



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

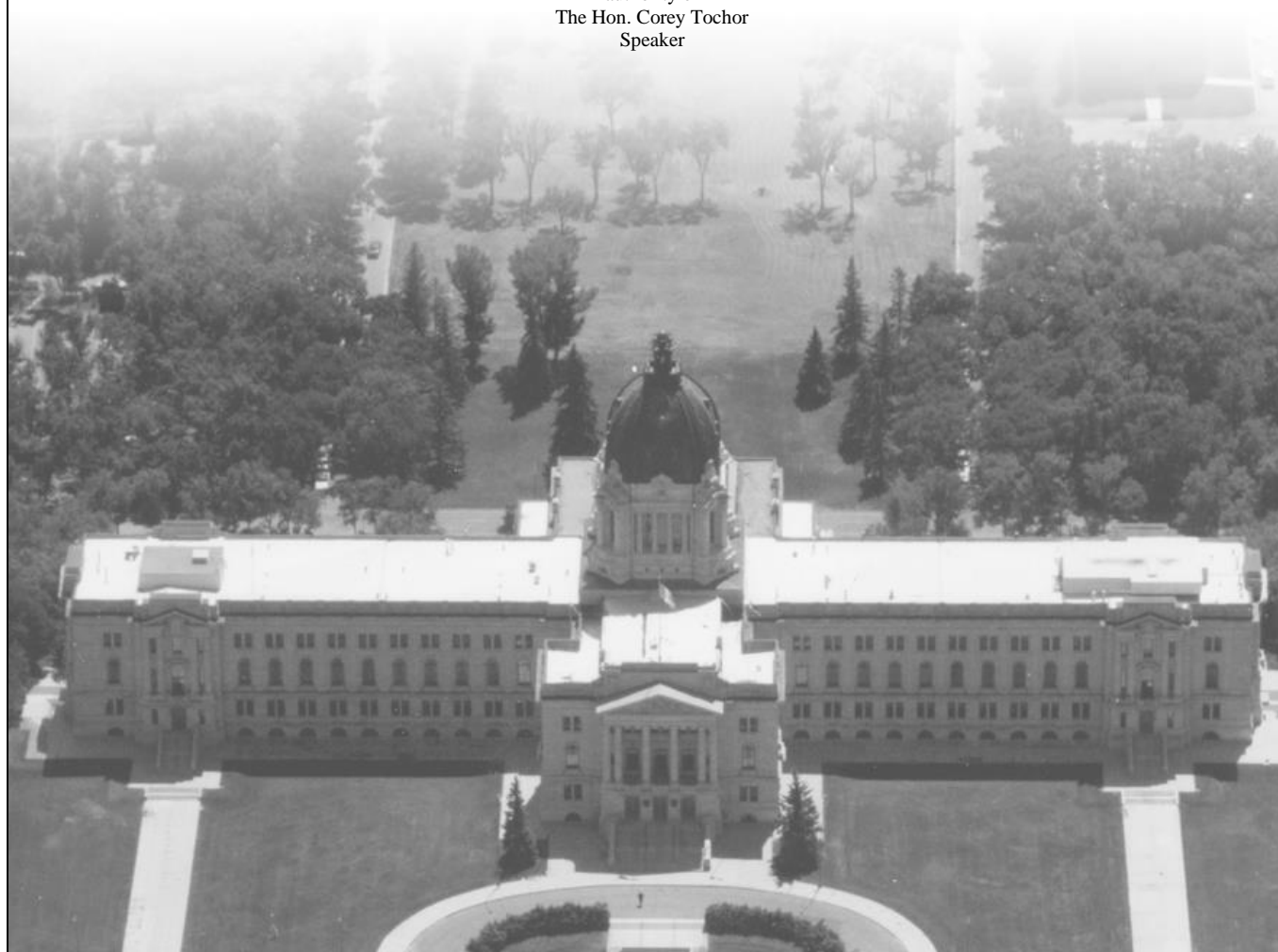
---

**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)

**Harbauer**, 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]

## TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Pursuant to section 39 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*, I'm submitting one copy of the 2016 annual report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, April 25th, 2017.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce some special guests that have joined us in your gallery today. They're representing Canadian National, Mr. Speaker, CN Rail. These individuals have had meetings with ministers on this side of the House, and I hope that they were productive meetings, Mr. Speaker. I know they've been meeting with the Deputy Premier, the Minister of the Economy. I think the minister of Highways and Transportation was able to briefly say hello, and the Minister of the Environment.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, who is also a farmer met with them and had good things to say. And so when a farmer has good things to say about a rail company, it must have been a very good meeting and it must have canvassed a number of positive developments, especially with this Minister of Agriculture because he's pretty tough to impress actually, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, in no particular order I want to introduce these gentlemen to the members of the House today. Joining us, Ambassador Gordon Giffin — he is the former ambassador of the United States to Canada — board of directors of CN. If you could give the House a wave. Jim O'Connor, director of the board; Robert Pace, director and Chair of the board; Denis Losier, director of the board and former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and cabinet minister in the Frank McKenna government, I believe, in New Brunswick, a government that at one point had no opposition, Mr. Speaker, something we'd like to try out here maybe someday, although I don't expect it will be happening any time soon.

I had the pleasure, Mr. Speaker, of chatting with the ministers who met with these individuals. And again on behalf of members on this side of the House and the government, we want to thank CN for their presence in the province, for their investment in the province, Mr. Speaker, and for their commitment to moving the goods that we have here, that we grow here and that we mine here and that we produce here, all around the world.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this House to welcome these representatives of CN Rail today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Premier and welcome these representatives of CN to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, thank them for their presence, thank them for taking the time with the meetings with cabinet.

Of course it's incredibly important that we all work together on all fronts to continue to improve our transportation system, and CN is an important partner of that system. And so I join with the Premier to welcome CN here today.

In a way it's . . . I guess I hear that the Agriculture minister's, his meeting went all right. That, on some days, could be a bit of a surprise because on some days the rail company might be as popular as about the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. But we do appreciate the partnership in a system that is very, very important to us as an exporting province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my privilege to introduce some representatives in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, representatives from the Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Just ask you to give a wave when I introduce you. We have Nairn Gillies, the executive director; Eugene Paquin; Michelle Carver; and Anne Websdale.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this morning the House Leader and I had an opportunity to meet with them. We had what I think was a very productive meeting. We look forward to some follow-up discussions, and we thank them for being in attendance today, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite in welcoming our guests today. We have Nairn Gillies, Michelle Carver, Eugene Paquin, and Anne Websdale. I know that they had a very productive meeting with the minister, and one of the things that they've been advocating for is a universal screening program for infants here in this province. So I look forward to asking the minister in estimates on Thursday some follow-up questions. But I know that the point is not lost on them that you need audiologists and capacity, Mr. Speaker, to be able to support children who are screened, Mr. Speaker. And that's what our hearing aid plan in Saskatchewan has done so very well.

I also just want to give a special shout-out to Eugene who has a unique connection to, a connection to Holiday Park, which is the community in which I live and have called home for much of my life. His mother-in-law, actually, used to live in Holiday Park.

And as well, Anne Websdale and I graduated from E.D. Feehan High School together. And I'm not so sure she recognized me, but she hasn't aged a day since 1988, Mr. Speaker. But with

that, I'd like to welcome all these guests and have my colleagues join with me in welcoming these guests to their legislature.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to make an extended introduction, please.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce Shawn Weimer, race director of the Queen City Marathon. The Queen City Marathon was introduced in Regina since 2001 and has grown significantly with over 6,000 participants from across the province and from around the world.

I met with Shawn, who has awarded me bib number 150 for Canada's birthday this year. I will be participating in the full marathon. The member from North Battleford is going to be with me. I'm going to race with him as well. I would like to ask colleagues to join me in participating in this Queen City Marathon, supporting local charities and community groups.

The race will be taking place September 8, 9, and 10 in 2017, with an event-for-all-ages group and a race for every pace. I would like all the members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Shawn Weimer in his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to see a friend, nice to see Shawn here today, and somebody that really does provide incredible leadership to the Queen City Marathon and all the life and vibrancy and health that it brings to our community.

And it's always an exciting race weekend in September. I know I'll get registered once again this year, Mr. Speaker. It's a really great weekend to get out there, pounding the pavement with thousands of people from across our province, but also from really across North America.

I know that not only will I be out there, I know that the member for Douglas Park has run in the past and now, since I'm on the floor of the Assembly, she'll be committing to run again this year as well. And I know the member from Lakeview also has run the QCM [Queen City Marathon] in the past, and I suspect she will this year as well, Mr. Speaker.

And on the topic of running, Mr. Speaker, I guess it's an important time to maybe make the point that this weekend is the Regina Police Half Marathon. And there's a friendly little battle, Mr. Speaker, that's waged on the floor of this Assembly that pits myself and the member for Douglas Park and the member from Lakeview up against a few members on that side of the Assembly this weekend, and we're looking forward to the friendly contest, Mr. Speaker.

I welcome Shawn to his Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed my pleasure to introduce another great school group from Yorkton, the grade 7 class from Yorkdale school, 51 students in the west gallery with their teachers: Mr. Noel Budz, Mr. Grant Edgar, and Mr. Evan Neibrandt.

With them, Mr. Speaker, is two individuals I will introduce specifically. One is Jeremy Walker. His sister actually messaged me on Twitter this morning to give her homeboy a shout-out, so that's for Jeremy. As well, Jayd Girling, a young lady that I've known since birth and just an amazing young lady that comes from that school and our community. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Estevan, Bienfait, and Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. The people who have signed this petition are opposed to the Sask Party's plan to scrap and the sell-off of Saskatchewan Transportation Company. They would like us all to know that STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] provides vital services to many seniors, workers, and families throughout the province; and by scrapping STC out of the blue and without asking permission of the owners, the Saskatchewan people, the Sask Party is sending a clear sign about how little they care about protecting our Crowns like SaskTel; and that STC helps drive the economy with the parcel service that serves farms and other businesses. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately stop the plan to scrap and the sell-off of Saskatchewan Transportation Company, and to resume transportation service to the people of Saskatchewan.

It is signed and supported by many good people of this province. I so present.

**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 opposing the Sask Party's cuts to spiritual care, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners believe that this government neither understood the role of spiritual care in our health care facilities, Mr. Speaker, nor did they realize the impact that this cut would have on people's health and well-being, Mr. Speaker. They point out that this government unilaterally eliminates spiritual care within our health region facilities. The petitioners point out that spiritual care helps patients and residents and their families towards achieving holistic wellness, and that Saskatchewan will be the only province, Mr. Speaker, within Canada to not fund this support for its citizens.

They point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Sask Party did not tell people prior to the last election just a year ago about their plan to scrap funding to spiritual care within health region facilities. They point out, the petitioners point out that spiritual care provides a compassionate listening presence in times of crisis and the ability to respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of patients and residents. They point out that spiritual care supports families and patients and residents in making difficult decisions, and in fact, staff as well, Mr. Speaker, in their capacity as health care providers.

They point out that spiritual care meets the needs of traditional First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people. And that professional non-denominational, non-faith-specific spiritual care practitioners facilitate patients and residents in obtaining comfort and support from within their own faith traditions.

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 immediately stop the cuts to the spiritual care programs in this province's health region facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens of Regina and Lumsden. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition regarding pay equity here in Saskatchewan. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan 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.

We know that 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.

[13:45]

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

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today in my place to present a petition to increase the funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis. Mr. Speaker, due to having funding cuts, Prince Albert mobile crisis unit has had to close its doors during the daytime hours, resulting in a loss of resource to people in distress. Mr. Speaker, we do know that crisis situations happen regardless of the time of day, and having the closure of the mobile crisis during the weekday times really is a disservice for the people of Prince Albert. And when people are in a crisis situation they need those services immediately.

The daytime closure of Prince Albert mobile has put stress on the Prince Albert Police Service and Victoria Hospital staff and other agencies who are not specifically trained or qualified to provide the counselling and intervention services that clients need. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to increase funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis unit so they may once again offer 24-hour emergency crisis service.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this particular petition come from the communities of Prince Albert and Melfort. I do so present.

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

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

Child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget. And this issue threatens both the number of child care spaces as well as the quality of care. Quality child care has an enormous positive impact on a child's

future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development. It is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centre programs provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by including them in the Saskatchewan education Act and exempt all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan from property tax through changes to the appropriate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by people around the province. The particular page I submit today is signed by people in Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, today I'm rising to present a petition opposed to Bill 40 and the potential 49 per cent Crown corporation sell-off. The people who have signed this petition today want to bring to our attention the following: that the 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's Crown corporations returned around \$300 million in dividends to pay for schools, roads, and hospitals. We know those dividends should go to the people who own these Crown corporations, the people of Saskatchewan, rather than private investors. And of course our Crown corporations employ thousands of Saskatchewan people across the province.

Also, Mr. Speaker, under section 149 of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada, Crown corporations are exempt from corporate income tax provided that not less than 90 per cent of the shares are held by a government or province. The Sask Party's proposal is allowing 49 per cent of a Crown to be sold without being considered privatized. And so, Mr. Speaker, this short-sighted legislation risks sending millions of Crown dividends to Ottawa rather than the people of Saskatchewan.

And so I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, 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.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens who have signed this petition today are from the city of Regina. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the direction of the member from Prince Albert Northcote, I am proud to stand up and present a petition from the city of bridge — Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. And the need for a second

bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today. Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and the businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution.

So the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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 quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

And as we do day after day, Mr. Speaker, week after week, month after month, year after year, we stand and present this petition that has been signed from people all throughout the province of Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a reversal to cuts to the Lighthouse program. Mr. Speaker, in the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners 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 to 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 [Mr. Speaker] to 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 particular petition is signed by good citizens from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to ensure job security for victims of domestic violence. Saskatchewan has the dubious distinction of having the highest rate of domestic violence amongst all Canadian provinces. Citizens of Saskatchewan are very concerned about the lack of support that exists right now for victims of domestic abuse.

One in three Canadian workers have been impacted by domestic violence, and for many of them the violence follows them to work. Employers lose \$77.9 million annually due to the direct and indirect impacts of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, Manitoba has already enacted 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 workdays and a minimum of 17 weeks unpaid work leave with the assurance of job security upon return for all survivors of domestic abuse in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Swift Current. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — I rise to present a petition calling on the government to restore funding to post-secondary education. Mr. Speaker, we've seen a precipitous drop in this province in the number of low-income people accessing higher education. In the context of that drop, we have a budget that introduces \$36.8 million in cuts from post-secondary education, 6.4 million cut from technical institutions, and 8.2 million reduction in Saskatchewan Student Aid Fund and scholarships. Mr. Speaker, this creates a situation where higher education is more costly and fewer people from lower income families are going to be able to access the education they need to advance.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately restore funding to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and stop the damaging cuts to our students.

This petition is signed by individuals from Regina and Saskatoon. I do so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Moosomin and District Regional Park Named Park of the Year

**Mr. Bonk:** — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand in this Assembly today and inform my colleagues that Moosomin and District Regional Park has been chosen as Saskatchewan's regional Park of the Year.

This regional park, located in Moosomin constituency, is an amazing location and attracts visitors from across the province and beyond. The large beach, beautiful lake, fantastic facilities, great family-centred recreational amenities, and is located in a great community that is 100 per cent behind the park. I know this park is close to my family as my wife spent part of her childhood in Moosomin where she spent countless days at the park, and our family today still enjoys what the park has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is an amazing place to experience the outdoors and every year we see more and more people coming from around the world to see what our province has to offer. From the rural communities' rec centres to large entertainment facilities in cities as well as national, provincial, and regional parks, there is something for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Moosomin and District Regional Park on winning the Saskatchewan Park of the Year and thank the staff, board, volunteers, and community who make this a great place to visit each and every year. Further, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members of this House to come and enjoy the great facilities for themselves. Thank you.

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

#### Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipient

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to congratulate Mr. Peter Zakreski, a constituent of Saskatoon Meewasin and one of the recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for 2016.

Peter Zakreski is a lifelong volunteer, community leader, and business executive in Saskatchewan. He's held the role of founder, president, and member of countless community associations and volunteer initiatives. He also played a pivotal role in coordinating sporting events across the country, including the 1979 Canada Summer Games, the 1989 Jeux du Canada Games, and the 1991 World Junior Hockey Championship.

I first met Peter and his wife, Elaine, to discuss our shared interest in East Africa, as their most recent initiative is the Hope For Malawi charitable foundation, where the two of them work to bring urgently needed medical, educational, agricultural, and community support to the Domasi region of southeastern Africa.

Mr. Speaker, on top of winning the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, Mr. Zakreski has received several prominent awards for his community service and volunteering efforts, including the Canada 125 medal, the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Humanitarian Award, and the Order of Canada in 2002. He's truly an inspiration and a role model.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Mr. Peter Zakreski on his Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal and in thanking him for the many ways that his dedication to volunteering has helped his community, our province, and the world.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

#### Care of Older Adults Conference

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of bringing greetings on behalf of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural Health to the Transforming the Care of Older Adults Through Interprofessional Teams conference held in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood has a higher number of seniors per capita than any constituency in Saskatchewan, so this conference theme was of particular interest to me. The conference was a wonderful learning experience for all, giving health care providers a chance to be educated on understanding the interprofessional management of

the needs of older adults throughout the continuum of care in urban, rural, northern, and remote locations.

Mr. Speaker, expanding the accountable care model for in-patient care in the 2017-18 budget was very well received at the conference, displaying our government's commitment to older adults and health care programs. Collaboration and improved communication at the Regina Pasqua Hospital has led to patients being released 15 per cent sooner after proper and adequate care, and I am looking forward to this approach being implemented in Saskatoon.

I highlighted other initiatives for older adults in health care delivery, specifically the Alzheimer Society's First Link program and the dementia advisory networks, which are also supported in our budget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the organizers of this conference for their hard work and dedication to health care and seniors across Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

### Optimist International Oratorical Contest

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 8th, I was honoured to serve as a judge for the Saskatchewan regional division of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest. The contest hosted competitors from grades 7 to 9 and represented three of the four Optimist clubs in Regina. The theme of this year's competition was What the World Gains from Optimism.

This year's competitors included Jennifer Vu, Fatima Shahbaz, Xander Vendramin, Cole MacLeod, and Grady Fiske. Although all of the competitors did a fantastic job, this year's two winners are Grady and Jennifer. They will go on to represent Saskatchewan at the next level of the competition in Edmonton on April 29th. There they will compete against other young Optimists from Montana, northern Wyoming, and Alberta for a chance to win a \$5,000 university scholarship. These winners will go on to St. Louis, Missouri for the Optimist International World Championship.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the Optimist oratorical contest gives young people the chance to speak to the world. More than \$150,000 in college and university scholarships, funded by the Optimist International Foundation, are awarded annually. Further, Mr. Speaker, more than 2,000 clubs across the globe participate in this program, and it is one of the most popular of Optimist International.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the participants and the Regina Optimist clubs for being part of such an important international program and in wishing Grady and Jennifer the best of luck competing in Edmonton later this month. Thank you.

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

### Provincial Skills Competition Engages Youth

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am proud to stand and highlight my constituents from the Melville Comprehensive School who were part of 650 students who took part in the Provincial Skills Competition held in Saskatoon at the beginning of April.

The mission of the Provincial Skills Competition is to promote and engage Saskatchewan youth in skilled trade technologies. The categories of competition, Mr. Speaker, included essential skills that can be used in nearly every job, with varying levels of complexity. The expertise these students showed and their advanced levels of understanding make me proud and hopeful for the future of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, out of the 10 students who competed from Melville, three students took home gold. Tyler Kraushaar won gold in welding. Blake Coleman won gold in IT [information technology] software. Darrian Desjarlais and Morgan Fleury took gold for television and video production. Other students taking home medals at the competition included Kevin Campbell, who was awarded silver in outdoor power equipment focusing in small engines; Brett Friesen, winning bronze in photography; and Spencer Schick, taking the bronze in cabinetry.

I would like to thank their teachers and supervisors for their guidance and support of these students: Stuart Wilson, Don Coleman, Michael Wilk, and Dennis Muzyka, who all served as either a judge or adviser for the competition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating the students and teachers from the Melville Comprehensive School on their success at the 2017 Provincial Skills Competition.

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

### Paddling Club Wins Medals at Club Crew Championships

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that the Prairie Dragons Paddling Club won multiple medals at the Pan American Club Crew Championships.

The Prairie Dragons high performance crew, named Pond Scum, which has members from Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Regina, journeyed to Ponce, Puerto Rico to compete in the championships which were held March 17, 18, and 19. Thirty-six clubs and approximately 140 crews competed at the championship to determine which crews were the fastest in the Americas.

Mr. Speaker, Pond Scum raced three days in 24 different race categories for the 200 metre, 500 metre, and 2000 metre, and I'm proud to say that they medalled in all 22 of them — five gold, ten silver, and seven bronze.

Mr. Speaker, the average age of the crew members is about 60, but that did not slow them down. They had some of the fastest



times on the water and won the prestigious 2000-metre open race against very strong competition. The crew had the largest contingent of paddlers of any club in the Americas and won the most medals of any club in the championship.

The next Pan American Club Crew Championships will be held in 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago, and based on the crew's medal sweep, significant interest has been expressed in having them compete at the next championships.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like all members to join me in congratulating the prairie dogs paddling club, Pond Scum, for their outstanding performance at the 2017 Pan American Crew Championships. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Wholesale Trade Numbers Strong

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of talk from the members opposite. They talk about spending more money and supporting policies that would cripple our economy. It simply doesn't make sense.

However, on this side of the House we have common sense policies to help grow our economy and the numbers show it. Wholesale trade numbers for February were released yesterday and once again it shows Saskatchewan is on the right track. Saskatchewan's wholesale growth rate leads Canada, with month-over-month growth being 3.1 per cent, and year-over-year growth, 18.3 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that translates into wholesale trade in the province being worth \$2.2 billion dollars, seasonally adjusted in February, although the members opposite seem to think that numbers like this have nothing to do with the policies of government.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in government, they seemed to think decline was the only choice for Saskatchewan. And today, the old NDP supported job- and industry-killing carbon tax and even support the principles of the Leap Manifesto, principles that would literally shut down many of the businesses in this province related to wholesale trade. The contrast is clear. While our policies promote growth, the members opposite only see declines.

Our government is meeting the challenge to keep Saskatchewan strong, and the February wholesale trade numbers show that we are on the right track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Details of Land Transactions

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, that Sask Party government gave away 300 acres of land for free to CP [Canadian Pacific] rail, a company that's gotten more than their share, Mr. Speaker, and a company, a company that's part of a duopoly that frankly hasn't performed for producers and exporters in our province all too often.

Just in case that wasn't enough, Mr. Speaker, they've also committed to all the improvements that corporation needed. Mr. Speaker, it's their cabinet who voted on the deal. They're the ones who signed it. They were in office at the time for more than two years at that time. They've been in power for nearly a decade. Their GTH [Global Transportation Hub] scandal has been debated for two years. We've asked questions on the floor of this Assembly every question period since June of last year.

Even after this corporate giveaway was exposed, the minister responsible still says, "I still can't speak to the specifics of the contract." Mr. Speaker, that might be defensible while you're negotiating, but not now. What are they hiding, and who else got perks or free land in this growing GTH scandal?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition needs to turn to his seatmate, his seatmate, the Deputy Leader of the NDP. This was his plan, Mr. Speaker. He was the minister of Highways that oversaw the putting together of this plan to transfer . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The Leader of the Opposition needs to turn to his seatmate and ask him for the details because this was his plan, Mr. Speaker. And I give him credit. I give him credit. I know he's nodding over there. I give him credit. It was a good plan. It was a good plan.

It was supported by the city of Regina. It was supported by municipal governments outside of Regina, and it was supported by the province. And it was supported, and it was supported by the Government of Canada, Mr. Speaker, to relocate the CP yards outside of the city, to move them to the Global Transportation Hub, of which it would be a very important part, the pivotal part, of having the GTH initiate and start up.

The members opposite approved \$33 million for the move and the initiation of the GTH. This was the plan of the Deputy Leader of the NDP. I have briefing notes, which we've tabled, which we've provided to media, that were prepared for the Deputy Leader of the NDP. This was his plan. We think it was a good plan. We agree with the plan, and we move forward with it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's past time for the Sask Party to display a basic level of accountability to Saskatchewan people. It's no secret that the previous government was working on, at the time, the Regina region gateway and corridor project. No secret that that included the potential of CP rail moving out of downtown.

But it's the Sask Party that turned that concept into a scandal, Mr. Speaker. It's the Sask Party that gave away 300 acres of land for free. And it's the Sask Party that made SaskPower — that is to say, Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan ratepayers,

Saskatchewan businesses — pay \$25 million for half of the land. And it's the Sask Party who made sure that two of their party supporters made \$11 million while nuns, local landowners, and taxpayers got ripped off, Mr. Speaker.

The new GTH minister says, "SaskPower made a business decision. They chose the Global Transportation Hub." Mr. Speaker, we all know at the time the GTH minister was also the SaskPower minister, and we know his relationship to one of those sellers, Mr. Speaker.

So will the Premier drop the act? Will the Deputy Premier drop the act, quit hiding behind weak excuses, and start to come clean on the Sask Party's GTH scandal?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — The Leader of the Opposition needs to turn to the Deputy Leader of the NDP and ask him to come clean. This was his plan, and he knows it, Mr. Speaker. He knows that this was their plan to have CP relocate outside of the city of Regina to the GTH as the conditional precedent for the GTH being initiated.

The Deputy Leader of the NDP knows that that cabinet approved \$33 million for CP to relocate to the GTH and for the GTH to start. The Leader of the Opposition needs to turn in his seat and have the Deputy Leader . . . I know he's nodding his head, Mr. Speaker. We saw him nodding his head. Perhaps the Deputy Leader would be interested in confirming that right now, standing up in his place and confirming to the House that that indeed was his plan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, we don't need a puppet of the Premier. We need some answers and some accountability on the floor of this Assembly. Instead of coming clean, they're misrepresenting . . . misinterpreting, sorry, a decade-old cabinet document, I guess just like that minister does with the auditor's report day in day out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when asked how they decided to just give away 300 acres to CP rail, the minister said, "I can just say, we would have made sure the number would've been arrived at based on the advice of professionals." Mr. Speaker, since when? If anything is absolutely clear about the Sask Party's growing GTH scandal, it's that they did everything they could to ignore the advice of professionals and overrode Highways officials.

But, Mr. Speaker, it seems big money talks over there and loudly in this Sask Party's GTH scandal. Between 2010 and 2015, CP gave the Sask Party over \$10,000 and it leaves taxpayers asking questions. Mr. Speaker, why won't the Sask Party finally do the right thing and support our bill to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics?

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

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — More nonsense from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. This was a plan that was initiated by

the members opposite, by his seatmate personally, Mr. Speaker, who came up with the relocation of the CP rail yards to the GTH. This was his plan. We think it was a good plan. We adopted that plan going forward, Mr. Speaker. We worked with CP. We work with the city of Regina. We work with other municipalities. We work with the Government of Canada.

But the genesis of this plan was the Deputy Leader of the NDP. It's in black and white. We have the documents. We've given them to the media. We've tabled them in the House. The Deputy Leader of the NDP initiated this move. We agreed with it. Why won't he take ownership for it, Mr. Speaker?

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

### International Trade and Provincial Economy

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, what a joke. What a joke, Mr. Speaker. Not a single answer from a government that's wasted and given away millions and millions of dollars.

You know the Sask Party cabinet are the only ones responsible for the GTH scandal. They're the ones, they're the ones refusing to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics, so it's understandable why people are wondering who the Sask Party's really working for. And they're wondering what that Premier's priority has been during his last two trade trips in just the last month to the US [United States].

The *Globe and Mail* has called the Premier "Trudeau's Trump whisperer." But it's not clear what the Premier's been whispering because the President has set Canada and Saskatchewan in his sights. The Trump administration's new 20 per cent border tariff on softwood lumber is a direct attack on Saskatchewan jobs. Saskatchewan's forest product sales are worth nearly a billion dollars. They support 13,000 jobs here in Saskatchewan.

You know, over the last decade, the Sask Party has doubled the number of people looking for work to 40,000 people. The Premier pretends that he's the only one who can talk to the Trump team. So while he's hobnobbing in the US, why wasn't the Premier standing up for Saskatchewan jobs?

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

[14:15]

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we of course have been engaged with officials in the United States on this file. We've been engaged with the Government of Canada as well. Of course, international trade's a national responsibility. We've been very engaged. There's been a federal-provincial working group that has met a number of times — myself along with Minister Carr and ministers from across the country. As a matter fact, right this moment, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is on a call with Prime Minister Trudeau and other premiers with regard to the softwood lumber issue.

This has been a long-running dispute. Members opposite are — should be, anyway — well aware of the fact that this has been a long-running point of contention between Canada and the

United States. We believe the United States is wrong. We believe that our industry will ultimately be successful in terms of appealing the countervail and the anti-dumping that we're expecting to come as well. We have been in the past.

That being said, there is a process in the United States that's worked through. And I don't think, you know, President Trump is . . . obviously makes decisions on the basis of what he sees fit. We think they're wrong. We're going to continue to engage, though. We're going to continue to work with the Government of Canada who have been engaged on this file as well, and we're going to continue to work with our softwood lumber producers here in this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Children in Provincial Care

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, while the Sask Party are prioritizing big corporations, they are leaving our province's vulnerable kids behind. The new Advocate for Children and Youth presented his report today. His report makes it tragically clear that despite all of their promises and rhetoric, there are still kids in hotel rooms, too few foster families, and this year there were 38 critical injuries and 21 deaths in care, 15 of whom were less than 6 years old.

In 2013 the Premier pointed to then-declining rates of children in care and said they were solving these tragedies. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, that was a small and temporary dip. There are over 450 more children in care today. Mr. Speaker, their rhetoric and promises aren't making our kids safer. So will the minister commit to starting real action today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Mr. Speaker, I commend the work of the Children's Advocate and I am very positive about our relationship going forward. It has been good to date and I expect that to continue. I appreciate the work of that office in making sure that children are cared for in the province of Saskatchewan.

With respect to the issue of hotels, we have increased the number of emergency placements in Regina over the past year. We have increased those spaces 118 per cent, Mr. Speaker, primarily to keep children out of hotel rooms. We have had . . . I believe it's only been one case in January for a brief period of time. Unfortunately we cannot always dictate when children are going to be coming into care, Mr. Speaker. Often and sometimes, and increasingly in fact, they will come into care in the middle of the night in the middle of a criminal circumstance, which will warrant the use, which will negate . . . or pardon me, require the use of a hotel for a short period of time. That is precisely why we have increased the number of emergency receiving spaces.

With respect to children-in-care deaths, of course this is something that we take seriously and we'll continue to work with the Children's Advocate on those issues and make them aware of critical incidents as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about children here. These are difficult systematic issues, but instead of working to improve things the Sask Party is ignoring their own reports. The poverty reduction strategy, the mental health action plan, the early years plan, the child welfare review panel — all have outstanding recommendations.

And, Mr. Speaker, the day after the last child advocate presented his last report saying the Sask Party needed to do more, they did the opposite. They actually scrapped the committee responsible for doing more. Mr. Speaker, the day after the last report, they scrapped the committee responsible for helping kids and families.

Too many lives are at risk for more rhetoric, political games, or to wait for the price of oil to go up. Will the minister commit to meaningful action to transform the child and youth supports in this province?

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member opposite for the question. Of course this is an issue of importance for us. We have increased the budget in the Ministry of Social Services to its largest ever, Mr. Speaker, and that includes a 5.5 increase to child and family services programs, Mr. Speaker. We have increased, as I said before, the amount, the number of emergency receiving spaces. We have also been very, very aggressively targeting the increase in number of foster families across the province as a way of encouraging family-based care in this province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

These are issues which we do take very, very seriously. We'll continue to do so. It is a priority issue for me, and it is a priority for members of my ministry, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

### Support for Vulnerable Children and Youth in the North

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Year after year, the former advocate reported on the lack of action and warned of the consequences. Now, instead of working to get better, the Saskatchewan Party government dismantled the child and youth agenda.

Mr. Speaker, the report shows that indigenous children are overrepresented among critical injuries and tragic deaths. It showed the lack of mental health services for northern communities and to address the suicide crisis. The report also tells the story of a northern girl who had multiple suicide attempts and was airlifted for treatment. Six months later, she had still not been provided any counselling services.

Mr. Speaker, every child who died between the ages of 11 and 15 years of age, this year alone, took their own life. They died by their own hands. Why is that government walking away

from this crisis?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, any loss of life before its natural time is indeed a tragedy and of course these cases are as well, Mr. Speaker. Speaking to the Children's Advocate report, I don't know if there's anybody that knows the advocate personally or professionally more than I do, and I totally respect his work. And we're going to take his whole report very seriously and we'll act where appropriate, Mr. Speaker.

But I can say with the action of this government, although we'll always admit there's more work to do . . . And I think, you know, not to point fingers specifically, but that's one place where I think the opposition, when they were in government, fell short. They would make some great accomplishments and then maybe not continue.

We're going to continue to work with our northern partners, not to them but with them, working alongside them to find solutions to some of these very, very complicated issues, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I plan on meeting with the Children's Advocate very shortly in the coming few days or weeks. We've met regularly and will continue to meet with the New North executive, implementing whatever plans that they deem fit to work alongside them. We've worked with and met with . . . The Premier and the Government Relations ministers and myself has met with leaders in the North, looking at some of the mental health issues and where we can address those as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I continue to be on constant communication with the leaders in the North as often as possible, especially when these situations arise. And we'll continue to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ***Intent of The Interpretation Amendment Act***

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, when it comes down to it, they simply don't have a plan — the same story in every ministry and with every bill. Yesterday the Minister of Education admitted they had no plan and were wrong to scrap libraries, so they backed down.

The Minister of Justice has done the same once before. It's time for him to do it again. Every time we've raised concerns about what it will mean when more than 10 per cent of a Crown is sold and federal income tax is charged, time and time again the Sask Party laugh it off.

So through freedom of information, we asked the Ministry of Justice for the research they had done on this. But, Mr. Speaker, they had nothing, no documentation at all. How can they keep forcing a bill through the House when they haven't even looked into one of its consequences that will cost Saskatchewan people hundreds of millions of dollars?

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

Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've stood time and time again in this House, and I've explained to the opposition the reason that we're bringing this bill forward. One of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that when they were government on this side of the House, they neglected to define the word "privatization." And, Mr. Speaker, and that's precisely what we're doing. And, Mr. Speaker, they can chirp from their seats, Mr. Speaker, but they've never given an explanation as to why they didn't do it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that no one will know what the consequences or what the ramifications are of any particular transaction until you see the transaction, Mr. Speaker. And obviously when one comes forward, it will be fully analyzed. If one comes forward, it will be fully analyzed and the full consequences of that.

Mr. Speaker, to use the resources of the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Finance or any other ministry, Mr. Speaker, to analyze every single possibility with respect to any transaction that may or may not arise as the result of this legislation is laughable, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, it's the same old lines from the minister. Bill 40 always felt like it was written on the back of a napkin, but it turns out there wasn't even a napkin.

Mr. Speaker, this will cost Saskatchewan people hundreds of millions of dollars and the Sask Party haven't even researched it. They're pushing through the back door what the Sask Party knows they can't get through the front.

This is about privatizing our Crowns, period. They're already scrapping and selling off STC. They tried to close down our libraries. What's next? Mr. Speaker, when will the Sask Party start listening to Saskatchewan people and scrap Bill 40?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of withdrawing this legislation. I can tell you this: I don't think I've ever looked forward to going into committee as much as I'm looking forward to going into committee this afternoon on Bill 40, Mr. Speaker. The opposition has questions to answer, Mr. Speaker. Why they didn't define them . . . All we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is bringing forward a definition for the word, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is going to provide opportunities. I hear from the opposition on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker, about building partnerships, working on the balance sheet of our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. That's what this is about, Mr. Speaker. It's about strengthening our Crowns. It's about strengthening our Crowns for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And the sooner the opposition understands that, Mr. Speaker, the sooner we can move forward.

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

***The Education Amendment Act and  
Operation of School Boards***

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, it appears they have no plan for any of their cuts. Yesterday, after having spent weeks defending the indefensible slashing of funding for our libraries, and after weeks of saying that small communities didn't deserve libraries, and after weeks of threatening librarians for dealing with the budget cuts in ways that he didn't agree with, that Sask Party Deputy Premier finally admitted that he was wrong. Still he stood up in his place and found the gall to condescend upon the trustees that are elected across the province to run their local schools.

Mr. Speaker, how, after finally being forced to admit that he and the Sask Party cabinet colleagues made devastating cuts without any concern for the consequences, how does he still stand there and defend Bill 63, a bill that will put total control of our kids' education across this province in his hands? Why won't he learn from his own mistakes and scrap this bill and work with the people who work with our kids to improve education across the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't agree with everything that the member opposite talks about. But I do agree that we need to put resources in classrooms, not in boardrooms, not in courtrooms.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, I would ask her to take a specific position. Mr. Speaker, she was co-founder and former spokesman of a group called RealRenewal, a Regina-based education advocacy group. Now, Mr. Speaker, that group is referenced on a web page called "Draft Carla Beck for leader." Just saying.

Now, Mr. Speaker, part of the things that they're talking about on their information is calling for a "transition to a single, fully public education system." Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give the opposition member yet another opportunity to clarify what her position is with regard to this, whether she wants to have one school division or multiple school divisions, Mr. Speaker. I want to give her the chance to put her position forward today. The people of Saskatchewan are waiting for that.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, it amazes me the length that that minister will go to avoid taking responsibility. And it honestly amazes me. I don't know how that minister can stand up and look down his nose at the growing crowd of people who disagree with him.

Despite growing opposition and all evidence, he still defends a bill that is the peak, the absolute peak of arrogance, Mr. Speaker. It tells the people of the province that the Sask Party doesn't trust them to elect trustees to run their schools. It's father knows best, Mr. Speaker. As that minister is slashing

funding, breaking contracts with teachers, and failing at all other legislation, what makes him think that he should be the only person in charge of our children's schools?

[14:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Well, Speaker, Mr. Speaker, Bill 63 allows us to do this: it allows us to stop taxpayers from suing taxpayers, and allows us to keep that money in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned the "Draft Carla Beck for Sask NDP leader" website, and Mr. Speaker, maybe it's people making mischief; I don't know. But on that web page, when it talks about RealRenewal, these are some of the things that that member stands for: "The current system is not perfect." They go on to say, and I quote, "... there should be a provincial education ombudsman to turn to when boards make decisions that negatively impact our children and communities, or when they act without due process or transparency." So Mr. Speaker, does she support one board? Does she support two boards? Does she support an ombudsman? What's her position, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — We'll hear your point of order.

**POINT OF ORDER**

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition used the term that I found unparliamentary. He said, instead of the Premier answering the question, a puppet of the Premier, which happens to be a minister of the Crown. I don't think that's appropriate for this Chamber, and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw and apologize to the minister.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I would withdraw and apologize for that characterization.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Whip, the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Phillips:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 334.

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Whip has ordered the response to question 334.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

## SECOND READINGS

## Bill No. 68

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 68 — *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to be able to rise in the Assembly this afternoon to be able to enter into the debate on these bills as they're being introduced.

*The Fuel Tax Amendment Act* is amending an Act from 2000. That was the previous date of *The Fuel Tax Act*. It hasn't really been amended very much at all since it came into being, and of course that particular bill, *The Fuel Tax Act, 2000* repealed *The Fuel Tax Act, 1987*. So it looks like these bills are pretty stable as they go and don't require a lot of amendment.

But in this case, we see a couple of significant changes in *The Fuel Tax Act, 2000* and in particular some changes to the tax exemptions, Mr. Speaker, for various types of fuel. We know in many cases that propane had been tax exempt for quite some time, as has marked diesel fuel. So a couple of changes being made here. And I guess I don't have a lot of comments to be made at this point. This is a fairly technical bill, but we'll want to raise a couple of questions here for the record today.

This is a question I've been trying to ask of the various ministers as we go through the estimates process and the budget examination process because one of the things we heard last year from the Minister of Finance was how important it was to do a very close examination of everything. Everything needs to be on the table and the notion that there would be a transformational change in the way this government does business.

Now I often wonder when you've been in government for eight or nine years why you would choose that as your particular time to examine things. Typically I think a functioning government would be examining their programs on a regular basis and looking for those transformational changes as they come up. But we had this announcement last June when the budget came down that there would be transformational change. There wasn't a lot of details on that at the time, Mr. Speaker, and of course there was a lot of promises being made at the time that everything would be looked at and everything would be on the table.

The trouble is when we look at these types of decisions that are coming down now to put more money in the GRF [General Revenue Fund], Mr. Speaker, it's really difficult to find out from this government exactly what thinking there was behind these changes, or was it simply, as was pointed out in question period, this whole approach of ready, shoot, and then aim, Mr. Speaker, where we're looking at line items in the budget planning process. Is that where this comes from? And oh, libraries, what the heck, let's just stroke that one off. Or you know, let's just run through a random list of programs and look

at the ones that we don't like, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it's alarming when we see a government that refuses to do the hard examination and looks at it more on a popularity contest, or not at all, just on a whim of the conversation that may have been had in the airport somewhere with a random person that they encounter. So I think the rigour and the sort of honesty in approaching policy seems to be a little lacking in the approach that we see right now.

So when we look at the changes that are being made in *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act*, you have to ask those questions. One of the changes that's being added now is the use of marked diesel fuel for heating is now an authorized purpose. So my question will be, well how is that part of transformational change? How does that apply to your desire to ensure that all of your activities and everything you fund is part of the core function of government? Because we see that as a justification for getting rid of programs like perhaps the community pasture program, which has served a very important function in our cattle industry for decades, Mr. Speaker. Same thing with the Grain Car Corporation, again serving a very important function in the transportation of grain in this province, and yet all of a sudden it's not core, with no reasoning, no logic, just sort of a feeling or something that they don't like about it. And then all of a sudden it's gone.

So I want to know and would want to know, why exactly are we changing the use of marked diesel fuel for heating? What was the policy analysis that was used? What was the rubric? What was the checklist? What was the thorough vetting of *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act*? And how is that compared against other programs like perhaps podiatry for seniors or funerals for people on social assistance? What was the core value? What is the core value checklist? What are the core values of this government, Mr. Speaker? This is something that's really hard to pin down, and it makes us wonder what's coming next in budgets to come.

So we see this change. The marked diesel fuel is now being exempted, and we're going to have to get some information in terms of what kind of financial impact that will have, what kind of financial analysis was done at the time. And of course the other change that received more attention, more attention in the news was the one where a previous exemption of 100 per cent has now been reduced to 80 per cent, and that is for marked diesel fuel for farmers who are primary producers of renewable resources.

And so again we're going to have the same questions there for the minister in terms of what analysis was done. Was there a higher percentage that was on the table? Was there a lower percentage that was on the table? How did 20 per cent, under the policy analysis that was done, come to be the final figure? Were there presentations? Were there consultations? What sort of policy rubric is being looked at? Is there a framework? Is there a checklist? What are the core values that are being applied here, because you know what, Mr. Speaker? I'm quite afraid that there's nothing, that there's just sort of, again this group of people looking at line items and saying, oh geez, maybe we could get another 10 million there or four million there or a couple of hundred thousand here.

And when we see what's happened with the libraries now where, I believe it was around \$4 million that was going to be cut. And then all of a sudden, oh well, I guess we can change that, and it's gone. We saw that with the venture-sponsored funds where the minister announced it in the budget and then a few days later had a consultation meeting with some people that were impacted and then changed it, went to cabinet and changed it after the budget was introduced, Mr. Speaker.

So the list is long of the mismanagement that this government seems to bring to bear with the bills that are brought before the House and the programs that they're attempting to dismantle or take away, Mr. Speaker. And I mean, we see it even in terms of things like the research and development tax rebate. I'll have more comment on that when the next bill is brought forward in debate here.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, we do have a lot of questions about these types of bills and how the government is actually making the decisions that they're making. It seems to be kind of by the seat of the pants, Mr. Speaker, where they're sort of reacting rather than having any sort of long-term plan.

We heard a lot of big talk from the minister last year in the budget about how this was going to be done. We've heard big talk from the Premier about everything's on the table and everything's going to be reviewed. And yet when we're questioning ministers in committee, turns out that no, that wasn't on the table and that wasn't on the table either and the things that we like the best aren't on the table, but the things that we don't like are on the table.

Mr. Speaker, that's no way to run a government, and it's certainly no way to represent the people of Saskatchewan. And that's their elected function to do; as government they should be representing the people that elected them. But we see over and over again that they choose to represent a select few, those who have access to them. And that's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

So I think as far as this bill goes, we'll have a lot of questions for the minister in committee, and we'll want to be able to ask some of the more technical questions there about how these decisions were made. But at this point, I think I'm prepared to conclude my comments on Bill No. 68, *An Act to amend The Fuel Tax Act, 2000*.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 68, *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Second reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 68, *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act* be committed to

the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

### Bill No. 69

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Doherty that **Bill No. 69 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's my pleasure to rise to speak today to Bill No. 69, *An Act to amend The Income Tax Act, 2000*.

There's a number of changes that are being reflected in this bill, many of them reflecting indications from the minister in the budget. There's a whole list of things that are being changed here in this bill. He certainly described them fairly succinctly in his speech on April 24th when he moved the reading. I guess that was just yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

So there's quite a bit of information in terms of what is being done in this bill. I just want to comment particularly today on one of the specific changes to section 56.3 of *The Income Tax Act, 2000*. And what we see here is a changing to a formula. These formulas are quite something to look at, Mr. Speaker. And if you look at the formula in section 56.3, it is quite something to behold. And I won't put Hansard through the effort of trying to replicate that in *Hansard* because there's lots of mathematical brackets and parentheses, three different types of parentheses.

So it's just for, you know, if people listening or people reading this want to look at it, they would have to look at the section as it existed until now, and that's section 56.3, and then look at clause 16 of the new Act where it's changing the formula for the tax on credit unions, Mr. Speaker.

If you look at the explanatory notes that this section is reflecting to, it talks about . . . I'm just going to find it here. Section 16 in the explanatory notes. Oh, here it is. It says that:

Section 56.3 is being amended to phase out the special provision that allows credit unions to apply the small business tax rate to taxable income in excess of the \$500,000 small business threshold. The phase-out will occur over four years beginning in 2017.

So what this signals to us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that credit unions are now under attack by the changes in this one section of *The Income Tax Act*. And I'll share with you why that is.

[14:45]

This has been something that's been in place, and the role of credit unions in Saskatchewan and in the financial institutions of this province is very clear and very unique, Mr. Speaker. It's documented. It's well known. And the federal government

actually recognized that for quite some time, but took that away, I believe, in 2014. And at the time, we had the previous Finance minister of this province indicate that that wasn't going to happen here, Mr. Speaker.

And I just want to share with the Assembly today what the Finance minister said on April 8th, 2014. And this is what he said:

As part of the development of the budget, Mr. Speaker, we were able to carefully assess the implications of the federal tax change on both the provincial tax system and on Saskatchewan credit unions. We were also able to consider the importance of Saskatchewan's credit unions to the provincial economy through the dominant role they play in financing the growth of Saskatchewan's small and medium sized businesses.

In Saskatchewan there are 55 credit unions operating 297 branches in 264 communities. Credit unions are the only financial institution in 162 communities in Saskatchewan. Credit unions were very appreciative of our decision. Keith Nixon, CEO of SaskCentral said, "It is clear the Saskatchewan government recognizes the contributions credit unions have made to the communities of this province."

As a result of this assessment, I was pleased to announce in the 2014-15 budget that our government will not follow the federal measure and will instead retain, for provincial tax purposes, the special income tax reduction for credit unions.

So there you have it, Mr. Speaker. There's the former Finance minister indicating that government's awareness and appreciation of the important role that credit unions play, not only in small communities. In my hometown, Lafleche, that's the only banking institution left in the town of Lafleche. There used to be two or three and now it's down to one, and it's the credit union, Mr. Speaker.

And so that is I think a sign that this government is turning its back on small- to medium-sized businesses, and it's turning its back on smaller communities here in Saskatchewan that are served so importantly by the credit union system.

If you look at the budget document from '14-15 you'll see more of the same language, Mr. Speaker. And I'll quote here:

Controlling spending, as opposed to raising taxes, was the choice Government made as the best way forward. Not all of the choices were easy but they reflect Government's commitments and priorities to maintain steady growth.

Government has also chosen to maintain the current provincial tax provisions for credit unions, including the special income tax reduction and exemption from paying the provincial capital tax, recognizing the restraints credit unions face related to raising capital as well as their important place in the economy of our province.

So there in the budget of '14-15 again we see this government's recognition that the way credit unions are able to raise capital is

very, very different than the chartered banks, Mr. Speaker. And that's something I think that's been borne out through the history of the credit union movement here in Saskatchewan.

In fact if you look at the history of my own hometown's credit union, it was the first rural credit union established in this province, in the late 1930s. And there was a special film that was produced in 1962 celebrating the 25th anniversary. And I've seen that film, Mr. Speaker. It's called *Neighbourly Dollars* and it tells the story of farmers faced with years and years of drought who were still surviving, but needed access to capital. And there was no bank that would loan them the money, so a bunch of people got together and pooled their capital together, those that could afford it. And the story tells about the first farmer who came forward and said, I will invest in your bank. I will invest in your credit union.

They followed the movement of farmers in Quebec and farmers in Germany who recognized that the chartered banks' interests were not looking out for the small business, for the small farmer, for the small entrepreneur, for the new young people entering into the business world, or ... Well farming is business, Mr. Speaker. So that's what the credit union movement has done in this province and it continues to do so.

And three years ago we had a minister of Finance who said yes, yes to credit unions; yes, we recognize the importance. Now he was from a small town, Mr. Speaker, and maybe that's why. Maybe he was hearing from the people and understood the importance of the credit union. But we see a complete rejection of that in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. And this section number 11, or whatever section's changing — 56.3, I'm going to pull it out again to make sure I get it right. That is the one that is changing what's happening to credit unions here in Saskatchewan. It's changing the face of credit unions. This is section 16 of this bill that we're talking about right now, and its impact is going to be significant.

Credit unions have produced some pretty good materials in terms of why this is important, how they are the engines of growth. Credit unions are the engines of growth here in Saskatchewan, and in 2016 they produced a document saying engines of growth, Mr. Speaker. And I'm just going to share with the House here some of the things that the credit union was saying and why this tax exemption is so very important. This is by the CEO [chief executive officer], Keith Nixon, and the president, Russ Siemens, and this is what they've said and I'm going to quote:

We invite elected officials to review this brochure which describes the way Saskatchewan credit unions are helping grow the economy. We are highlighting credit union investments in local communities and the range of ways credit unions support Saskatchewan's economic growth. This brochure provides a statistical summary of the benefits credit unions provide to the economy and to their 472,000 members across Saskatchewan.

We listened with interest on June 1st as the Saskatchewan Finance minister delivered the provincial budget. Saskatchewan's government is embarking on transformative change in an effort to continue to support economic growth but to also bring the budget back to



balance.

Saskatchewan's credit union system is also undergoing transformative change. Several factors are driving transformative change within the credit union system, including the torrid pace of technological change, our members' increasing desire to access financial services remotely, new national and international compliance measures, and federal legislative changes to the second tier of the credit union system.

Credit unions are exploring new technologies to ensure their members also have access to the latest conveniences and security measures when accessing financial services such as mobile banking and remote deposits. Credit unions are striving to improve their operating efficiency in order to meet new capital and liquidity requirements for financial institutions. And nationally credit unions are collaborating on revamping in clearing and settling and payment systems to respond to changes in federal legislation.

And they go on to say at the end that:

We encourage Saskatchewan MLAs to balance the goals of economic growth and fiscal prudence with competitive fairness in our taxation system.

And, Mr. Speaker, the change that you see in front of us today is exactly the opposite of that. It has now said there will be no more competitive fairness for the credit unions in this province, and that is very, very unfortunate.

One of the things that the credit unions have also shared is some information in terms of the change that this is being proposed. So we know that in this budget, that government has announced the phase-out of the small tax business rate for credit unions. What is this going to cost, Mr. Speaker?

I had a discussion with the minister in committee about this, and we'll talk about it a little bit more when this bill comes to the committee stages, but they're saying that this is going to cost the credit union system over \$11 million per year by 2019 when this kicks in.

So you are taking a huge hit for these credit unions to be able to continue to support economic growth in small communities, economic growth like in the communities like Carrot River and Nipawin. I mean these are the communities that need the support of the credit unions to be able to bring forward these ideas, the small- and medium-size businesses that the credit unions serve, the farming operations that the credit unions serve, Mr. Speaker.

Credit unions, they say in their article here that "Credit unions used that capital [that \$11 million] to support lending opportunities for small and medium businesses, agriculture producers and consumers. [And of course] the capital also supports community impact investments with local businesses, community projects, and programs."

And I can't tell you, before I got elected, Mr. Speaker, how many times the credit union came to the aid of community organizations when they had projects they wanted to get off the

ground, either through corporate donations or through special funding, lending activities. So this is something I think that's going to affect communities large and small. It's going to affect non-profits. It's going to affect local businesses and certainly agriculture producers, and in the end run, for sure, consumers.

And there's a little bit of background I want to share with you too as well here, Mr. Speaker. "Saskatchewan's small business tax deduction for credit unions was designed to accumulate capital in cooperative financial institutions." That's what this deduction is for. It's a very deliberate one that makes a lot of sense, Mr. Speaker, and allows these co-operative financial institutions the access to capital that they needed to accumulate.

Now what do banks do when they need capital? They just issue shares and they trade them on public exchanges. It's that simple. Credit unions can't do that. They don't issue shares like the banks do, and which makes them unable to benefit from the federal incentives that banks have like generous capital gains exemptions.

So there are plenty of exemptions that the banking institutions are able to access. Credit unions can't access them. And now we're cutting the legs out from the one thing that helped them stay competitive.

I think that's all I'm going to share on that for now, Mr. Speaker. I know the credit unions have issued a press release, and they're very concerned about the impact of this change. And I think consumers, I think agricultural producers, small businesses, medium-sized businesses, small communities, NGOs [non-governmental organization], all of these folks are going to be severely impacted by this one change, where really it's giving an imbalance to the chartered banks. Chartered banks can access, through share issuing, various kinds of capital. And so this was only fair. That's all that this exemption was, Mr. Speaker, was creating fairness, and we see a government that's just ripping it away. So that's another legacy that this government will have.

One other thing I do want to touch on today, Mr. Speaker, is changes to section 63.3. And basically what I'd like to do here, Mr. Speaker, is ask the government a few questions because what this change does . . . It's in reference to research and development tax credits. We see a government that had . . . There is a tax credit in existence right now, but it's non-refundable. So what has this government done? Well they've changed it so that it is now a refundable tax credit.

But I'm just really puzzled, Mr. Speaker, because we've had this discussion before in this House. And we have a Premier who clearly indicated that he was not in favour of refundable tax credits; he looks at them as grants. And if you'll recall, Mr. Speaker, that was in relation to the refundable film employment tax credit, which was a refundable tax credit. And what did this government do? They turned it into a non-refundable tax credit, which basically ended the film industry here in this province. So now all of a sudden we have a government who says, oh I guess we really do like refundable tax credits, but only in the context of the research and development for corporations.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there are many things that I would like to speak to in relation to this bill, but I think those are the two

most egregious ones, and we'll certainly want to be able to ask questions of the minister in terms of, again, the policy decisions that are being made, the core analysis, how this fits into transformational change, what sort of policy rubric was used. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that the people of Saskatchewan are going to rue the day when this bill goes through because of the terrible changes that are being thrust upon the credit union system, but also the inconsistencies in policy that we see from this government.

So at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I believe that that will be the extent of my comments here in the House. And so I will conclude my comments on Bill No. 69, *An Act to amend The Income Tax Act, 2000*.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the member that Bill No. 69, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Second reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 69, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2017* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the hard work of our committees this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:59.]



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### TABLING OF REPORTS

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| The Speaker..... | 2289 |
|------------------|------|

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Wall.....         | 2289       |
| Wotherspoon ..... | 2289, 2290 |
| Reiter .....      | 2289       |
| Chartier .....    | 2289       |
| Fiaz.....         | 2290       |
| Ottenbreit .....  | 2290       |

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Carr.....      | 2290 |
| Vermette ..... | 2290 |
| Chartier ..... | 2291 |
| Forbes .....   | 2291 |
| Rancourt.....  | 2291 |
| Beck.....      | 2291 |
| Sproule.....   | 2292 |
| Belanger ..... | 2292 |
| McCall .....   | 2292 |
| Sarauer .....  | 2292 |
| Meili .....    | 2293 |

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

|   |      |
|---|------|
| <b>Moosomin and District Regional Park Named Park of the Year</b> |      |
| Bonk.....   | 2293 |
| <b>Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Recipient</b>                     |      |
| Meili .....   | 2293 |
| <b>Care of Older Adults Conference</b>                            |      |
| Lambert .....   | 2293 |
| <b>Optimist International Oratorical Contest</b>                  |      |
| Sarauer .....   | 2294 |
| <b>Provincial Skills Competition Engages Youth</b>                |      |
| Kaeding.....  | 2294 |
| <b>Paddling Club Wins Medals at Club Crew Championships</b>       |      |
| Wyant.....  | 2294 |
| <b>Wholesale Trade Numbers Strong</b>                             |      |
| Bradshaw .....  | 2295 |

#### QUESTION PERIOD

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>Details of Land Transactions</b>                                      |      |
| Wotherspoon .....  | 2295 |
| Harrison.....  | 2295 |
| <b>International Trade and Provincial Economy</b>                        |      |
| Wotherspoon .....  | 2296 |
| Harrison.....  | 2296 |
| <b>Children in Provincial Care</b>                                       |      |
| Rancourt.....  | 2297 |
| Beaudry-Mellor .....   | 2297 |
| <b>Support for Vulnerable Children and Youth in the North</b>            |      |
| Belanger.....  | 2297 |
| Ottenbreit .....   | 2298 |
| <b>Intent of <i>The Interpretation Amendment Act</i></b>                 |      |
| Sarauer .....  | 2298 |
| Wyant.....   | 2298 |
| <b><i>The Education Amendment Act</i> and Operation of School Boards</b> |      |
| Beck.....  | 2299 |
| Morgan .....   | 2299 |

#### POINT OF ORDER

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Merriman .....    | 2299 |
| Wotherspoon ..... | 2299 |

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Phillips ..... | 2299 |
|----------------|------|

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

**ADJOURNED DEBATES**

**SECOND READINGS**

**Bill No. 68 — *The Fuel Tax Amendment Act, 2017***

**Sproule**.....2300

**Merriman** (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....2301

**Bill No. 69 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2017***

**Sproule**.....2301

**Merriman** (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee).....2304

# 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