is that if you want to have, if you want to have a debate on this issue, let's not go halfway and have a little referendum. Let's have an election on this, man. That's my point today when I stand up, talk about the shareholders agreement. Let's have an election on this.

And not a peep from the government, Mr. Speaker. They all know, they all know that the Saskatchewan Party is on a slippery slope, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Crowns. People are not believing them anymore. And, Mr. Speaker, yes, it's three years away to the next election. But I can tell the people of Saskatchewan this, is that we have to act now. We have to organize. You've got to demonstrate. You've got to write your letters. You've got to contact your MLA. You've got to contact your cabinet ministers. You've got to contact the Premier. You've got to contact every Sask Party person that you know in your riding saying, let's make a stand. Let's tell this government, we say no to the sales of the Crowns because those Crowns have served us for years and years. It has helped Liberals. It has helped conservatives. It has helped the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

And yet why don't the Sask Party get it, Mr. Speaker? Because their ideology is making them do that, their ideology. Some person in the back room saying, well we're supposed to be private sector people, so let's sell everything we've got. Well you've sold as much as you possibly can and you're still in debt. So how does that work? How does that work, Mr. Speaker?

That's why we don't believe. We don't believe in the whole argument, oh it's all about interpretation. Well if it's all about interpretation then you better wake up because there are minority shareholders' rights that could kibosh any future plans that SaskTel has because they do have the tools that are clearly outlined in our courts, clearly outlined in legislation, clearly

outlined in our laws that say you cannot disregard minority shareholders' interests when it comes to the operation of any corporation. Because their primary role as minority shareholder is profit driven, and they have a right to protect that profit. Why don't those guys across the way get it? There's thousands of court cases that have proven this time and time again. They just simply don't seem to get it, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

So as you go along, as you go along this whole process, as you go along this whole scenario, Mr. Speaker, I will tell them this, that the Crowns themselves, the Crowns . . . I've said this three or four times, but I want the Crowns to know this. Within the NDP ranks in this Assembly, we know that they have done something. The Crowns have done something the Sask Party has not done. They have created jobs. They have created good services at good prices, and they have created profits for the people of Saskatchewan.

So we applaud the Crown corporations on this side of the Assembly. We think they're doing a great job, Mr. Speaker. They are doing a great job. And despite their political masters' blundering of this particular file and on this front, Mr. Speaker, they continue, they continue building the future of their Crowns because it's something that they believe in.

So as you have your discussion around the water bottle and the restaurants, think about how we can fight back. We're going to ask people from Swift Current, people from Alsask, and people from Yorkton, and people from La Loche, and people from Wollaston Lake, and from Uranium City, all throughout the land, that the Sask Party do have a practice and a history of selling our Crowns. Do not believe them when they say bills of this sort are just merely interpretation bills, Mr. Speaker.

Do not take the word of a premier that has hid the true state of our finances before the last election because the Premier didn't have the courage, he didn't have the courage to tell the people the true state of the finances. And as I said earlier, when I saw the picture of the Premier on election night, he didn't look like a premier that won the third minority with 50 seats. He looked rather depressed because he knew what was coming up. He knew what was coming up, and that was a forced smile, Mr. Speaker.

And the only thing that we . . . Within the NDP, we do want. We do want to form government, Mr. Speaker. Our aspiration is to form government so we could protect the Crown corporations from any effort of privatization. We don't plan on setting up 50 other Crowns. We want to protect the bases of the Crown corporations that are here now. We want to protect the main corporations.

Our plan as a party, Mr. Speaker, is very simple. It's very simple. We want to strengthen the economy. We see the roles of the Crown corporations that they play. We also see the role of the private sector, the large multinational corporations. They all add to the health of our economy overall. We value that. We recognize that. And we've appreciated that over the many terms that we have formed government in the province of Saskatchewan.

Now what I see, Mr. Speaker, is not much of a game plan from across the way. All I see is 49 members collectively crossing their fingers and their toes, hoping that the commodity prices rebound so they can say three years from now they balanced the budget.

Mr. Speaker, if they don't sell the Crowns, they can say that they done it easier and faster. But that easy way, Mr. Speaker, is not the Saskatchewan way. It is not the Saskatchewan way. So I think, beyond crossing their fingers and toes collectively, we've got to have a better game plan than that.

And I can tell you on this side of the Assembly, we have great discussions around the Crowns. They create profits for the people of Saskatchewan so we don't have to go back to those taxpayers and say, guess what, folks? The Sask Party had the opportunity. They sold a minority shareholder in SaskTel. We no longer get the profits we once had. We don't have control of the corporation, so we can't get dividends from the corporation. So now you've got to pay more tax there, mister conservative supporter. So that's the danger.

So conservatives recognize that. I think conservatives recognize that the Sask Party is on the wrong path with this one. And I would tell the conservatives, tell them, tell your government that they should wake up to this fact that people of Saskatchewan do not want to sell their Crown corporations.

And that's why every bill of this sort that comes forward, the NDP are going to rise up and they're going to debate. They're going to argue. They're going to connect. They're going to network. They're going to tell the people of Saskatchewan the truth behind the dealings when it comes to things like even a minority shareholder agreement, that there are incredible risks, incredible risks.

And that's why I say today that the people of Saskatchewan, I think they'd much rather have an election on this as opposed to a silly referendum that they'll probably word in a certain way that's non-offensive, Mr. Speaker. Instead of us arguing about the wording of a referendum, let's just have an election. Let's get it on.

Let's have an election on this issue, and we'll see how loud and proud some of the backbenchers are on the campaign trail when they're asked about that on the doorstep. Let's see how loud and proud they are when they talk about the boondoggle around the Regina west project. Let's see how loud and proud they are when we show the people of Saskatchewan evidence that their carbon capture tax that they're paying on their power bills . . . Let's see how loud and proud they are then. And worst, Mr. Speaker, let's see how loud and proud they are after the fact that now the people of Saskatchewan are going to see their budget next week and just see how badly they managed a booming economy, a robust financial position that the government . . . [inaudible] . . . had, and very strong Crowns.

We just can't figure out, Mr. Speaker, we just can't figure out how is it, Mr. Speaker, how is it, how is it you have inherited, as they have inherited . . . Everybody in the province knows this. They've inherited a booming economy, a growing population, money in the bank. They've had money in an emergency fund, all left to them by the people of Saskatchewan

under the guidance of Calvert and Romanow, Mr. Speaker. They inherited all this good stuff, and they had record revenue, Mr. Speaker, record revenue.

And that's why when they throw out figures . . . Oh, we have 30 per cent more money for education, they often say. Well, Mr. Speaker, talk about the 200 per cent increase in revenue that you had. They refuse to do that because no government in the history of Saskatchewan has ever enjoyed, has ever enjoyed the amount of revenues that the Sask Party have enjoyed the last eight years.

And now, Mr. Speaker, what do they do? They say, they say to us, oh well, we're in a hole now. We're in debt now. So can we sell the Crowns? That's what the Premier alluded to in one of his interviews. And we're saying, what are you doing? You don't sell your house to pay off a food bill. You simply don't do that, And that's exactly what the Sask Party is proposing. How do you get from having record revenue, a booming economy, growing population, money in the bank, a fiscal stabilization with real cash in there, and then eight years later you're broke? You're broke, and you're telling your wife and your children you've got to sell the house because you've got to pay off your bill. What kind of sense does that make?

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party took us there. They took us there. They took us all the way from all that promise. And that's why we on this side of the Assembly, each and every day I tell them, you squandered our future. You've squandered our future, and you will continue squandering because conservatives have never known how . . . have never been known to manage a province or a country well. They go in there and they destroy things. And that's why we continue having people in our movement, people within the NDP, will come and they'll give us that experience. They'll give us the history of the conservative movement in Saskatchewan.

So why would you continue supporting that particular action by that government, Mr. Speaker? It's because people, quite frankly, were betrayed. They were betrayed. And the voters are always right, Mr. Speaker. The voters are always right, but a lot of voters today feel betrayed. And I can tell you right now the public sector unions have felt betrayed. The people that wanted to work at the bypass that were capable of doing this kind of work, they feel betrayed, Mr. Speaker. The people that go pay their power bills for their carbon tax put on by the Sask Party, they feel betrayed. And those that thought they weren't going to sell our Crowns, well guess what? They also feel betrayed.

So, Mr. Speaker, Bill 40, no matter how many times the minister or the Premier or that government gets up and says, oh this is not a bill that's going to sell SaskTel, we just don't buy it on this side of the Assembly. We don't buy that one bit. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, every opportunity we've got as an opposition to speak out against this bill, we will do so. We will do so because over the years, I can tell you, over the years, SaskPower, SaskTel, SGI, SaskEnergy, all these Crowns have generated millions if not billions of dollars to the people of Saskatchewan for what? For health care, for housing, for highways, and for education.

And if we didn't have those revenues from the Crowns then, Mr. Speaker, guess what? There's only one taxpayer left. And

we'd have to go back to that taxpayer and say, look, we need more money from you. Why? Because the Saskatchewan Party sold off an entity called a Crown corporation called SaskTel which was generating revenues which subsidized your taxes. Guess what? That asset is gone now. And what did they use the money for? Oh, they didn't build a two-lane highway anywhere. They used the money to cover up their mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

And matter of fact, the Saskatchewan people have nothing in the future that would protect them from the vagaries of the markets when it comes to prices for insurance, prices for heat, prices for light, prices for telephone.

And, Mr. Speaker, we control that now. We control that. And yes, we have to be cognizant of the fact that we live in a global market. We understand that, but we have confidence in SaskTel that they can indeed expand their horizons, build partnerships, build networks, as we talked about earlier where Blakeney spoke about the background, Mr. Speaker. They have the ability and capacity to do so, but they're being hamstrung and they're being told you will not move beyond your borders. And that, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, is an effort to curtail the excitement attached to our Crowns being able to expand beyond our borders and being able to become a vibrant part and a bigger part of our economic building partnerships with the private sector in the large corporations.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot more information that we could speak on this bill. I wish I had another three or four hours, Mr. Speaker, because I've only gone through about a third of what I wanted to speak about. I see a lot of my colleagues have spoken on this bill. They have eloquently pointed out the fact that this is a bad step, a very bad step for the Saskatchewan Party to undertake.

And I'll close on several points this evening. The first point is the Crowns make money. Leave them alone. Second thing is the people of Saskatchewan do not want their Crowns sold. Figure it out. We can send you a memo with very large print, and we can translate that print for you if you can't figure it out on your own.

Secondly, when you look at even the whole motion around interpretation of law, minority shareholders have a lot of rights, a lot of rights. And what if you did sell SaskTel? Guess what? Taxation would be going to the Libs. You're going to be subsidizing . . . The taxation dollars collected from SaskTel will be going to the federal government.

And, Mr. Speaker, they complain about the carbon tax, but I can tell you one thing: when the federal Liberal government writes a cheque for carbon tax credits, rest assured the Premier, Finance minister, and the entire Sask Party caucus will be spending that money. They'll take it. So why are they on one hand whining about a carbon tax when they're implementing one on their own? And when it comes back to refunding the carbon tax, guess who gets the money and guess who'll take it? It's those folks across the way.

And that's why you do not believe anything they say around the Crowns. Their history would suggest it, their practice . . . People would see their practice and the dangers of not

researching, as some of my staff have done, on the implications of privatizing even 49 per cent, Mr. Speaker. The dangers are there. They're very vast. They're very strong. And the courts will not care whether this corporation is publicly owned or not. They will, on many occasions, side with the minority shareholder.

And that's the folly of the Saskatchewan Party's ways. They don't think thoroughly of some of these implications as it pertains to our Crowns around the issue of taxation, around minority shareholders' agreements and, Mr. Speaker, the negative effect it has to our province and to her future.

And that's why the people of Saskatchewan ought to stand up. And I tell them today, I tell the people of Saskatchewan it is not too late. It is not too late. You can speak up. And one of the best ways to speak up is to tell your Sask Party MLA, if you live in their ridings, let's have an election on this matter. Let's have an election on the future of our Crowns. And we will see whether the Sask Party accepts that challenge or not.

And, Mr. Speaker, if their history proves right as I've indicated, they hid the budget from us. They hid a scandal. They hid their privatization agenda to have an election first. And the people of Saskatchewan feel betrayed.

So yes, they won. But now the betrayal is starting to sink in to the people of Saskatchewan, and I can tell you that a lot of them are very angry. We're getting a lot of people that are waking up on the sale of the Crowns, and they're telling us as opposition, we voted for these guys. We'll never vote for them again if they go ahead and try and sell our Crowns. So that's the message they have for the Sask Party.

And I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, we are eagerly awaiting the day when they say, okay let's have an election on this. And, Mr. Speaker, I suggest we'll have a kinder, gentler, fairer, more visionary government with the NDP than you'll ever have under the cobbled-together Saskatchewan Party government.

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being 5 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wilson	1685
Eyre	1685
Meili	1685, 1686
Sproule	1686
Beaudry-Mellor	1686
Cheveldayoff	1686
McCall	1687
Ottenbreit	1687
Belanger	1687
Sarauer	1687
Forbes	1688
Morgan	1688
Wyant	1688

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Chartier	1688
Phillips	1688
Belanger	1689
Sproule	1689
Forbes	1689
Beck	1689
McCall	1690
Sarauer	1690
Meili	1690

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence

Sarauer	1691
---------------	------

Women's Suffrage in Saskatchewan

Ross	1691
------------	------

Co-operatives Pioneer Appointed to the Order of Canada

Meili	1691
-------------	------

Melfort Rink Wins Special Olympics Team of the Year

Phillips	1692
----------------	------

Champions of Mental Health Dinner and Auction

Fiaz	1692
------------	------

Estevan Educator Named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals

Carr	1692
------------	------

Business Women of Moose Jaw Annual Awards Gala

Lawrence	1692
----------------	------

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Unparliamentary Language

The Speaker	1693
-------------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Auditor's Report and Details of Land Transactions

Wotherspoon	1693
-------------------	------

Harrison	1693
----------------	------

Regina Bypass Project

Wotherspoon	1693
-------------------	------

Wyant	1693, 1695
-------------	------------

Belanger	1695
----------------	------

Local Agreements and Funding for Education

Beck	1694
------------	------

Morgan	1694
--------------	------

Provision of Teacher Education Programming in the North

Meili	1694
-------------	------

Eyre	1695
------------	------

Provision of Crop Insurance

Sproule	1695
---------------	------

Stewart	1695
---------------	------

Donations to Political Parties

Forbes	1696
--------------	------

Wyant	1696
-------------	------

Legislative Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence	
Sarauer	1696
Wyant.....	1697
<i>The Water Security Agency Amendment Act</i>	
Sproule.....	1697
Moe.....	1697
POINT OF ORDER	
Merriman	1697
McCall	1697
The Speaker.....	1698
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 603 — <i>An Act to Provide Critical Supports for Victims of Domestic Violence</i>	
Sarauer	1698
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Lawrence	1698
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 43 — <i>The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
Vermette	1698
Bill No. 44 — <i>The Water Security Agency Amendment Act, 2016</i>	
Meili	1700
Bill No. 40 — <i>The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'interprétation</i>	
Belanger.....	1702

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

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

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Advanced Education

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

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

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

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

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

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

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

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

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

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