



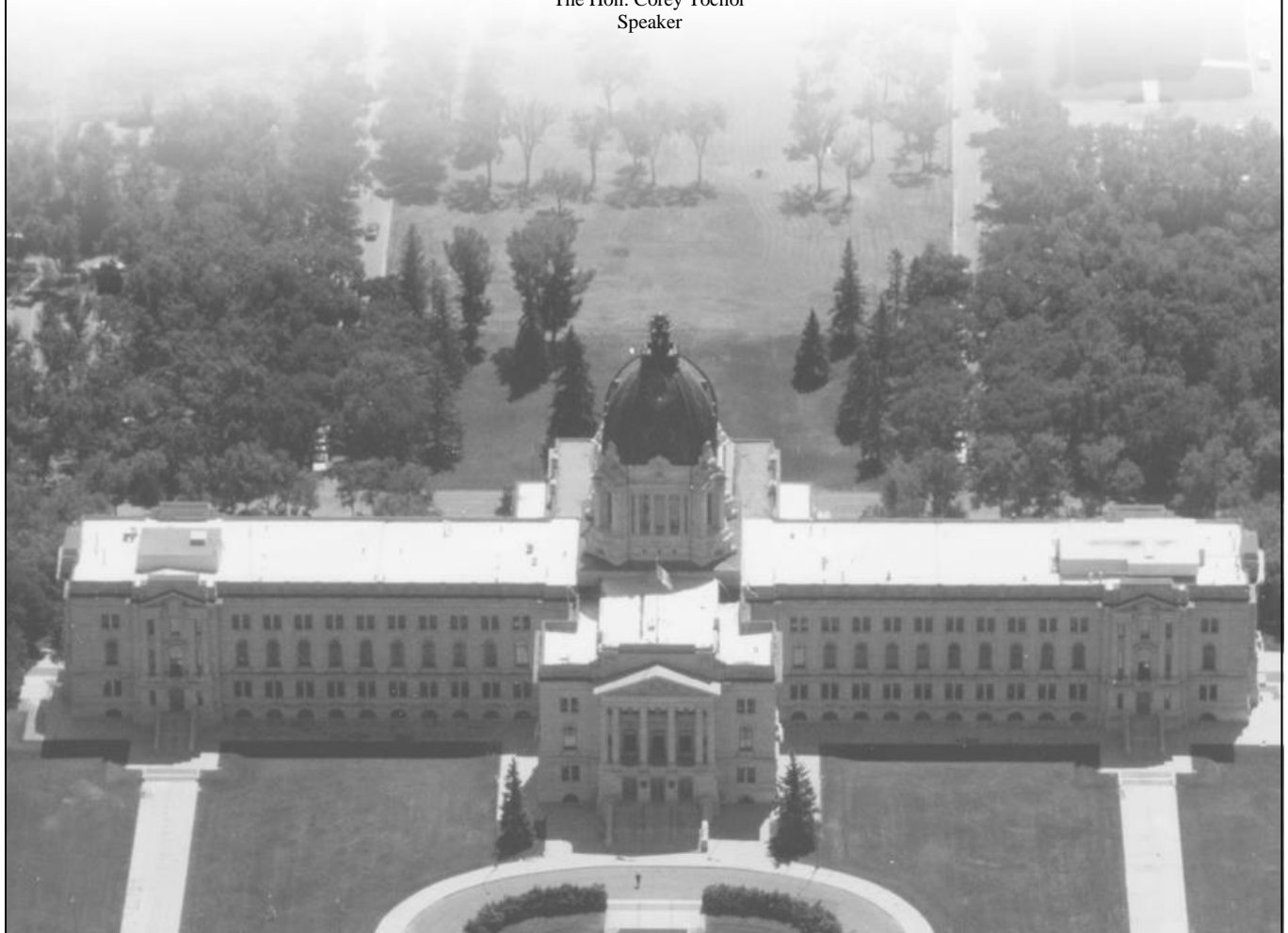
FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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 guests from Surgical Centres Inc. in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask everybody to just give me a wave as I introduce you. I have Dr. Mohamed Nanji, the chief executive officer; Ms. Fatima Fazal, the chief operating officer; and Ms. Janet Maier, the Regina Surgical Centre nurse manager.

Mr. Speaker, Surgical Centres is celebrating today their fifth anniversary of operating the Regina centre. Mr. Speaker, they have, in those five years, performed 22,000 surgeries that played a significant role in us being able to reduce our surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker. They're having an event later today which I'm very happy to be attending. I'm looking forward to the tour and the event. And, Mr. Speaker, I thank them again for their great work. I look forward to much more of it down the road.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to please welcome 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 the folks from the Surgical Centre here today. Dr. Nanji, Ms. Fazal, and Ms. Maier, congratulations on your fifth anniversary here in Saskatchewan. And with that I'd like to ask all my colleagues to join again in welcoming these folks to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I would like to introduce some special guests to the Legislative Assembly. Joining us today are 40 students, their teachers, and chaperones from 11 northern Saskatchewan high schools. They've travelled here from Black Lake, Cumberland House, Deschambault Lake, Dillon, Fond-du-Lac, La Loche, La Ronge, Pinehouse Lake, Stanley Mission, Southend, and Stony Rapids.

Mr. Speaker, these students are here today to participate in the 8th annual Charles Knight Youth Mentorship Program facilitated by the Provincial Capital Commission. This program gives high school students from northern Saskatchewan an opportunity to learn about the democratic process, to explore post-secondary educational opportunities and public sector career chances. And during their four-day stay, the students tour the University of Regina, the First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan Polytechnic Regina Campus, and the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] training academy. They also visit key Saskatchewan landmarks such as the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Government House, and our Legislative Building.

The program also provides the students the unique opportunity to meet the Lieutenant Governor and their MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and to speak to them in an informal setting.

This morning the students gained a better understanding and appreciation of how our democracy works by participating in a mock parliament. And I would like to thank you personally, Mr. Speaker, for facilitating the mock parliament right here in the Chamber. I invite all members to join me in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, we have a lot of northern guests here. And it is an honour to join the minister and just to take a little bit of time; I'm not going to ask for extended leave. But I just want to say to those students — we had a chance to have a little bit of a dialogue at lunchtime — you know where many of the challenges are, and you know that there are many people behind you.

This is your Legislative Assembly. You're the reason many of us are here — our young people, our community members, our children. And I just want to say to you, enjoy yourself, learn, take the experience you have . . . And today you're going to take part in the House and the sitting. And like I said to you earlier, there are roles that we all have to do, and we do our roles the best we can, serving the people that we represent.

So I just want to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. To the chaperones and to all those that work to make it possible for 40 of you to be here, whether you're from the Athabasca or Cumberland constituencies, I wish you well, and I welcome you and honour you here in your Legislative Assembly. Could I ask all my members to welcome them to their House.

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

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Docherty: — Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery, it is indeed my honour to introduce the Special Olympics Regina Raiders soccer team as well as some amazing school students from St. Luke high school.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the team today — just give us a wave when I say your name — are Stefan Anderson, Eric Black, Alex Chupik, Lucas Faye, Tyler Haddad, Whitney Haddad, Cody Holgate, Jordan Horvath, Zane Lauritsen, Bronya Rieger, Jesse Skidmore, Ryan Uleryk, and the coaches, Kurt Anthony, Samantha Stom-Anthony, Taylor Stom, Tammy Schultz, and Jacob Uleryk, and also their teachers.

Samantha Anthony coaches the Regina Raiders Special Olympics team. She has also brought four of her incredible St. Luke students. In addition to the school work, holding down job and home responsibilities, these young citizens volunteer their time with a variety of service organizations, including Special Olympics. And the St. Luke students in attendance are Daniel Barth, Kobe Charbonneau, Stephanie Santos, and Porsha Theriault.

Mr. Speaker, some of the soccer team's highlights: they qualified for the Special Olympics Saskatchewan summer provincial games this June in Moose Jaw. They plan to win the gold at those games and progress on to the national summer games in Nova Scotia in 2018. They played five years in the mainstream Regina Soccer Association indoor soccer league and improved their personal win-loss-tie record every year. They played four years in the local WCP [World Class Players] Cup, the world cup soccer tournament, this year playing our Saskatoon Special Olympics Rivals in the final game, and they won 4 to 1.

Mr. Speaker, on a more individual note, we have two members who were part of the Special Olympics Team Canada who won silver medals at the World Winter Games in Austria. Two of our team members were married last summer: Dwight and Bronya Rieger. They proudly represent our province, our city, the team, and Special Olympics every time they step out in the field. Their most important goal is to always be a team and to exhibit the best sportsmanship.

Mr. Speaker, the MLAs had an opportunity to play this team a couple of years ago. That's where the member from Melfort actually ruptured his Achilles. And the Finance minister got the nickname Red Light, and he was actually pulled off the field by one of the opposing Raiders teammates . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, Red Light.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Olympics athletes' oath is something we can all live by: Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. The Raiders have their own motto based on the Special Olympics oath and it is simply: Let me be brave, as we feel that facing all of our challenges, both good and bad, head-on with grace and bravery, is how we want to live our lives. We're very proud of you.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a very grateful city and province, congratulations and welcome to your Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join briefly with the member opposite in welcoming these Special Olympians, these Raiders, to their Legislative Assembly to say, on behalf of the official opposition, great work. Keep on competing. Keep on striving. Keep on chasing that excellence and keep making us all very proud.

So again, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming the Raiders, the Special Olympians, the folks from St. Luke to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, to you, through you to all members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce another grade 10 class from Yorkton Regional High School in the west gallery. Accompanying them is their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich. As is customary, when they do come, they contact me through various sources for specific introductions. So with the group today, and I'll ask them to wave: Nikita Serada, Andy McLennan, Kelsey Banga, Bailey Read, Taylor Black, Garion Miller, and Dustin Schendel. I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the minister and my colleague from Cumberland in welcoming the students from northern Saskatchewan.

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

And in my Cree language I told them I'm very glad that they're here, and that they have nothing to fear in this house of democracy, and to point out that the staff and the chaperones and all those that organized this trip to bring these students to Regina should be commended as well.

But I want to tell the students that I'm very, very proud that you've made this trip and to come learn how the Assembly works, and that the North has a very bright future based on the fact that these young, motivated, disciplined, hard-working students are a tribute to not only themselves and their family and their communities, but to all Aboriginal people across the province. So you're the best. Keep up the great work, and welcome to your House.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce two

of my constituents, Baldeep Dhindsa with his father, Gurdip Dhindsa. Mr. Speaker, Baldeep is a very active volunteer in the Sikh Society of Regina, and also a very active volunteer in blood services such as blood donation camps and stem cell camps. He has a great personality.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all the members to join me in welcoming Baldeep and his father in their own Legislative Building.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with members in welcoming our guests from the North, all the guests that have been introduced. I especially want to say hello to the Raiders soccer team that's up in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. I had the chance to visit with them, and by coincidence I had quite a bit of Raiders memorabilia to use for pictures. Not sure how that happened. But we're pretty proud of them.

Mr. Speaker, though, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to members of the House, a guest that's seated in your gallery. He is the president and owner of On Ice Management. His name is John Graham. He is a great friend to the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years he's been the entrepreneur responsible for bringing NHL [National Hockey League] hockey to the province of Saskatchewan, as well as a number of events.

He's got his own storied career in sports, Mr. Speaker, especially motorsports. He was a professional race driver, actually won Le Mans, which is, if you follow race car driving, that is a huge feat. There's a few other trophies that seem more important to the rest of us that have gotten to know about them than to John, because that's the kind of guy that he is. He just sort of puts his head down and gets on with the next project.

And, Mr. Speaker, that brings me to this confirmation, that the next project was announced earlier today that we're going to see some amazing European football or soccer at Mosaic Stadium on July 22nd when Valencia Spain FC [Football Club] plays New York Cosmos. And so this is going to be very high-level soccer for the province and at Mosaic, something we wanted to see at that stadium, where there could be other uses for it. So we're grateful to John Graham for that promotion. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming John to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Requesting leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's truly my honour to join with my colleagues here today to welcome the students from northern

Saskatchewan to their Assembly. I had the opportunity to meet with some of you here today and valued that opportunity. But the words that have been expressed on the floor of this Assembly conveying our care your way, and our thanks and appreciation for how you live your lives and the commitment you take on and your hard work and what that means — not just for you and for your family but for our entire province — is something that I'd like to reiterate. So I'd like to extend to these northern leaders just thanks and encouragement from a very grateful opposition and a grateful province.

[13:45]

I'd like to join with the Premier in a quick shout-out to the Special Olympians that are here today, the Raiders soccer team. I know some of those characters up there, and they're good guys. I see the former goaltender for the Rosemont Outdoor Hockey League sitting up there, a good friend, good person — cheers for the wrong NHL team. But it's a pleasure to welcome them to their Assembly.

And joining with the Premier, it's really nice to join in welcoming John Graham here today, a remarkable story here in your own accomplishments in sport. And thank you so much for your relationship with Saskatchewan, and particularly bringing the NHL to Saskatchewan. Those are always special opportunities that we all take pride in.

And of course we're a province that exports incredible exports to the world — the finest agricultural products, potash, manufacturing goods. But we export NHL players to the world, Mr. Speaker, I think the largest per capita of anywhere else in the world. And it's something that we have a high level of pride for. So thank you for bringing the game back to us, and we wish you well with the project that you're currently engaged in.

So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming these very fine guests to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. 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 citizens of 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 sell off the Saskatchewan Transportation Company. They would like us all to know that STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] provides a vital service to many seniors, workers, and families throughout the province, and that 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 to drive the economy with parcel services 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 sell off the Saskatchewan Transportation Company, and to resume transportation services to the people of Saskatchewan.

It is supported by many good leaders and thousands and thousands of signatures. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again to present a petition opposing the Sask Party's cuts to spiritual care, Mr. Speaker. Just a short while ago in committee, Mr. Speaker, the minister told me that spiritual care, it was inequitable across the province. So instead of enhancing this valuable service, Mr. Speaker, the government has chosen to cut it. The petitioners point out that in this last budget the Sask Party has eliminated funding for spiritual care services within our health care facilities.

They point out that Saskatchewan will be the only province within Canada to not fund this support for patients, residents, and their families seeking wellness. They point out that the government, the Sask Party, hid their plan to scrap funding for spiritual care within health region facilities during the last election, which was just over a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

And they point out that spiritual care responds to the spiritual and emotional needs of patients and residents, and provides a compassionate listening presence in times of crisis; and that spiritual care supports families, patients, and residents in making difficult decisions at a difficult time, Mr. Speaker; and that spiritual care can provide support for all families, patients, and residents in obtaining comfort and support regardless of their faith or belief, 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 reinstate the funding for spiritual care services in this province's health region facilities.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in my place under the direction and order of the member from Prince Albert Northcote and her call for anyone in the Assembly to help present a petition from the city of bridge,

Prince Albert, to help that community fight for a second bridge.

And the prayer, Mr. Speaker . . . Before I get to the prayer, I wanted to read parts of the petition: that the need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today. Prince Albert and all the communities north of Prince Albert and all the businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution. So the prayer reads as follows, that we ask:

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

And as we do day after day, week after week, and month after month, and page after page, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to present yet another petition. And this particular petition has been signed by people from St. Louis and Prince Albert. And I so present.

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

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

And 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 this term of the Assembly, and that Saskatchewan government call upon workplaces within Saskatchewan within the private sector to eliminate the wage gap between women and men.

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

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide a petition to increase the funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis. Due to a cut in funding, Prince Albert mobile crisis unit has had to close its doors during daytime hours, resulting in a loss of resource to people in distress. The daytime

closure of Prince Albert mobile has put stress on Prince Albert Police Service, Victoria Hospital, and other agencies who may not be trained and/or qualified to provide counselling and intervention services to clients. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that emergency services can happen at any time and we need to have those crisis intervention workers available to help provide services at those times.

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, individuals across the province realize that this third-largest city in our province needs and deserves crisis intervention services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But this particular petition was signed by individuals from Canwood and Prince Albert. 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 in support of sexual abuse prevention curriculum in Saskatchewan. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: to the fact that Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of sexual child abuse in Canada; to the fact that victims of childhood sexual abuse are four times more likely to commit suicide; and that there is currently no comprehensive elementary or secondary curriculum regarding the prevention and reporting of sexual child abuse in Saskatchewan.

They also want to remind us that, as a province, it's our shared responsibility to protect children and youth, to educate them as every child has the right to be protected and to be safe. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan take immediate and concrete action to develop and implement Erin's law; and that such legislation would ensure that a comprehensive health education program be developed and implemented in grades pre-K through 12, along with training for school staff on the prevention of sexual child abuse.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions have come in from all across the province. Those that I present today are signed by people in Regina, Craven, and Balgonie. I do 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 highest rates of domestic violence amongst all provinces in Canada. One in three Canadian workers have been impacted by domestic violence, and for many of them the violence will follow them to their workplace. Victims of domestic violence should not be further

victimized at work. Mr. Speaker, employers lose \$77.9 million annually due to the direct and indirect impacts of domestic violence.

Manitoba has already enacted legislation similar to our private member's bill, and Ontario is on its way to enacting legislation that ensures job security for all survivors 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 violence in Saskatchewan.

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

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition calling on the government to restore funding to post-secondary institutions. Mr. Speaker, students in this province pay among the highest tuition rates in the country for post-secondary education, and now we've seen a decrease in the funding for colleges and universities of over 5 per cent for all of those institutions.

We've already seen that this is resulting in increased tuition at the University of Regina and job losses at Sask Polytechnic, at the University of Regina, and at the University of Saskatchewan. And we've also seen a decrease in the aid available for students who want to study, as well as the elimination of rebates on tuition and books. Mr. Speaker, all of these add up to less affordable, less accessible education — a very unnecessary barrier to an important investment in our future.

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, Mr. Speaker. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Monument to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After three years in the making, the monument to missing and murdered indigenous women and girls has been unveiled outside the Saskatoon police station. I would like to especially thank the

member from Saskatoon Fairview for her dedication and hard work on this monument.

This project was completed in collaboration with families of missing and murdered women, Elders, public consultation, and Saskatchewan artist, Lionel Peyachew. Mr. Speaker, this monument was inspired by Carol Wolfe, whose daughter, Karina, went missing over six years ago. This monument will serve as a place of peace to remember those who have gone missing, as well as provide a healing space for communities to remember their loved ones. It serves as a beacon of hope to all, to show support and condolences for the families who have lost sisters, daughters, mothers, and friends.

I feel hopeful that this monument will serve as an important reminder to the people of Saskatchewan to educate each other on the heartache too many communities are feeling after losing a loved one. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members join me in thanking the organizers and artists for creating this wonderful work of art, and thanking the Saskatoon Police Service for providing a space for this important piece of history to be displayed for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Canada 150 Mural

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday, February 24th, Prince Albert's contribution to the Canada 150 Mosaic mural art project was unrevealed. The event took place at the Alfred Jenkins Field House, where it will remain in display in the main lobby.

Mr. Speaker, over the last year, adults and children from Prince Albert skilfully and carefully hand painted hundreds of 4-inch tiles. These tiles were then placed so that they created a large mosaic mural. The mural is a beautiful display that depicts the buildings in our cities, First Nation teepees, children at play, and our forests and lakes, along with many other scenes.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the making of this mural is truly an example of a community uniting together to create something special. The tiles were given to people from all walks of life and from many cultural backgrounds. Public workshop sessions to paint the tiles were held at Mann Art Gallery and at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre. As well, tiles were brought to participants to paint at the P.A. [Prince Albert] Youth Residence, Prince Albert Collegiate Institute, YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Regional Newcomer Centre, the Sask Polytech culture, identity, and diversity class; and Caleb Village Senior Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the organizers of the Prince Albert mosaic mural art project and all the people who painted the tiles which then made up the mural. And I invite all members to stop in at the Alfred Jenkins Field House to view the mural the next time they are in Prince Albert. Thank you.

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

Children's Hospital Fundraising Gala

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 28th, I, along with the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and the member for Saskatoon University had the opportunity to attend the Children's Hospital's Jeans and Jewels fundraising gala at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, the fundraising event provided guests with fine dining, and entertainment was provided by CCMA [Canadian Country Music Association] nominee, Tenille Arts. All proceeds raised through the event will go towards the various pediatric equipment needed at the new children's hospital in Saskatoon. The children's hospital will offer state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for facilities across our province by providing high-quality care, research, and innovation to our young patients.

Mr. Speaker, with the children's hospital nearly 50 per cent complete, the generous donations and sponsors help contribute to this specialized facility, which is set to open its doors in 2019.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my sincere congratulations and thank the generous families, staff, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for this event. The generous donations and sponsorships displayed at Jeans and Jewels Gala are a true testament of the people of Saskatchewan. Together we are working to support the improvement and quality of maternal and children's health care in our province. Saskatchewan's first children's hospital will accommodate kids, moms-to-be, and families.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in thanking everyone involved in making this night a success. Thank you.

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

Islamic Association of Saskatchewan Open House

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 22nd I had the pleasure of attending the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan's annual open house at the Copland Crescent mosque in Saskatoon, along with my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana. The IAS, the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan, is a non-profit organization that was first established in the 1970s. Today, under the umbrella of their three mosques, they accommodate a Muslim population of over 9,000, representing more than 50 nationalities. The community also has a full-time Islamic school that was established in 2000 and is currently providing schooling for 200-plus students.

Mr. Speaker, each year the IAS holds their open house in order to foster understanding and respect between the diverse and multi-religious communities of Saskatoon and throughout Saskatchewan. The event encourages people from all backgrounds to tour the mosque, listen to the call to prayer, observe prayer, get their questions answered, and to learn about Islam and Muslim peoples.

Mr. Speaker, this year the IAS hosted over 750 guests at its open house. Its tremendous success can be attributed to the

wonderful relationships the association has fostered in Saskatoon. The IAS regularly reaches out directly to other faith groups and ensures that their association is open to dialogue and engagement with everyone in Saskatchewan, not only during their open house but throughout the year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to join me today in thanking the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan for hosting such a wonderful event, and in recognizing their invaluable efforts to promote cultural and religious understanding in our province. Thank you.

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

Samuel McLeod Business Awards

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of attending the 27th annual Samuel McLeod Business Awards gala, which was hosted by the Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce on April 27th. The event, which was held in the Ches Leach Lounge, showcased and celebrated the best in local business. Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of presenting two awards: the Community Involvement Award to Mr. Mikes Steakhouse, and the Business Transformation Award to Gene's Cycle & Sports.

Other award recipients of the evening were Patricia Weir with Lawton Partners for Female Business Leader of the Year, Bryan T. Rindal with BTR Financial Planning for Male Business Leader of the Year, Prince Albert Habitat for Humanity for the Non-Profit Organization Award, the Rusty Owl for the new business venture award, Travelodge Prince Albert for the Service Award, Gateway Mall for the Marketing Award, the Prince Albert Winter Festival Society for the Tourism Award, Whitney Darchuk with Pure Athletics for the Young Entrepreneur Award. And I am pleased to announce that Redhead Equipment took home Business of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate all the winners and nominees and thank them for their contributions to our community. I'd also like to thank the chamber and sponsors for making the Samuel McLeod Business Awards possible. Thank you very much.

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

Ground Broken at Global Trade Exhibition Centre

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was excitement last week as ground was broken on the Global Trade Exhibition Centre at the Global Transportation Hub. The groundbreaking was attended by myself, the Minister of the Economy, the member from Moose Jaw North, the Regina Chamber of Commerce CEO [chief executive officer], and Brightenvue CEO Joe Zhou, among many others.

This \$45 million facility will be build by Brightenvue Development International and will include six buildings that will be a hub for imports from around the world with specific emphasis on Asia and exporting Saskatchewan goods to increasingly accessible global markets. The first two buildings are planned to be up and running by February of next year.

Mr. Speaker, this will be a great addition to the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] and provides a unique opportunity for investment as the GTH has its foreign trade zone designation. Brightenvue expects there to be around 300 businesses represented in the project when complete.

With capital investment expected to be more than \$200 million, Mr. Speaker, this is good news for the GTH, good news for Regina, and good news for Saskatchewan. I would invite all members to join me in acknowledging this investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Increase in Saskatchewan Building Permits

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely pleased to acknowledge that in Saskatchewan, year-over-year building permits jumped 13.2 per cent in March of this year. 13.2 per cent is the highest increase among the provinces, well ahead of the 1.5 per cent posted nationally and the six provinces who recorded declines.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is growing, and more and more people are choosing to live, to work, and raise their families in this great province. It is clear that choosing to come and stay in Saskatchewan, with the population increasing over 17,000 in 2016, an increase in residential permits by almost 27 per cent over March of last year, and one of the youngest populations in Canada, unlike under the NDP [New Democratic Party] government, when our province's young people were leaving in droves to seek opportunities in our neighbouring provinces.

Mr. Speaker, building permits totalling \$151.2 million in March of 2017, which is up from \$133.6 million in March of last year. Building permits are one of the best indicators for our growing economy. During this session, we have seen incredible growth in the population, in building permits, retail sales, wholesale trade, and manufacturing, which shows that our province and economy remain strong and resilient. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Before question period, I'd like to mention to the members that earlier today we were lucky enough to have a mock parliament in the Assembly with our students from the North. We had a mock question period that was . . . We had pretty good decorum. And we're about to start question period, and I hope we will have as good decorum as what we had in the mock parliament. And you will see vigorous debate of ideas and policies, but we shouldn't debate one's motives and characters of hon. members in this Assembly.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Details of Land Transactions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, irony is not dead in the Sask Party. Yesterday the Premier stood out in the rotunda. He huffed and he puffed and even wagged his finger at journalists, Mr. Speaker. He bragged he'd use money to sue the feds and he called on the Prime Minister to release documents. Mr. Speaker,

of course Saskatchewan people need their government to stand up for them. Of course we need to be able to act to stop Ottawa from simply forcing their scheme on Saskatchewan. And of course we need government to be transparent. But come on. The Premier should step out of his glass house before he starts throwing stones.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party hiked taxes by a billion dollars this year alone, on top of their \$1.5 billion carbon capture tax. And they're tying the hands of our cities and towns from defending themselves against the Sask Party in court. And, Mr. Speaker, time and time again the Sask Party's done all they can to hide and redact documents.

To salvage even an iota of credibility, will the Premier release some of his hidden documents today, like his supposed appraisal that he claimed justified the wild sales price in his GTH scandal that wasted millions of dollars?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate my hon. friend's preambles, even if they're not always of the non-fiction variety, Mr. Speaker. Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, I do agree in one point that he said. He said it's important for all of us to stand up for Saskatchewan's interests. Mr. Speaker, it's very important. In fact I think it's high time that our NDP opposition said very unequivocally that they would oppose the federally imposed carbon tax without qualifying it.

We have the newly elected member for Meewasin who has said he very expressly supported Mr. Trudeau's federally imposed carbon tax. We've had . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well we've got the . . . He said no; we've got the transcript, Mr. Speaker. There's a recording of his response to the Trudeau carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, this is a potential leader over there, a leader of the NDP. I would say to my hon. friend across the way, the interim leader of the NDP, before he lays down this leadership mantle and turns it over to someone else to be elected by the NDP, he needs to be very clear on his position, the NDP's position, against a federally imposed carbon tax in the province of Saskatchewan.

Here's the other parts of the preamble, Mr. Speaker, that were not correct. Mr. Speaker, as soon as there were concerns about the particular issue he raised, it was our government that turned the matter over to the Provincial Auditor. In fact we made available to the auditor every cabinet document. That doesn't happen all the time, Mr. Speaker. Moreover, we have accepted the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor.

And here's the good news: we just heard in a member's statement that land is selling out at the GTH, Mr. Speaker, at a value greater than what was paid. There haven't been millions lost. There were millions invested that were approved by the NDP that we carried out, but the characterization by my hon. friend is incorrect again.

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

Regina Bypass Project

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, so I guess the answer is no. How does this Premier honestly expect anyone to take him seriously about transparency when he refuses to be transparent himself, Mr. Speaker?

You know, the Sask Party won't even tell us how much of the \$2 billion being spent on the bypass and its massive overrun will stay in Saskatchewan. They just signed a contract with a foreign conglomerate but tell us just to trust them. Sixty-seven per cent of the companies, they say, are from the Saskatchewan, but they won't tell us how much of the work these companies got. They have no problem reading off a list of the companies from Saskatchewan, but when asked, when we asked the Minister of Highways to provide us a list of companies working on the project from out of province, he said we should ask SaskBuilds. So we asked SaskBuilds; they told us that they didn't have it either.

Mr. Speaker, instead of the grandstanding, would the Premier show some transparency and provide us with a list of companies from outside Saskatchewan who are working on the bypass and how much money they are taking out of Saskatchewan? This is about Saskatchewan jobs and taxpayers' money.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, just to correct the record, 71 per cent of the businesses that are working on the bypass are from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Those are the numbers; that's the information that we have from Regina Bypass Partners, Mr. Speaker. And as the member knows, the Government of Saskatchewan has signed a contract with the consortium to build the bypass, Mr. Speaker. They enter into all the contracts with respect to the subtrades that are working on that, Mr. Speaker.

Now in committee we were asked what the number of companies were that were working from outside the province. Certainly anyone with any math skills can do that calculation. And we've asked, Mr. Speaker . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, they laugh. Mr. Speaker, if 71 per cent of the companies, Mr. Speaker, if 71 per cent of the companies, Mr. Speaker, are from Saskatchewan, it's pretty easy to figure how many, what the percentage is of companies that are working outside Saskatchewan.

[14:15]

But, Mr. Speaker, we have asked Regina building bypass partners for the information. I indicated in committee that we would reach out and ask for that information. We've asked for that information, Mr. Speaker. I don't have it with me today, but if they provide it to us, Mr. Speaker, we're happy to tell the House what that information is.

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

Public-Private Partnerships

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, no answer. Of course the

question was about how much money is flowing to these companies outside Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So more grandstanding but no transparency.

And you know, time and time again, we see the Sask Party putting the interests of their party and the wealthy and the well-connected ahead of Saskatchewan people. You know, what we see is the Sask Party's mortgaged the future of our province with their costly schemes. Hundreds of millions of dollars, billions, in so-called partnerships with corporations who will collect money from Saskatchewan people for decades.

Mr. Speaker, P3s [public-private partnership] let the Sask Party make announcements, cut ribbons, put on the full dog-and-pony shows, but again it's Saskatchewan people who are being forced to pay the price, and they're on the hook for decades, Mr. Speaker.

For example, the Swift Current long-term care centre is worth \$108 million, but the Sask Party's forcing Saskatchewan people to pay more than two and a half times that amount — \$279 million, Mr. Speaker. That's on top of the hundreds of thousands of Saskatchewan dollars handed to companies with failed bids on this project.

Mr. Speaker, with the real costs of Sask Party mismanagement mounting, will the Premier at least admit that the Sask Party has failed with their costly P3 schemes?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in the member's preamble he's conveniently forgetting to note that part of the advantage of a P3 is that it contemplates maintenance throughout the life of the project, Mr. Speaker, at least for decades into the project, which is why, Mr. Speaker, an independent evaluation of the long-term care facility that he has raised indicates that it will save taxpayers \$60 million.

It's also why that same independent analysis has demonstrated that with the P3 projects undertaken by this government the savings have been about a half a billion dollars, Mr. Speaker, over all of the P3 projects undertaken by the Government of Saskatchewan.

Now he says, the Leader of the Opposition says, well these are just about ribbon cuttings and press releases. I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker, they're actually about a brand new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. They're about a bypass for the city that's been needed. They're about brand new schools in the province of Saskatchewan that have been needed because of population growth. Mr. Speaker, they're about projects like a long-term care facility in this province.

What we have seen, Mr. Speaker, in the last eight years is both a conventional and a P3 approach to building infrastructure. Why? Because this was ignored by members opposite for 16 years, including their last four years when they were sitting on about \$750 million and kept telling the people of North Battleford, you can wait. And he kept telling the people, those mental health patients that needed that hospital, you can wait.

We took a different approach on this side. We used a P3, Mr.

Speaker. They're saving money, and they're getting projects built finally in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Proposed Power Generation Facility

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, only this Premier could somehow try to pretend that he's saving people money with a project that went from \$400 million to \$2 billion and counting, Mr. Speaker — outrageous. You know, it's a bunch of bluster, Mr. Speaker. But they're forcing Saskatchewan people to pay the price.

And, you know, this is also true with the Sask Party and how they use the North. Today we heard the project at Black Lake is being put on ice. Mr. Speaker, before the election there was much fanfare about this project. They said it would create jobs and serve communities in the North.

Like pulp and paper in Prince Albert and countless other projects in the North, the Sask Party used them for political theatre before the election. Now nothing, Mr. Speaker, with yet another project put on hold. But while the needs in the North for affordable and stable power supply remain and the need for jobs in the North remain, we need this Premier to act. Will this Premier share if he has any real plan to support northern jobs and to support the North? Because frankly his photo ops and empty promises aren't cutting it.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, again we have to correct the preamble of the interim Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. The project, the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker, is three times larger than the original project that was envisioned. Mr. Speaker, the \$400 million price tag for the bypass, the \$400 million price tag for the bypass, Mr. Speaker, is with respect to the southern section. We've added the eastern section, Mr. Speaker, with bypasses at White City and Balgonie, Mr. Speaker, and we've added the western section with the connection up to Highway 11, Mr. Speaker. That's why the price is the price it's at.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the North, Mr. Speaker, SaskPower has not made a final decision with respect to the Tazi Twé project at Black Lake, Mr. Speaker. That decision is going to be made later on this year, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, SaskPower will proceed in a responsible manner when it comes to the provision of electricity in the North, Mr. Speaker. The requirements for electricity in the North, Mr. Speaker, are declining because some of the work at the potash mines, Mr. Speaker. So the requirement to build the facility might not be there, Mr. Speaker. But the decision at SaskPower which will be made in a responsible, fiscally responsible manner, Mr. Speaker, will be left to the board of directors at the SaskPower corporation.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Government Response to Shooting in La Loche

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The people of the North deserve better than that. It has almost been a year and a half since the La Loche school shooting. A year and a half, Mr. Speaker, and people are still suffering. With us today is Charlene Klyne. And Charlene was a substitute and one of seven people injured in shootings that left four other people dead. Charlene survived but she is still suffering.

Minister after minister and the Premier said kind words and promised that victims would be appropriately supported, but sadly, Mr. Speaker, Charlene and others are still waiting. Mr. Speaker, they have been through enough already. So why is this government making these victims still battle with medical, financial, and WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] issues?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's an honour to have these people in the Assembly today. And of course our thoughts and prayers continue to go with the communities and the families in La Loche and those that are impacted by that tragic day over a year ago, Mr. Speaker.

I believe this government has been fairly responsive in the response to La Loche. I mean, a lot of the neighbouring regional health authorities, along with ministry supports, and others responded very quickly. The now Children's Advocate was the person we had them touching base with on the ground to make sure that services that were needed were accessed, Mr. Speaker.

And since the shooting, before the shooting, Mr. Speaker, we had been up to the community to hear what some of the needs and what some of the wishes in the community were, Mr. Speaker, and we're in a process of responding to those, as well as post the tragic event, Mr. Speaker, responding in a lot of different ways, Mr. Speaker.

We know that mental health supports have been increased in the North, although we always know there's more work to do. If there's still a need, we're going to continue to try and address those to the best of our ability and with those partners in the North as well as the regional health authorities, as well as increasing access to care, whether it's psychiatric or other care, through increased clinics, increased psychiatrists, or whether it's through remote presence technology, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to support them in any way we can.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: you have not responded to that school shooting crisis in La Loche. Let me be perfectly clear: the victims need more than words, Mr. Speaker. They have heard it all before.

Earlier this year the Premier said, and I quote:

We witnessed an unimaginable event in a place where young people go to learn and be nurtured by teachers and teacher-aides who have a passion for them.

The Premier went on to say:

We resolve once again as a province to walk with you, to remember the lives that were lost far too soon, and to turn the pain of loss into seeds of hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, kind words, promises, speeches, and tweets. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan demand to know: when will the Sask Party take real action?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I know that with the community as a whole through the regional authorities, through the ministry, that Health has been very engaged in the events post the tragic events in La Loche. As well as I know that officials from WCB, Justice, Social Services, and others have met with the Klyne family.

Services that have been provided, Mr. Speaker, include counselling, WCB wage placement, expenses for housekeeping, home renovations to accommodate loss of vision, travel for medical, rent in Saskatoon while they were also paying rent in La Ronge, Mr. Speaker.

I do know the WCB wage replacement is based on prior years' income, which were part time, but again our government introduced WCB coverage for substitute teachers. Under the NDP this would not have qualified, Mr. Speaker. And again, you know, there can't be enough said for the community of La Loche and the tragedy that they suffered, but this government will continue to stand with our friends from La Loche.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, Charlene has done the best she can. She didn't ask for this to happen to her and her family. Yes, she worked part-time as a substitute teacher, but her injuries from this school shooting are full-time and permanent. She has 13 pellets throughout her chest and neck. Doctors recommended massage therapy to remedy the pain, because surgery may be too dangerous. WCB won't allow for those proper treatments.

Charlene's insurance, not government, offered her \$50,000 for the loss of her eyesight. What price would the minister put on his eyesight? And how can the minister justify not ensuring — and I'll say it again — how can the minister justify not ensuring that she gets the treatment that doctors have prescribed for her?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, words can't adequately describe the pain and agony that somebody that's gone through the tragedy of La Loche . . . The people that have lived there, the people that were hurt in that episode is something that . . . All we can do is stand in this House on both sides and say that we offer our deepest sympathy and our deepest condolences for what they've gone through. And we want to stand with them and work with them.

Mr. Speaker, I met with Workers' Compensation several times

to ensure that everything that Ms. Klyne was entitled to was being provided. If there are other things that I'm not aware of, we'd be glad to look at it again and work with WCB to make sure that we're doing everything that we can.

I was in La Loche on February 27th. I was there with the ministers of Government Relations, Health, Justice, Social Services, and Advanced Education. We met with the mayor. We met with the town council. We met with teachers and staff. We want to continue to work with the people of La Loche to make sure that we do everything that we can to support them as they go forward.

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

Support for the Status of Women

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, on issue after issue, the Sask Party is failing to follow through on their words and actually serve Saskatchewan people. Yesterday when I asked the Minister for the Status of Women to address the fact that in April, 84 per cent of the newly unemployed in Saskatchewan were women, the Minister of the Economy stood up and tried to spin the problem away with his lines, and did not even mention women once in his answer.

And, Mr. Speaker, when the Minister for the Status of Women spoke in scums, she said that her office had no staff because the retirement of her former staff person came too quickly. Not too quickly, though, for it to have been pre-announced in this Chamber. The minister was well aware this retirement was coming, yet today this position remains empty.

Mr. Speaker, from domestic violence to unemployment, women are such a priority for the Sask Party and the minister that, literally, no one can handle it. To be clear, Mr. Speaker, zero people are enough to meet their commitment. This is not a job that should be handled off the corner of the desks of other ministries. How can that minister honestly justify having no staff at all?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. You know, we had a long-standing dedicated staff member who retired at the end of April. Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite knows, I'm not involved in the personnel matters of our ministry. However I would say this, Mr. Speaker: the work of the Status of Women office and the work of advancing women across government is not the job of a single person, Mr. Speaker. Advancing the well-being of women in our community is everyone's responsibility.

[14:30]

And I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I'm very proud of the record of this government in working on things like the interpersonal violence committee. I am proud of the record of this government in working on the domestic violence death review panel, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud of the work of this government in having 50 per cent of our Crown boards

composed of women, Mr. Speaker. I'm very, very proud of our government in having the first Deputy Premier who's a female, Mr. Speaker.

I think there's a lot of good work that's being done in our government. We've had members of our government — male members, in fact — who've advocated very strenuously, for example, for an emergency shelter for women in their community, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of work still to do on this file, but it is not the responsibility of any one person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Wait Times for Health Care

Ms. Chartier: — I'm curious if the Status of Women Minister is saying that we don't need a Status of Women office, Mr. Speaker, that we don't need someone responsible for it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier made a commitment to the people of Saskatchewan that there would be no ER [emergency room] waits by March of 2017. Well add that to the list of Sask Party broken promises. When that was clear that they wouldn't get there, they clawed it back to 60 per cent. Then the current Minister of Health said, and I quote:

... it was an aggressive target. We've set aggressive targets in the past in other areas... We haven't been scared to do that. We think generally if you want to make significant improvements, it's important to set targets.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's look at their significant improvements. When it comes to ER waits, what progress has the Sask Party made? Well none, Mr. Speaker, none at all.

To the minister: what is the point of setting targets if you refuse to commit the resources and do what it needs to actually meet those targets?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite said, I did say this government has never been scared to set targets. We think it's important to do that. And certainly in some instances we don't achieve them. That isn't going to stop us from trying, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier today I introduced some people from surgical centres, in the gallery. That was an initiative that we think paid huge dividends. We went in this province, Mr. Speaker, regardless of what the members opposite say, we went from the worst wait-list in the country, Mr. Speaker, to among the best.

Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing some fiscal issues right now, Mr. Speaker. That's had an impact on how much we can do into surgical wait times. But we have had initiatives, Mr. Speaker: another \$12 million in this budget that's going towards accountable care teams and more announcements to come, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to work in this direction.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'd point out once again, the members opposite really don't have much to crow about. Mr. Speaker, when they were in government, the worst wait times in the country. It's not the case any more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this government went to committing to zero wait times to making zero progress, Mr. Speaker. It's clear the minister doesn't want to admit they failed. But let's be clear: they failed.

Here's what his official said: "... in some cases we're holding on to the baseline." In short, Mr. Speaker, they're mostly not going backwards. But the numbers don't lie. In the last year in the province's major hospitals, almost all of the wait times went up. The ministry itself is admitting they've lost ground. Mr. Speaker, people are waiting four and a half hours in an ER to see a doctor. And it's clear that they have to wait much longer for the Sask Party to finally make good on a promise.

Mr. Speaker, how can the minister continue to stand by his lines when Saskatchewan families are being forced to wait in longer and longer lines for emergency medical care that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we take this issue very seriously, and it's not strictly a Saskatchewan phenomenon. As I've attended meetings of Health ministers from across the country on several occasions in the last 6 or 8 months, Mr. Speaker, ER wait times are a problem right across this nation. Mr. Speaker, there's many reasons for it including demographics as baby boomers move through the system. Mr. Speaker, our population in Saskatchewan is increasing, has added strain to the system. There's a number of reasons, Mr. Speaker.

But again, we haven't been scared to set targets, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to look ... Even in this budget, in a fiscally difficult budget, we've taken action to deal with that — \$12 million more towards initiatives that will help with that.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, the member opposite gets on her feet frequently and espouses, somehow, that the NDP record was better than what's happening now, Mr. Speaker. Our record certainly isn't better but I will stand on our record, Mr. Speaker, compared to the members opposite — 750 more doctors, Mr. Speaker, than when they were in government, over 3,000 nurses of every designation, more care aids. Mr. Speaker, we'll take no lessons from the member opposite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Why is the Minister of Energy and Resources on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — With leave to ask for permission to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this afternoon to introduce a guest seated in the west gallery. Cliff Cullen is the Minister for Growth, Enterprise and Trade with the Government of Manitoba. He is here in Regina for the Energy Council of Canada conference.

I had an opportunity to be a member of a panel this morning with Minister Cullen and as well as our colleague from Alberta at the council. And we had a very, I think — I hope people would have agreed — it was a very engaging dialogue amongst the ministers and then a very good meeting afterwards between the three of us. I look forward to working with Minister Cullen in our respective roles, and I would ask that all members would help me to welcome Minister Cliff Cullen to the Saskatchewan legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — With leave to respond, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I want to welcome Minister Cullen from Manitoba to this Legislative Assembly, and certainly wish him the best of luck with the meetings ahead. And certainly the partnership between Manitoba and Saskatchewan on many different files, Mr. Speaker, has been long, productive, and enduring. So we wish him all the best with his meetings here today, but it's a ...

An Hon. Member: — Except for the Bombers.

Mr. McCall: — I'm reminded by my colleague, except for the Bombers, of course. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I'd join in welcoming Minister Cullen to this Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — To ask for leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the east gallery, we want to introduce a gentleman that has been a very solid source of support, love, and compassion. Obviously with Charlene today and throughout her journey has been her family, but with her today is her son, Jeffery.

And I want to tell Jeffery on behalf of the opposition that we're very, very thankful for his compassion and his kind-heartedness and his support for his mom in her trying times, and that it's always important to recognize a family also suffers through this tragic challenge that they have encountered as a family. So I want all members of the Assembly to welcome Mr. Jeffery Klyne to his Legislative Building.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, leave to respond.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these people to their legislature today. I think for most of us, the tragedy that befell the community of La Loche and the people that were there is something that we can only offer our sympathy to, and in particular to Ms. Klyne. And I would say welcome, and I hope we're able to continue to work and be helpful to her. And to her son, we thank him for being a great family member and looking after his mother. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of us.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016* with amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills on Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016* and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Chair.

Mr. Makowsky: — Again I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 55 . . .

The Speaker: — For all members, we didn't move all of the amendments before going on to the next report from the

committee. We'll continue on with the amendments.

So when shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 43, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2016* be now read the third time and passed under its title. All those in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 55, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Economy - Audit Assessments) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I will try to keep this simple, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills on Bill No. 55 and the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 55 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Economy—Audit Assessments) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 56, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on bills? I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills that Bill No. 56, *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 56 — *The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 56 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon, 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 14:45.]

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Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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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
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