



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

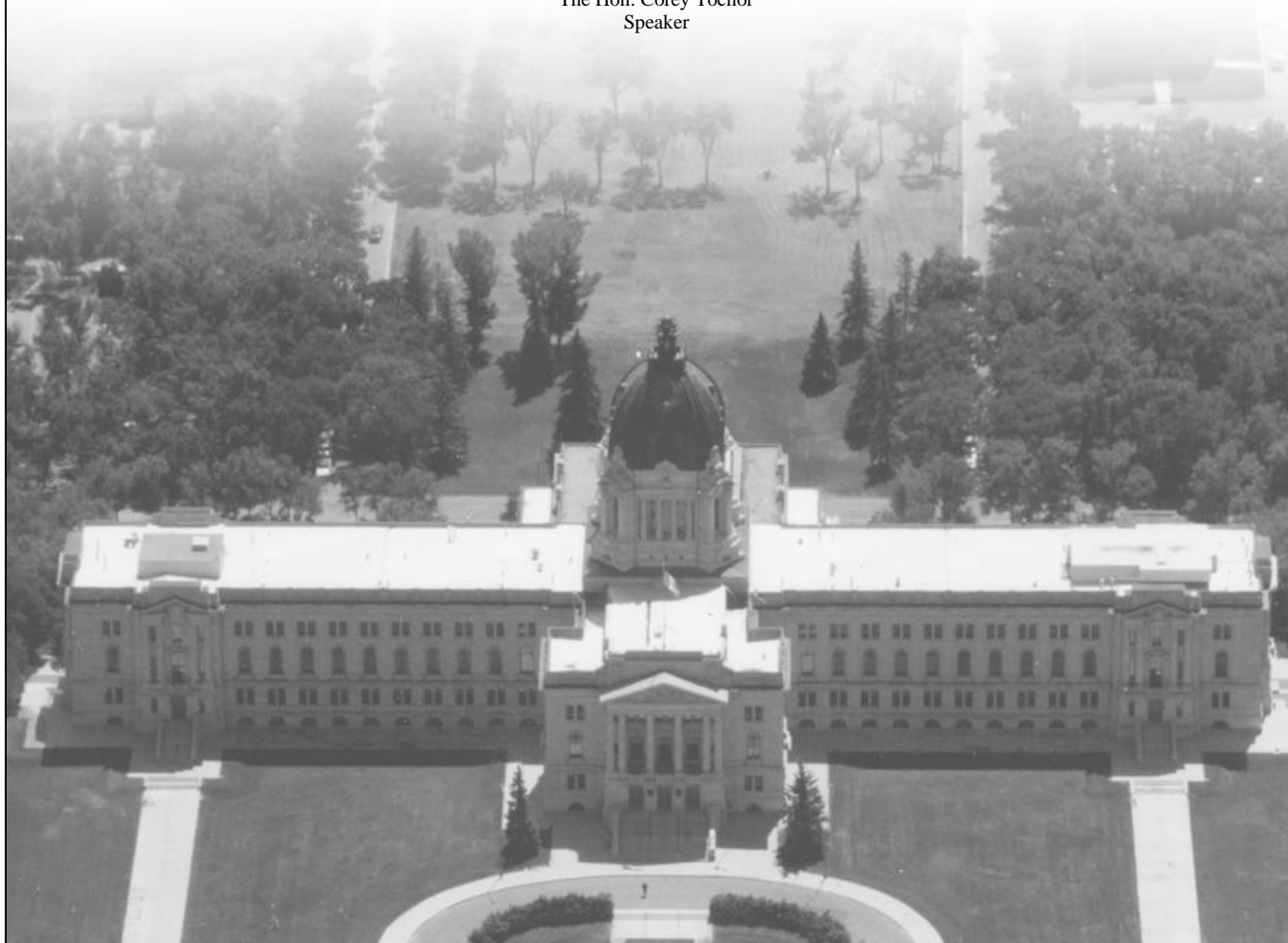
of the

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

Clerk: — Members, I wish to advise you that Mr. Speaker is not present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, in your gallery I would like to introduce some special guests. Joining us today are administration and faculty and staff from Sask Poly, which is celebrating a very special anniversary this weekend: 50 years of quality nursing education in the province.

If you could give a wave — not all together — our friend, Dr. Larry Rosia, president and CEO [chief executive officer]; Dean Netha Dyck; Associate Dean Cindy Smith; Academic Chair Billy-Jo Howe; Academic Chair Christa MacLean; Academic Chair Chris Barlow; and interim Academic Chair Laureen Larson; also the program head, Kat Moyer; and Terri Genaille.

There are a number of events being held over the weekend, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm honoured to be attending the Saturday evening program in Saskatoon. Over 200 alumni, faculty, students, and guests are expected to attend this very special celebration. With 16 innovative programs across the province, the Sask Poly school of nursing boasts 230 internationally recognized faculty and staff who help prepare students for careers as registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurses, licensed practical nurses, diabetes educators, and much more.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government has been pleased to support Sask Poly and we consider them an important partner in post-education in this province. I would like to congratulate all former and current students, faculty, and staff on reaching such a significant milestone and for providing 50 years of quality nursing education.

I invite all members to join with me in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to join

with the Minister of Advanced Education and all of our colleagues in welcoming the folks from Sask Polytechnic, Dr. Rosia, Deans Dyck and Smith, and all of the folks who are able to join us today.

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary. I just want to express our support as a caucus for all of the work that you do with all of the programming. But in particular as a family physician, I've had a chance to work with many of the graduates, the excellent quality work that the nurses do in this province, and know that a great deal of that success in their efforts comes from the efforts of Sask Polytechnic and the other institutions that train those great-quality workers.

So thank you again and welcome to your legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Health and myself and the Government of Saskatchewan, I want to join in with the Minister of Advanced Education and the member opposite, welcoming these guests to your gallery, representatives of nursing education in the province. Having a daughter that graduated a couple of years ago from the nursing program, it's just a real pleasure to have them here. So I ask all members to help me welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a number of guests in your gallery.

Visiting us from Australia, Mr. Speaker, is my cousin Jack Lee Adams. Jack will give us a wave; there he is. So Jack's retired from the government of Queensland, Mr. Speaker. He did student recruitment there. He's also a Vietnam veteran, Mr. Speaker, serving in the 7th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, Mr. Speaker. And in our family military service is held in pretty high esteem, so I wanted to make sure that I acknowledged him, and for being here and for visiting our country for a couple of days, Mr. Speaker. My wife and I hope to get down to Australia in September and visit that side of our family, Mr. Speaker. So I'm very happy to welcome him here today.

With him today, Mr. Speaker, is my brother Peter and his wife Carole. Now I'm very thankful that my brother Peter and Carole live in Regina, Mr. Speaker, because I get a home-cooked meal every once in a while, as opposed to sitting with the Minister of Health having dinner with him every night.

Mr. Speaker, some members of the House, Mr. Speaker, will remember my brother Peter. He has a long and distinguished career at CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], retiring after being responsible for some pretty significant major projects in this province over the years, Mr. Speaker. But because of his retirement, Mr. Speaker, I think his wife was a little bit concerned about him spending some time at

the house, so he's taken a job at the Cancer Agency where he's using his talent there, Mr. Speaker, and spending his time.

Mr. Speaker, I think I've said this in this House a number of times: I have four heroes in this world, Mr. Speaker. They're my brothers, and I'm very, very pleased to have my brother Peter join us in the House today. So I'd like to have the Assembly welcome Jack to the legislature and my brother Peter and his wife Carole to their legislature, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my office recently did a survey of Saskatchewan students and found the brightest students are in Moose Jaw. And in fact most of the brightest students are actually in A.E. Peacock Collegiate, and we've got 35 of them in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd like to welcome the A.E. Peacock social studies 30 class to their legislature. Along with them is Ms. Carrie Kiefer and Collette Stuart. Ms. Kiefer is . . . I just mentioned to visitor services this morning if she comes here any more often, I may have to put her on payroll because she's here just about every year. Very interested in the democratic process and brings her classes every year, so I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Today I'm rising to present a petition opposed to the Sask Party plan to scrap and sell off the Saskatchewan Transportation Company.

The individuals who have submitted this petition wish to bring to our attention several points, basically that the Sask Party did not inform Saskatchewan people prior to the 2016 election about their plan to scrap STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. This closure leaves 224 people out of work and communities across the province are now isolated from each other. Even a year ago the then minister said that STC is a needed service and that it was safe from sale.

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

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

And the folks who have signed this today, Mr. Speaker, are from Yellow Grass, Regina, and Bromhead. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Good call, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition concerning pay equity here in the province. And I've talked a lot about that, so I'd like to just read

the prayer today:

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

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

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy 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.

And 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, the petition is signed by citizens of Ogema, Glasnevin, Bengough, Pangman, Weyburn, Ceylon, and Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Deputy 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 provinces. And Manitoba has already enacted legislation similar to our private member's bill that we tabled several weeks ago, and Ontario is on its way to enacting legislation to ensure 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 violence in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Saskatoon. I do so submit.

The Deputy 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, our post-secondary institutions, colleges, and universities have a very important influence on our economy and on the future of our young people, yet we've seen a cut of 5.6 per cent across the board to all those institutions, alongside cuts to the wages being paid to people at the Sask Polytechnic and regional colleges.

Alongside that we've seen cuts to student aid and cuts to the rebates on tuition and books, Mr. Speaker. All of these make programs less accessible, resulting in elimination of jobs, elimination of programs, and rising of costs for students, 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.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today are from Saskatoon and include student and faculty leaders from the University of Saskatchewan. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Mothers' Day Tribute

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my own words, Mr. Speaker: we all know a person who puts all others before themselves, someone who provides love and support without ever being asked to, one who makes decisions based on their love for others, who believes that commitment lasts a lifetime, someone who stands strong in the face of adversity and finds the funny in most everything, chooses laughter instead of tears.

We all know a person who fiercely advocates for those who are unable to fight for themselves, someone who provides care to someone who doesn't always want it, who takes life in stride and adapts to life's challenges with poise and grace, who never gives up even though it's tough to keep going.

We all know this person. This person is whom we call mom, grandma, friend, aunt, sister, and wife. For these women we hold dear, I encourage you to love her, hug her, give her friendship, and it will be returned tenfold. The selflessness of these individuals is unparalleled, though for those who know them, far from surprising. To my mom and to all of those women who positively influence those around them, those mothers still with us and those who remain in our hearts, Happy Mother's Day.

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

Birthday Celebration for Petit Triplets

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

rise today to recognize the Petit family of Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan. Last weekend I had the opportunity to attend the 50th birthday celebration for Wendy, Wanda, and Wesley Petit. These triplets were born on May 7th, 1967, to parents Dorothy and Norman Petit at St. Paul's Hospital. Wesley was the first born, followed by Wendy, and then finally Wanda.

Dorothy spent three months in the hospital leading up to the birth of these triplets. And, in Dorothy's words, she told me: "It was very difficult because after I left the hospital, I had to work 10 days later. I had two babysitters that helped, and with no running water at Kiezie Channel, which is a section of Buffalo Narrows, we had to do diapers by hand and wash them every single day as there was no running water in those days and no Pampers."

[10:15]

Dorothy also wanted to make sure that we recognized her congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister Trudeau and her recognition by the president of the Métis National Council, Mr. Clem Chartier.

The father, Norman Petit, passed away in April of 2010, and I know that Dorothy and the children would want me to mention him today. Mr. Speaker, I was very honoured to attend the celebration and share in the joy of the family and the community of Buffalo Narrows in celebrating the birth of these triplets.

Again the words from Dorothy, the mother, that she was very thankful for the good turnout and all the donations of food. Mr. Speaker, I want all members in the Assembly to help me in recognizing the Petit triplets and the Petit family of Buffalo Narrows in achieving this amazing birth of three children at once. Thank you very much.

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

Saskatoon Teacher Receives National Award

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am confident that each of us in this Assembly has a teacher we can look back to and see the impact they had in our lives. One of these teachers is Andrea Regier, a science teacher at Bishop James Mahoney High School in Saskatoon. This teacher was recently presented with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. In winning this prestigious award, she is one of only 11 teachers across the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Regier's approach to teaching has been described as refreshing, engaging, and innovative. She always plays music in the background and understands the importance of motivational tools and games to teach complex concepts and theories. As a result, her students stay organized and have shown a great deal of improvement in study and time management skills.

Everyone seems to have great things to say about her, from her past and present students, to school and division administration. Mr. Deputy Speaker, she is even getting the coveted five-star rating on the Rate My Teachers website.

Teachers are a significant part of what makes Saskatchewan's education system great, and our government values teachers' efforts in educating our young people. I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Andrea Regier on receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and thanking her for investing in our kids and the province's future. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Thursday, May 4th, I, along with several government members, was pleased to attend the Saskatchewan Literacy Network's 2017 Literacy Awards of Merit hosted by Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Each year, the Literacy Awards of Merit honour the dedicated professionals, programs, projects, volunteers, and adult learners whose accomplishments have supported essential skills development in learning and literacy within our province.

Mr. Speaker, this year four awards were presented to individuals and organizations who displayed an outstanding spirit of dedication to literacy in Saskatchewan.

Local volunteer literacy organization READ Saskatoon received the Outstanding Literacy Project Award for making a positive impact on learners in their community with their innovative financial literacy program.

Tina Winsor of Maple Creek, a family advocate for Chinook School Division, was recognized with a Professional Leadership in Literacy Award for creating inclusive learning environments that support literacy in her community.

And Kay Luttmmer of Regina received the Volunteer Service Award for her support of literacy and commitment to serving her community as a volunteer with Mother Teresa Middle School. Finally Reem Dandal, a volunteer with Regina Open Door Society, was recognized with the Cameco Literacy Learner Award and a \$1,000 bursary for demonstrating exceptional growth in literacy and using her skills to show leadership and give back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's Literacy Awards of Merit winners and thanking them for their commitment to literacy and lifelong learning in our province. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Association of Architects Annual President's Dinner

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I was fortunate to attend the Saskatchewan Association of Architects annual president's dinner on May 6th. This event was an opportunity for architects, engineers, contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers to come together and celebrate

each other's accomplishments.

The theme of this year's conference was Building Community, reflective of our past, our present, and our future as a society. The conference held various panels over the weekend, as visionary groups were able to collaborate on where they see architecture in Saskatchewan going, reflecting on past practices as well as new technologies, as our province continues to grow.

The dedication each architect has in bringing visions to reality while considering safety, longevity, and overall benefits for the community, is a true testament of craftsmanship and expertise. Each day in this province we are seeing state-of-the-art business centres, living complexes, schools, and retail spaces rise from the ground, adding beauty and advancement to the architectural landscape of Saskatchewan.

As we walk through the historic halls of this Legislative Building, we must never forget to attribute the absolute beauty of this monument which was envisioned by our first premier, Walter Scott, and the architectural society of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join in congratulating the Saskatchewan Association of Architects on a successful president's dinner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Saskatchewan is blessed with thousands of lakes and rivers, and is a popular place for tourists and residents to enjoy fishing and other water-related recreational sports such as water skiing and wakeboarding.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, our lakes and rivers are at risk from zebra and quagga mussels, and other invasive species that would disrupt the natural ecosystem.

That is why this week, May 7th to 13th, has been proclaimed Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week by the Government of Saskatchewan to continue educating and raising awareness about these mussels and other aquatic invasive species and to help raise awareness to keep them out of our province. Once introduced and established, they can spread and reproduce very rapidly, and can be impossible to eliminate. They can also clog water intake structures and increase costs significantly for agriculture irrigation, power generation, and water treatment facilities.

Mr. Speaker, education about these invasive and destructive species and prevention is the most effective solution to aquatic invasive species. This week, and all year long, we want to raise awareness and educate boaters and other recreational water users to clean, drain, and dry their boats, watercraft, and related water equipment, and bring awareness of the good work our government has been doing to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important for everyone to recognize Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week. All boaters should

clean, drain, and dry watercraft and equipment to ensure it is free of invasive species. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Polytechnic School of Nursing Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. On April 29th Saskatchewan Polytechnic celebrated its 50th anniversary for the school of nursing. We are proud of the 50 years of opportunities the school of nursing has offered to students to advance their skills and careers in a field that is not only in demand, but also makes a difference in the lives of others. Our government recognizes the need for high-quality nursing education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, nurses are an integral part of our health care system. There are nearly 16,000 nurses of all designations calling Saskatchewan home — over 3,000 more than 2007. A lot has changed over the past 50 years in the field, but some things haven't changed. Nurses remain compassionate, caring, and the foremost providers and coordinators of care.

This anniversary is a time to celebrate the high standard of nursing education that has benefited students and citizens of Saskatchewan for the past 50 years, and I'm confident that it will continue to do so for years to come. To mark this milestone, Sask Polytechnic is establishing a legacy trust which will provide nursing students with various sources of financial assistance for many years to come.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Sask Polytechnic on celebrating 50 years of providing quality nursing education and for their ongoing commitment to nurses in our province. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Details of Land Transactions

Mr. Wotherspoon: — In 2012, a deal was brought forward for one Sask Party supporter to sell land to the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. When the deal hit cabinet, red flags were raised because the seller was a numbered company.

The deal was stopped there, but a year later a deal for the same land came back to the cabinet table. This time another Sask Party supporter's name was on it, and the price tag had gone way up. That was fine because the GTH had just picked up some cash by selling land, that SaskPower didn't need, to SaskPower. So the Sask Party approved the deal. The cabinet approved the deal.

According to the Premier yesterday, he found none of this fishy and he never asked the minister — who was plagued by scandal, who was also responsible for both the GTH and SaskPower — anything about the identity of the original seller, who of course made millions.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier says that he only learned who it was when it hit the media. Mr. Speaker, does the Premier really want to stand by that claim? And if that's the case, how could the Premier have stood by that minister, who still sits in his caucus here today?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I stand by that because it's exactly the truth, Mr. Speaker. Moreover, we've seen this sort of drive-by smearing by the Leader of the Opposition, characterizing business leaders in the city as . . . sort of writing them off as Sask Party supporters, inferring that there might be insiders to the party.

Here we have . . . He's talking about people who are business people in the . . . He knows them well. They're business people in Regina. The one in particular, the transaction preceded his . . . a business person in Regina, who's come to, who's attended Sask Party dinners. So, Mr. Speaker, I know that doesn't quite fit the narrative that my hon. friend wants to continue to present, but those are the facts.

And I understand that he might also be a friend of the member, the leader who's just asked the question — this particular business leader — and certainly someone that he has an acquaintance with. That would be about the extent of the relationship.

Mr. Speaker, all of these questions . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, is it the truth or not, I guess? They're heckling from their seat now, Mr. Speaker, because they don't want to deal with that. All of what the member has just said, all of it was the subject of the reviews that have happened, including by the Provincial Auditor, an independent officer of this Assembly.

The member also took another run at the former minister. Here's what the auditor had to say about that in her report. And I would just ask him to clarify for the House if he agrees with what the auditor said, who looked at all of this. The auditor said:

For Board members and key employees we sampled, including the Board Chair [that's the minister, the member for Kindersley] . . . we did not find any evidence of conflict of interest.

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

Security of Personal Email Account

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, of course to be clear, who the official opposition, who I, and who the people of Saskatchewan are questioning is the Premier of Saskatchewan. And it's simply not believable, or entirely irresponsible, that the Premier would take such a hands-off approach with such a questionable deal. It raises even more questions about the answers we get from that Premier.

Mr. Speaker, we have an FOI [freedom of information] from Executive Council that shows an email was sent from the Sask Party's Republican lobbyist to the Premier, but the Premier's

email address, including the domain name, has been redacted. It was a personal account, Mr. Speaker. In the Premier's own words, the communications are about "diplomatic interests and commercial interests."

Mr. Speaker, yesterday he nonchalantly said that he uses his personal accounts when he's out of office. First, he can use, have access to his secure government email from home or anywhere. Second, the email we have is from November 8th, 2016, midmorning, and the Premier was in the legislature that day. So why does the Premier not use his secure government email for this sensitive information, sensitive communications about diplomatic and commercial interests?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's such a secret email account that the member's reading from an email that came from the address. It's completely part of the FOI process. The reason that that member has this email to build his latest conspiracy theory, Mr. Speaker, which is laughable, is because it's subject to FOI.

Mr. Speaker, this has been exactly a reasonable practice. The server is secure that we use. We take steps to ensure the server is secure.

If anything that is FOI'd relative to those emails — for those watching, that's a freedom of information request that anyone might make — of course they'll receive that as long as there's not confidential information that might, Mr. Speaker, work against the interests of a private party or a private sector company who we're trying to represent when we are engaged in Washington with respect to trade issues.

And that did happen on this last occasion. When we went down there, I met with a number of cabinet secretaries that Ambassador Wilkins helped us to arrange. We were there advocating in one particular interest for a company that should be of import to members opposite. They're a company locating here, and they employ hundreds of people that are, by the way, now at risk if there's a chance that his party actually wins the election in British Columbia.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the interests of that company should be considered confidential so that we can conduct the business of the province and represent them effectively. But the email's available through FOI so long as that kind of confidential information's not a part of it. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to answer any more questions on the matter.

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

[10:30]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, it appears that the Premier's gotten a little too comfortable in that chair over there, and certainly arrogant on front after front. We're questioning here the actual security and integrity of a system here, the sensitive and certainly confidential information. And this information, this work that the Premier's undertaking, is supposed to be on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. It belongs to them, not to

him. It belongs on secure government servers that we can trust, not on some sort of personal server.

If the Premier stands by the use of this server and this email account, why is he unwilling to open it up to the scrutiny of the Privacy and Conflict of Interest Commissioners for review as I called for yesterday?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because, Mr. Speaker, you know, in the efforts to represent the province of Saskatchewan over the last number of years, it's not a five-day week proposition. It doesn't just happen here at the legislature. And so we'll use, I'll continue to use this account. I'll continue to make sure it's available for FOIs.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure members of the House that the work that happens on that account is very much in the interests of the province of Saskatchewan. It's communications with fellow cabinet members. It's communications with MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. It's representations to other parties that are in the interests of the province. Maybe the member doesn't trust the fact that I would be careful and secure in this work, but he can, notwithstanding his questions this morning, and I don't intend to change the practice.

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

Role of School Boards and Intent of Bill 63

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it appears that that Premier's arrogance is spreading across the Sask Party cabinet. Last week they ignored the concerns of teachers, parents, and school divisions, and ploughed ahead with their takeover of education with Bill 63. They're silencing local voices and have taken the power to override locally elected trustees.

Now, instead of respectful dialogue with the minister, school divisions are hearing about changes to their division through the media. The Northern Lights School Division board Chair said, "The government has held secret meetings that will affect northern education."

Why is the Sask Party showing so much disrespect for local and northern voices in education?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raises the issue that we should consult. That's exactly what we said we were going to do. The consultations haven't started yet, so there's been no secret meetings. What we have heard, Mr. Speaker, is from the community of La Loche that has concerns about the relationship they have with the school division, that they want to do things differently, do things better. And, Mr. Speaker, we want to work with the school division. We want to work with the community of La Loche to see them do that.

I've heard from Lorna Black; the Chair of the Northern Lights School Division has asked for a meeting. And, Mr. Speaker,

we'll make sure that that meeting happens.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that's a little late in the game when we're expecting changes by next fall. And this is a massive, massive power grab by that minister, and it has so many worried about our kids' classrooms. Bill 63 gives the minister the power to issue directives to school divisions and forcing them to do, or stop doing, anything at all.

The board Chair and trustees of Northern Lights School Division are doing their job, serving the people who elected them. They're standing up to the Sask Party's cuts and speaking up for their students and their teachers. Will the minister commit today that he won't use his new powers to silence these local voices in Northern Lights or any other school division around this province?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the legislation that's contained in Bill 63 is exactly the same legislation and same provisions that were provided in the legislation that created regional health authorities. Mr. Speaker, we want to have the local operations carrying on as they have for years. We want to make sure that there's some provincial oversight to make sure the things that go astray can be repaired.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about Northern Lights School Division. That's a school division that for two years in a row was not paying holiday pay as they were . . . or statutory pay as they were supposed to. Mr. Speaker, that's the type of thing that we will go ahead and override . . . [inaudible] . . . to make sure that employees get paid, to make sure that resources stay in the classroom, to make sure that we listen to the students, to make sure that we listen to the parents and the teachers in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Post-Secondary Educational Institutions

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we move from silencing local voices in K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education to crippling colleges and universities. We're now starting to see the damaging consequences of the cuts to our post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Speaker, this last week the University of Regina released its budget outlining the deep cuts they've been forced to make to their institution, to their students and programming, and they didn't hesitate to say that these were directly a result of the \$7 million cut by the Sask Party. Tuition fees are going up again. We've seen cuts to the nursing program. There have been layoffs and there are more to come.

These are short-sighted cuts. They put the quality of our education at threat. Mr. Speaker, we should be investing in education, not undercutting it. How does the minister justify

such deep cuts to such an important sector?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — A number of questions in that question, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but let's take U of R [University of Regina] and the tuition issue first. Of course universities are autonomous. They set their own fees. The U of R's tuition increase is actually the lowest since '08-09, and undergraduate arts tuition still ranks in the lower half compared to other comparable institutions across Canada, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

When the next leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party] made a run for leadership in 2013, he called for evidence-based policy. Well the U of R's own tuition and fees decision item this year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, states: "Research continues to show that tuition fee levels are not a major factor in post-secondary education accessibility and participation."

According to a 2015 survey of U of R undergrads, nearly half had no education-related debt at all, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As well, the Sask Advantage Scholarship, according to the U of R, is "expected to provide our students 3 million in tuition discounts in 2017." The member opposite left the clear impression to students that our Sask Advantage Scholarship had been cancelled, when in fact it's going strong. And let's not forget that under the previous NDP governments, from 1990 to 2007, tuition rates ballooned 227 per cent, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, sunshine and just fine. But the lines don't match the reality. We've seen a precipitous drop in the number of low-income students accessing higher education in this province under this party's government. And, Mr. Speaker, we're also seeing job losses. The University of Saskatchewan has already cut 10 positions since the budget, and Sask Polytechnic has reduced their workforce by 65 positions, Mr. Speaker.

And these job losses don't even account for the 3.5 per cent that Sask Polytechnic and regional colleges have been told that they need to reduce from their compensation. Mr. Speaker, the minister informed committee that they would be looking for \$6.5 million more in pay cuts from these schools, and that's on top of the job losses that have already happened. If the Sask Party's at all interested in investing in our future, why do they continue to undercut and remove funding from the institutions so necessary to educate the people that will build that future?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Let's talk about Sask Poly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we have these fine members of the institution here with us today. Any time there are layoffs it's of course regrettable, and we certainly sympathize with those affected by the staffing changes. On an annual basis Sask Poly makes adjustments to its complement of faculty that reflect program offerings for the coming year, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And this includes allocating resources to

provide student-centred, industry-driven programming that responds to labour market needs.

This year our government provided 20 per cent more in operating funding to Sask Poly compared to the NDP's last year in government, Mr. Speaker. And on Sask Poly's website, just in the last couple of days, it has added about 21 job postings, 17 of which are for instructors. As of yesterday, there were over 40 total job postings on its website for various instructor positions, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sask Poly is working with us to find solutions during these fiscally challenging times, and we appreciate its grace under pressure, Mr. Speaker.

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

Carbon Pricing and Carbon Capture and Storage

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, even though the Sask Party had already admitted that they had created their own price on carbon, the Premier didn't seem too happy about it. He and his Environment minister tried to slough off this 30-year expense as a one-time investment. Really, Mr. Speaker? The \$1.5 billion was just the beginning. Since then it has been cost increase after cost increase with this project, penalties paid to Cenovus, and growing and growing costs for amine.

There's no way this is a one-time cost; ratepayers will be paying for this for decades. And it will be much, much more expensive if they expand it to BD4 [Boundary dam 4] and BD5 [Boundary dam 5].

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Energy stand up and explain the facts to the Premier, the Environment minister, and the Minister Responsible for SaskPower?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we hear criticism constantly from that member, Mr. Speaker. And what we should know is any time we look at reducing our emissions in our electrical sector, Mr. Speaker, that takes capital investment. It took capital investment in other jurisdictions where that's happened, and it'll take capital investment here in new technology and new knowledge like the carbon capture and storage facility, which is the first of its kind. Now 22 CCS [carbon and capture storage] plants operating around the world, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again, Mr. Speaker, we hear criticisms from that member when we know what she would actually like to do is shut down the coal industry here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have the presumptive leader here that applauds, I think is the word he used, the federal government's carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. Why doesn't the opposition members put forward a credible plan, Mr. Speaker, on the infrastructure that's necessary to lower our carbon footprint here in the province of Saskatchewan?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan businesses and

farmers, families are already paying through their nose for power bills. Now on top of that, because the Sask Party refuses to do anything constructive, Saskatchewan people will have Ottawa's carbon scheme forced on us too.

The Premier can huff and puff, but it's the Sask Party's mismanagement, failure, and refusal to act that got us here. Is suing the feds the only plan the Sask Party is considering for dealing with their lack of a plan to implement a price on carbon? Does the Premier actually think that suing them will work? It will cost millions of dollars, and we're wondering if he will share any legal advice that he might have that this actually might work, any estimates on the millions of dollars that it will cost and the years it will take. Mr. Speaker, why doesn't the Premier admit that he has no real plan?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is we have the member that stands up and criticizes us for taking action in investment, Mr. Speaker, in Boundary dam 3 and carbon capture and storage project at that particular site, Mr. Speaker.

I've heard the member opposite refer to it as a boondoggle, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if she would also extend that to a company in Texas, Mr. Speaker, with Petra Nova, with the latest carbon capture and storage facility in the world, the 22nd to come online, Mr. Speaker, and invested in by private industry in the United States, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, it's this government that has invested in lowering our carbon footprint in the province of Saskatchewan with the very latest knowledge and technology at Boundary dam 3. It's this government . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — And the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is there has been the highest per capita investment, Mr. Speaker, in a carbon mitigation technology in the province of Saskatchewan at Estevan. I'm going down there later today, Mr. Speaker, to speak at a summit, to precisely the importance of that knowledge and that technology.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's also this government that will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan people in opposition to a federally imposed carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, a federally imposed, provincial NDP carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, which is supported by the critic. Mr. Speaker, it's supported by the presumptive leader. And it's time for the interim leader to stand up and tell Saskatchewan people where he stands on the carbon tax . . . [inaudible].

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

Implementation of Recommendations Regarding Death in Custody

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, Shauna Wolf was a young

Saskatchewan woman and a mother of an eight-year-old girl. Her struggles with addiction led in part to her arrest, and while she was in custody on remand — so not convicted of a crime — just after Christmas in 2015, Shauna Wolf died at the Pine Grove Correctional Centre.

The pains of withdrawal hit Shauna hard, and yet she was denied the basic care she needed. The coroner's inquest recently concluded, and the jury made 17 recommendations to improve conditions at Pine Grove to prevent future tragedies like Shauna's. The jury called for more medical beds, more nurses, better training for staff, and better access to detox facilities.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, Shauna is not the first young woman for whom the system has failed so tragically. My question to the minister is, what is his plan to implement these recommendations and make sure that she is the last?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, certainly our thoughts and prayers are with the family at a very difficult time, Mr. Speaker. And I do want to thank the coroner, the jury for their very, very hard work and the recommendations that they have brought forward.

My ministry is taking those recommendations and having a very, very careful look at them, Mr. Speaker, to see what can be done within the institution and within the system to ensure that these kinds of tragedies don't continue to . . . or don't occur again, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly the jury made some significant recommendations, Mr. Speaker. It is going to take some time for my ministry to review those recommendations and decide how we're going to move forward with them, Mr. Speaker. But we do thank the jury very much for their very hard work, and our sympathies and compassion is with the family.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear the minister's reviewing the recommendations, but the jury's findings call for more resources to prevent future deaths, and this system cannot wait another day.

The Sask Party's budget doesn't give more resources to address these issues. In fact it takes them away. And the incoming cut to 3.5 per cent of nursing staff and correctional workers, just to name a few, is going to put even more stress on an overworked system. How will the Minister of Justice take action on these recommendations when he's actually cutting the budgets for the services the jury wants to see improved?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well again, Mr. Speaker, my ministry is going to take these jury recommendations very seriously, and

will give some consideration to how they can be implemented.

As the member knows, one of the significant issues that we have in our facility, Mr. Speaker, is remand. In some of our correctional institutions we have up to 60 per cent of people who are on remand. My ministry is working very, very hard, Mr. Speaker, with our stakeholders to work to reduce the level of remand in our correctional facilities. That's going to allow for more time. It's going to allow for more resources to be used — reallocated within our institutions to help deal with some of these issues, Mr. Speaker.

We're very excited and we're very interested to see the progress in that remand strategy to reduce those population numbers, Mr. Speaker. And with the additional resources that will be available by reducing the remand numbers in our institutions, Mr. Speaker, we'll have some resources to apply to look at some of the recommendations and institute some of the changes that have been recommended by the jury.

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

Drainage Issues and Water Management Strategy

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, there has been no shortage of concern about Bill 44, *An Act to amend The Water Security Agency Act*. SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] delegates raised serious concerns about this bill's impact on productivity and the rights of landowners, and every major crop organization passed a resolution to rescind or delay the implementation of this bill. Mr. Speaker, on top of all that, this bill strips all of these producers and landowners of their legal right to challenge the government. It's yet another overreach from the Sask Party.

Earlier this week, the Minister for Government Relations backed down and removed a clause in Bill 64 that prohibited municipalities from legally defending themselves. That same clause was included in Bill 44, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to be fair, the minister has signalled it isn't too late to make changes. So will he do the right thing and remove that clause that strips landowners of their right to defend themselves?

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for a very important question in rural Saskatchewan, and a question with respect to our ag water management strategy that was asked for by our rural and agricultural residents across the province for a number of years, Mr. Speaker, and which we've consulted widely on over the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, we moved forward with regulations in September of 2015 and we since introduced legislation to support those regulations here this session. We'll continue to consult, I might add — and have consulted throughout this process — into the future with an advisory board, Mr. Speaker, which will be representative of agricultural groups, conservation groups, and

municipal groups, Mr. Speaker.

Specific to the member's question with respect to, I think it's clauses 70.4 and 5, Mr. Speaker, what that is and what the bill is, is it's supportive of those regulations. And it's to do with ensuring that we permit all drainage across the province, Mr. Speaker, whether that drainage is pre-1981 or post-1981, Mr. Speaker, as those networks need to be permitted as a network so that we're able to control and organize our ag water, our rural water here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, so that our agricultural water management strategy, I think it will become very much regarded as part of the solution in controlling and organizing the water movement throughout our systems in the province, Mr. Speaker.

We'll continue to consult with members across the province through our advisory board and other organizations as we move forward, Mr. Speaker. And we look forward to moving forward with this bill to control and organize water in our province, Mr. Speaker, the first substantial bill in about three and a half decades.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Legislation Regarding Political Donations

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity to enter into this debate and move this motion. It's a very important one, considering all the issues that we see happening. We see the BC [British Columbia] election that of course will really see big money get out of politics. And so we will be probably the last province to deal with this issue, and it's a very, very important issue. So I think it's fitting that as we wrap up this session that we talk about this motion, and if we get a chance before the end of the session that we can actually vote on Bill 602.

But of course what this motion . . . I'll read the motion at the end of my remarks and I'll hand it in, but I just want to say that this motion right now that I have before the House calls on us to put forward legislation, pass that legislation that would ban political donations by registered lobbyists and corporations receiving government contracts. And of course this illuminates and gives more detail to Bill 602, which really bans big money, gets big money out of politics in all its forms. And that's a very important, very important issue, and it has been one . . . And I'll make the case that this is very, very important in my remarks as we go forward.

But of course I just want to make sure people at home know what we've been talking about since November when the bill was introduced. That's 602, *An Act to amend The Election Act*, which would provide fairness and accountability in election fundraising. At that point we called on banning union donations and corporate donations and how that would improve the credibility and transparency of our election fundraising and our party financing because the public is very interested in this, not only in the transparency part of it but because of course there

are tax implications, you know.

And at that time we had a Premier who was taking a top-up on his wage, and since then has stopped that. And we recognize that; we think that's a good thing. That's a good thing because that was just creating more questions, more questions about who was financing that. And of course there is the whole issue that of course there is the taxpayer interest, because of course we know you get a significant recognition for any political donations that you make.

But of course we were often compared to BC and Ontario, and we see Ontario's making headway with this issue. We see now with a minority government in British Columbia that of course this issue has come right to the front and centre because while the Liberals out there were reticent to making any significant moves, of course the Greens and the NDP were. And we hope they all come together as an all-party committee and resolve this issue because I think it's in all our interests, but particularly the government interest because . . . And we've seen, and we've seen questionable actions and choices on that government that in the times of hard times like this . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And we have the Premier chirping in. I'm glad that he's here. I'm glad that he's here because I know he'll appreciate many of the comments. And he seems to have walked in fired up. He seems to work fired up.

But I want to say that this is a very, very important motion. You know, and of course I just want to talk about some of the discussions the Premier and I have had, and of course many members over there have had about this, and of course we've had a story last summer about several loopholes in the Saskatchewan's lobbyist registry. And of course we've worked together on that. But our side produced a minority opinion on that, and we will talk more about that. And of course it's always in our interests to see how can we make things even better. And this was from Canada's Democracy Watch, saying that the Saskatchewan new lobbyists registry is full of loopholes.

And of course then we talked about union and corporate donations. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight one editorial that came out shortly after we had discussed this in the fall that I think it's important to put on the record here. And I will quote extensively from this because I'm not sure if the members opposite have read this.

So this is from the *StarPhoenix*. It's the editorial board, and it's back from November 5th. And this is what it said, and I quote:

There's a certain tone-deafness to Premier's Brad Wall's insistence that he has no plans to change Saskatchewan's rules for donations to political parties, especially when it comes to allowing contributions by out-of-province corporations, unions and individuals.

The province's political party funding rules that permit virtually unlimited donations from interest groups are among the weakest in Canada, a fact that should resonate more with a populist . . . [Premier] like Mr. Wall, who should appreciate the fact that his defence of the status quo decidedly puts him at odds with the strong sentiments of Saskatchewan residents.

End of the first paragraph. Mr. Speaker, I just want to read that first sentence because I know the Premier's in here and this is an important point. I'll say it again:

There's a certain tone-deafness to Premier Brad Wall's insistence that he has no plans to change Saskatchewan rules for donations to political parties.

Now this is what's interesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

A Mainstreet poll released Friday shows that 69 per cent of the 1,673 respondents were opposed to out-of-province money flowing to political parties. This poll almost mirrors the finding of an Angus Reid poll this spring that indicated 66 per cent of . . . [residents] in Manitoba and Saskatchewan wanted corporate . . . donations to provincial parties and candidates banned.

So clearly there is a public sentiment that this needs to change, clearly needs to change. And this is a very, very important thing. And we talk about other provinces. We know in Manitoba they banned all corporate union donations in 2000, as did the federal government in 2006, and Alberta did the same in 2015. And we're waiting to see what happens in British Columbia.

And I just want to read this last quote:

Even though Mr. Wall points to the newly created lobbyist registry as a safeguard to keep the government accountable, surely he must understand the very real public concern about the influence of big money on politics. Saskatchewan needs to join Canada's leaders when it comes to ensuring that its democratic processes are beyond [and I need to underline that word beyond] reproach, and do all it can to shed its image as the "wild west" of politics.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a lot of work on both sides of the House. This is an important thing that we do. And I think it's important as we come towards the end of the session that we do think about this, we do think about this.

And as I was preparing for this it really reminded me of . . . I came across an article about groupthink, groupthink. And I look across the way over there and I really do see, I do see evidence of groupthink happening by that political party. And I just want to say for the folks at home, and I'll quote from this:

Groupthink, a term coined by social psychologist Irving Janis, occurs when a group makes faulty decisions because group pressures lead to a deterioration of "mental efficiency, reality testing, and moral judgment." Groups affected by groupthink ignore alternatives and tend to take irrational actions that dehumanize other groups.

[11:00]

Dehumanize other groups. And we just see that right now. And we see the member from Moose Jaw, you know, we're talking about dehumanizing and this is their very action. We can't even have a good conversation about this and they start heckling. I mean this is something we need to have a serious debate. There's serious editorials about this. So let me continue:

A group is especially vulnerable to groupthink when its members are similar in background [and you look over there], when the group is insulated from outside opinions [they don't want to hear that], and when there are no clear rules for decision making.

And we do wonder about how they do make decisions over there.

Now he goes through some symptoms of groupthink, but one of the things . . . And I know time is limited here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we have, I hope members have heard about this. This is a condition that all groups are very vulnerable to and we all need to be sure that we take time to reflect and make sure we listen to outside opinions, opinions that we don't often normally would take into account.

But I think there are some really important symptoms that we need to talk about. One is:

Illusion of invulnerability — creates excessive optimism that encourages extreme risks.

And we see this with this government actually with the tax hikes that we've seen over there and then the tax hikes:

Collective rationalization — Members discount warnings and do not reconsider . . . [other] assumptions.

Their morality:

Members believe in the rightness of their cause and therefore ignore the ethical or moral consequences of their decisions.

Stereotyped views of out-groups — Negative views of 'enemy' make effective responses to conflict seem unnecessary.

Direct pressure on dissenters — Members are under pressure not to express arguments against any of the group's views.

And it goes on and on. Now what's interesting, this groupthink, is some of the examples in the world history of groupthink. And of course we could pick up Cuba's Bay of Pigs. We can think of the escalation of the Vietnam War, the Pearl Harbor, and examples go on and on of this.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are here today about a very, very important issue. And we can take a look at some of the examples, particularly seeing now that we have the bill that, in their mind, defines privatization; in our mind, allows for privatization, greater privatization. And there's great concern in the public about how strong, how rigorous our legislation really is to protect that. They'd say of course, don't worry about that. But we look at some of the loopholes in our lobbyist registry that really create big question marks, big question marks, and we need to address those questions.

And we can't address them just by heckling. That's no answer at all. It may solve some of their frustration over there, some of their pent-up frustration over there that they're really wanting to

take out on us, but really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we need to work to resolve this issue. It is a big issue.

And I think the *StarPhoenix* editorial said it well when they say people are asking about it. Well over 60 per cent of people are aware of this, and I would bet, I would bet that number is much higher since the budget came in in the spring and people are wondering about what's happening.

People are wondering about what's happening with the Crowns. And we've seen answers that don't seem to match up, where we've had ministers say that they have had no meetings, and of course then we do hear of some meetings, 11 meetings apparently with SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], SGI officials. And then we're having ministers step away, saying that's not my responsibility, I don't have . . . That's not in my realm; my people are meeting and so that's not my responsibility. But we know that it is, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And we have questions about the lobbyist registry. And I do want to say — and I want to make sure this is very clear — we have good people working at our lobbyist registry, but there's only so much they can do because of the nature of the legislation that guides them.

And we need to have better lobbyist registry, and we need to make sure that there are situations that if people are making significant, significant donations to either party, either party, any political party, that they should be — and I just want to be clear on this — that they should not be receiving corporate contracts. So people who want government contracts should be clear.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to read the motion:

That this Assembly call upon the Sask Party government to enact legislation that would ban political donations by registered lobbyists and corporations receiving government contracts.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved:

That the Assembly calls upon the Sask Party government to enact legislation that would ban political donations by registered lobbyists and corporations receiving government contracts.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I stand here today to tell you that I am not in support of the motion. I believe that we have a fair and transparent system for our political donations, and we do not need any changes. Mr. Speaker, I believe that restricting or eliminating union or corporate funding will only put more of a tax burden on our taxpayers. This is what happened in other provinces, and we do not want that to happen here.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 10 years, the Sask Party has received

90 per cent of its donations within Saskatchewan. The 10 per cent of the out-of-province companies, most of them have locations or employees that work and live and run and pay taxes here in our province.

Mr. Speaker, the conflict of interest launched the lobbyist registry on August 23rd, 2016 to show more transparency. People now register to an independent office. This register reports to the Legislative Assembly and not to the government. This method makes it transparent, so that one can see who's meeting the government, and there's a new online registry to allow the Saskatchewan citizens to check individuals and organizations lobbying the public office holders. *The Lobbyists Act* is now in effect, and under the Act, individuals who are paid to lobby the Saskatchewan officials on behalf of the organizations and groups will be required to register online.

Mr. Speaker, in 2016 the Sask Party donations were \$2.9 million from 13,600 individual donors, at about \$217 per donor. Sask Party received \$2.6 million in corporate donations from 1,600 different corporations, an average of 1,584 per corporation. Saskatchewan's largest single donation was \$50,000 to the party.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP actually received several union donations larger than that: 98,000 from the UFCW [United Food & Commercial Workers]; 68,000 from the United Steelworkers; 55,000 from Unifor; 37,000 from CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees]; and 35,000 from the Canadian Labour Congress. Does this mean that the unions are buying influence of the NDP?

The Saskatchewan NDP also received \$7,500 in 2016 from the BC NDP, who want to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline and kill hundreds of jobs at Evraz Place. Is this what the members opposite want?

When the 2016 election was being held, the NDP expenses were used for . . . [inaudible] . . . the following companies out of province: C-Street Campaigns of Toronto, website and advertising, 83,789; Now Communications out of Vancouver, for advertising, \$236,642; Direct Leap Technologies from Toronto again, telemessaging, for 3,065; IDS Systems of Ottawa, database support, \$1,633; Netfore Systems of Ottawa, election support, for \$5,933; Project X Productions, Ottawa, sound and lighting, which we, I guess, have in Saskatchewan, for 33,104; Psephos Canada, Toronto, polling and focus groups, \$118,650; Research Now from Toronto, online service, \$8,400; Strategic Communications from Vancouver, elections consulting, \$61,019; and a Paper Chase Communications from Mississauga to plan tours in Saskatchewan — so we have to get somebody from Mississauga to plan our trips in Saskatchewan — for \$7,345; for a total of \$559,580.

And then we had staffers that were hired from out of province in 2016: Layne Clark from Burnaby; Jody Burkholder from Montreal; Wendy Daku from Ottawa; Angella MacEwan from Ottawa; Ryan English, a writer from Toronto — I guess we don't have any writers in Saskatchewan; Katherine Bougard from Ottawa, a researcher — I guess you guys need a little more researching too; Theresa Kiefer, Alexandria Laine from Toronto, database development; Jonathan Orr from Vancouver, a coordinator; George Soule, communications — spent \$10,000

on communications out of province; Hannah Watt, a coordinator; and that total of 19 staffers for a total of \$71,197 spent out of this province, 8.2 per cent.

The total spent on consultants and staffers was \$630,777 out of province — 72.5 per cent. Mr. Speaker, you'd think that the NDP could find a little more local talent in our province especially on planning on touring our province. And they want the support of the Saskatchewan people and they don't even support them.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell you a little bit about my constituency where I was running and seeking donations from most . . . All of my donations came from rural Saskatchewan farmers, small businesses, and individuals. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the NDP understand this, but a lot of small businesses and farmers are incorporated. Of course you guys wouldn't know that because you guys are not in touch with rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the question, is it okay for Jennifer Bowes from Saskatoon Westview or Greg Olson from Yorkton to run and be assisted by Unifor activists and Unifor leadership, and for me not to get help from my farmer friends and small businesses just because they're incorporated?

Mr. Speaker, here's a breakdown of the union and corporate donations that the NDP had from 2006 to 2015. In 2015, they got union donations of \$210,391 and corporate donations of 144,870; 2014, they got union donations of \$47,783; and 2013, they gave 137,108 and corporate donations of 24,044; 2012, 73,977 and corporate donations of \$25,055. And the list goes on and on for a 10-year total of 1.108 million for union donations and 1.924 of corporate donations. Mr. Speaker, many of these donations over the past 10 years came from unions and corporates that were out of province.

Mr. Speaker, here are some NDP donations from the 2000 election candidates. The BC government gave \$2,000; CUPE gave \$6,095 and \$45,522; CUPE Ottawa gave \$750; CUPE Saskatchewan, almost \$11,000; the Ironworkers gave 75,387; Sask Federation of Labour gave over 12,000; Sask building traders association gave 75,000; UFCW gave 22,000 and their union workers gave another 16,000. And the list goes on and on for a total of 37 unions giving 300,000 and \$88,000 in personal donations.

[11:15]

The corporate donations that year: there was Cowan Imaging Group gave 7,346; Crystal Lake Development fund, which they sold some land in our area and it's from my constituency, gave \$5,500; Lone Star Hotel; P.A. [Prince Albert] Plaza; and the list goes on and on for 16 corporate donations of 24,801.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at some of the donations from Athabasca, zero for individual donations. Prince Albert Northcote, zero donations. All of it's coming from unions, and they want to put new rules to hurt our taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that I will believe that this government has a fair and transparent system in political donations and doesn't need any changes, and I will not

be supporting the motion.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I just want to start off by thanking the member from Canora-Pelly for highlighting some of the reasons why we're having this motion here today. And it actually supports the position that we're making, is that it's very important to have a political contribution field that can be as neutral as possible, Mr. Speaker.

And we know a number of commentators have raised concerns about this in the last year or so, and unfortunately, Saskatchewan's being described as the wild west when it comes to political contributions. We saw that with the situation where our own Premier was getting a \$50,000 top-up from a political party for the work he does as the elected leader of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And those kinds of contributions really can raise questions in the minds of the public about an ability to remove any reasonable apprehension of bias when it comes to making decisions that impact the people of Saskatchewan, the taxpayers, the ratepayers, and certainly the citizens who vote in the elections.

Mr. Speaker, and you know, I guess one of the most important things that we've been talking about is that it would really be important for people who actually have voting rights here in Saskatchewan to have the ear of our elected officials. And when people who come from outside of the province and want to contribute, then we worry sometimes that that may cause a situation that would make it difficult for our leadership to be able to separate their responsibilities to the electors and those who are supporting their political party, Mr. Speaker.

I took a look at the . . . I know the Minister of Justice has talked a lot about the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists, and I've had an opportunity to go through it. Since the lobby registry in Saskatchewan was created, we have 163 registrations in the lobbying registry.

Now it's interesting . . . You know, they were all very upset about union money, Mr. Speaker. What they fail to realize is that if we pass this bill, that's exactly what's going to happen — we'll deal with their concerns. We're going to deal with their concerns, you know. And if you haven't looked at the bill, it's in the bill. The . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They certainly get excited about the wording in the motion. But if they just pass the bill . . . Obviously we've already had that discussion on the bill, and they haven't bothered to even take us seriously when it comes to enacting the bill. So if they want to get all excited about what the wording is in the motion, Mr. Speaker, perhaps they should pass the bill. If that's what's really concerning members opposite, just pass the bill. It's that easy. It's simple. And then this discussion is over, and Saskatchewan is no longer regarded as the wild west when it

comes to political contributions. If they're so excited, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the scary unions, well then maybe they should pass the bill.

And that might really help us get over this discussion and restore our reputation across Canada because right now, our reputation is quite scarred. We have a Premier who is accepting \$50,000 top-ups on his salary from his political party. We know that some of their largest contributors are from out of province, Mr. Speaker, and the message that that sends to the people who vote, the people who expect their leadership to represent them, is something that raises serious concerns.

And certainly my colleague from Saskatoon Centre showed an editorial which says there's a lot of problems, not just with the way political contributions are happening but also with the lobbyist registry.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point out some of the people who have registered in the lobbying registry, and there's a lot of legitimate companies, in-house lobbyists. And that's exactly the reason why this lobbying registry was created, was to provide legitimacy to the people who are advocating for their clients, if they're hired consultants or of course if they're in-house consultants. And there's a number of them. If you go into the registry and take a look, there's a number of in-house consultants. That's their job. Most of them would have a job title of something like government relations. So their job is to plead their case to the relevant minister, to have an audience with the minister. And the role of the registry is to make that transparent.

So there's three tabs here on the registry. The one I'm looking on right now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is called the citizen tab. And what it does is it allows anyone to go in and look at who is registered.

The very first person that shows up on the list is Tim McMillan, Mr. Speaker. And as we know, he's a former minister of the Crown here in Saskatchewan. He's been gone for a couple of years. He's an out-of-province consultant, lobbyist. He's a good guy, absolutely, and I think he does a great job for the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the people that he represents. So that's a legitimate activity where a legitimate lobbyist is actually consulting, and I'm sure the ministers opposite hear pleas from him, from his constituents, which is the petroleum producers here in Saskatchewan.

We have other folks that are familiar to members in the House. For example there's a woman named Terri Harris. Now she shows up as representing six different companies, so I believe she has her own independent consulting company now. She's showing up as a consultant, and she's now representing Great Western Brewing Company; the Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan; Agrium Inc.; Berkshire Hathaway Energy Canada, which is a Canadian renewable energy company; and EDF EN Canada Development Inc., which is a wind and solar energy company.

Now again, Mr. Speaker, what happens when we get confusion with the contributions, political contributions, is that when individuals who register in a lobbying registry also provide political contributions, then the lines start to blur a little bit.

And I think that's what our bill is attempting to do, is to clear up those lines and make them clear. Mr. Speaker, that's all the bill's trying to do.

And of course with this motion, it's the same idea. First of all, we're asking to pass the bill. But secondly, we need to make sure that registered lobbyists aren't providing political contributions. So that's a new part of the discussion today, Mr. Speaker, and that's the concern. If individuals like Terri Harris are making political contributions to a political party and also appealing for her clients to the government, through the, you know, legitimate lobbying activities, it creates a concern.

And I think the thing we call . . . This has been discussed a lot with political actors and government officials over the years, Mr. Speaker, and it shows up in the practice of law under a phrase called "a reasonable apprehension of bias." And this is where, I think, a bill like we've proposed and this motion would help just remove that. It's very simple. It's very clean. And I think it would solve a lot of the problems that members opposite are showing as their concerns with the situation that we have here today.

So of course we know that when people are donating money, there's an expectation of at least some sort of attention, some sort of connection, some sort of affirmation of that generous donation, Mr. Speaker. And so the question is, what are those expectations? What are the expectations that people have when they donate money to a particular political party? And those expectations are the ones that bring the whole situation into disrepute if we don't have clear rules about who can lobby the government and who are the political contributors to the government, Mr. Speaker. It's a very dangerous ground to be entering in upon.

We have the lobbyist registry. It's up and running. We also have someone like Mary Donlevy-Konkin who was a ministerial assistant here in the building for many years, Mr. Speaker. She's now registered as a consultant lobbyist. So I think those individuals should take a look at their own political contributions and ensure that they're above reproach.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we had the legislation in place, if we had this motion passed — we have an opportunity here today to pass this motion — then we can set the wheels in motion to fix the problem and ensure that this is not something that clouds people's judgment. It's not something that creates expectations by people making political contributions, and the public will have the confidence they should have in the lobbying registry as well as in the political system.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm very glad to be able to speak to this motion today. I'll certainly be supporting it, and I would encourage all government members to consider the importance of this motion and the importance of supporting it.

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

Mr. Bonk: — The motion presented by the member from Saskatoon Centre seems to suggest that there's something untoward in the province of Saskatchewan. And although I may not share, or definitely do not share his ideological point of

view, Mr. Speaker, I do have the ability to look at the overall picture and say with complete confidence that while Saskatchewan political donation procedure may not yet be perfect, it's built in transparency and accountability and make it the envy of systems across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it does however point to the basic truth about our political system, and that is, we may have the greatest motivations and noblest of principles when becoming involved in the democratic process, but in order to bring our ideas and plans into reality, we must first get elected. And getting elected of course requires a healthy bottom line.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the greatest pleasures of my duties as MLA are the occasions I get to visit with the good people of Moosomin constituency to talk about their hopes and dreams for themselves and their families, to discuss any obstacles that I might help them with, and to generally stay in touch with the grassroots folks who depend on me as their representative.

I'm always thankful for their generosity when it comes to helping out with our constituency finances. But you see, Mr. Speaker, the good people of Moosomin constituency like to show their appreciation for the work that the Sask Party has done to make their hometowns, their constituency, and their province a better and more prosperous place to live.

I know it'd be wonderful if we meet with our constituents, we could spend all of our time listening to their viewpoints and concerns and looking for solutions to their challenges, but, Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is always there. So fundraising becomes an integral part of the daily chores in our lives, and the motion by the member from Saskatoon Centre seems to suggest that there is something sinister going on in regards to certain political donations.

I suppose we could just follow in the footsteps of some jurisdictions in Canada and the US [United States], where funding by corporations and unions has either been restricted or eliminated. And by the way, notice that I included unions in that statement, Mr. Speaker, a point that I will certainly bring up later.

So in place of these corporate and union donations, many of these jurisdictions have put the burden of political fundraising on the taxpayer; in other words, making subsidized political parties the order of the day. So the taxpayer, no matter what his political allegiance may be, if any, is expected to divvy up his hard-earned dollars evenly among the competing parties.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Saskatchewan Party do not believe that taxpayers should be compelled to cover the cost of political campaign expenditures except, of course, on a voluntary basis. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we see nothing sinister about personal choice when it comes to political donations, whether it be from individuals, corporations, or registered lobbyists.

Now the lobbyists are a good case in point. Just last August, Mr. Speaker, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, a highly respected, independent officer of the legislature, launched the lobbyist registry. It requires an individual who accepts payment to communicate with a Saskatchewan public-office holder in an attempt to exert influence to register with the Registrar of

Lobbyists.

This Registrar of Lobbyists is an independent entity who reports not to the government but to the Legislative Assembly. This registry is online and searchable by anyone. Not only are the names of lobbyists available, but all their activities must be disclosed. Mr. Speaker, the commitment to transparency and accountability is clear.

This now brings us to another point that might mitigate the misconception that there is something ominous about the political donations of individuals and corporations. But before I get to that, I promised to include unions in the list, as the motion conveniently leaves them out. So I ask, how ominous is the fact that the recent electoral campaign in British Columbia, the largest political donation in the province's history, nearly \$700,000, was donated by the United Steelworkers to the BC New Democrats? Not only that, they hired and paid two high-level political organizers, then lent them to the New Democrats for this year's BC election campaign.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, these are called in-kind donations, as there is no actual exchange for money from the donor to the political party. In-kind donations, Mr. Speaker, the same sort of arrangements which we saw many political organizers, canvassers, and other election workers participate as NDP staffers in last year's Saskatchewan election at no expense to the NDP, as they were paid with union funds. But unions are not included in the motion.

[11:30]

As an example, Mr. Speaker, in the recent Saskatchewan election there were six employees of the NDP's campaign in Batoche constituency who were paid with union funds. But unions are not included in the motion.

But if we look closely at the final 2016 election reports we find a number of constituencies where the NDP had organizers, canvassers, and other campaign workers who were paid by CUPE. How ominous is that, Mr. Speaker? But unions are not included in the motion.

In fact in the constituency of Moosomin, which I have the great privilege to represent, the NDP candidate, who I have the highest personal respect for, in the last election received 93 per cent of her campaign funding from union donations. The total union donations to the Saskatchewan NDP for the 2016 provincial election: \$2000. That was \$2000. The total union donations to the Saskatchewan NDP for the 2016 provincial election campaign totalled over \$462,000. But unions are not included in the motion.

The irony is not lost on me when the members opposite stomp around in their place and shout that we need to get big money out of politics. At the very least the statement could be construed as being somewhat hypocritical. Mr. Speaker, here's a quick breakdown of just some of the union donations to the Saskatchewan NDP in the 2016 annual returns: \$98,000 from the UFCW; 68,000 from the United Steelworkers; 55,000 from Unifor; 37,000 from CUPE; 35,000 from Canadian Labour Congress.

Aside from being by far the largest donors and the major source of income for the NDP, labour groups have a permanent seat on the Saskatchewan NDP board. Does this mean that union bosses are purchasing influence with the NDP? But unions are not included in the motion.

Mr. Speaker, my mother, a retired health care professional, was a union member not because she wanted to be, but because she had to be to work in her chosen field. How was it fair in any way that her union dues, her money, was used to fund a party that she didn't support and never will support? But unions are not included in the motion.

And of course one of the favourite taunts of the members opposite is the supposed massive amounts of money that our government showers on out-of-province businesses and individuals. This is from a party that spent over \$600,000 on out-of-province consultants in the recent election.

Mr. Speaker, to give some context how out of touch the Saskatchewan NDP really is, they had to hire a firm from Ontario to organize a tour of rural Saskatchewan because it was off of Highway 11, only to turn around and demonize Saskatchewan farmers, who are by and large incorporated, as corrupt corporations look to buy influence.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has generated over 90 per cent of its donations from Saskatchewan sources. And most of the 10 per cent of the out-of-province sources are companies with a Saskatchewan office and local employees.

Mr. Speaker, as a registered party in this province, the Saskatchewan Party is required to publicly report all of its donations and expenses. The party's annual report is open and available to anyone. There are no loopholes. There are no hidden agendas, Mr. Speaker. *The Election Act* requires all donations over \$250 to be publicly reported.

And when the figures are in, you realize that the amounts of the Sask Party's coffers is made up of relatively small donations. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in 2015, the last full year of which we have numbers, the Saskatchewan Party received donations from over 13,000 different individuals for an average of those donations to be \$176. That same report, Mr. Speaker, identifies 1,377 corporations who gave donations to the Saskatchewan Party with an average donation of \$1,233.

Mr. Speaker, in the Moosomin constituency, the vast majority of the corporate donors the NDP like to vilify are farmers. I'm not sure why the NDP has their sights set so squarely on farmers. They are the backbone of our economy. They are the people who believe in freedom. They believe in the freedom of religion; freedom to choose which school their children are educated in; and freedom of which political party they chose to support. I once again, I repeat once again, Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of the corporate donors that the NDP are so adamantly opposed to are Saskatchewan farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the motion by the member from Saskatoon Centre seems to suggest that something sinister is afoot in the realm of Saskatchewan political donations. Well the only sinister aspect I can see, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the motion does not

include unions.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party receives financial support from a wide range of its citizens, small businesses, and corporations. It fulfills strict guidelines of *The Election Act* and makes a full annual report of its finances, a report that is open for anyone to view. Mr. Speaker, our party believes that the system does not need reform as it's not broken. The transparency is obvious. All pertinent information is available and clear. Accountability is not a problem. Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and many others, I'm not able to support the motion put forward by the member from Saskatoon Centre.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well this afternoon we're talking . . . We're not actually talking about donations. We're not really talking about the companies involved or even the unions involved, although we've heard long lists of donations. We're talking about something much more serious. We're talking about trust.

We're talking about the way that the public views us in this profession. Do they trust us to do the right thing? Do they trust us in our interactions with companies, in our interactions in handing out contracts, to be objective? To be objective about our dealings with which company is the right company to deal with, to be objective in the development of policy. And to be subjective in a different way, to be subject to our commitment to serve the needs of the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, because it is really important that we maintain what is our primary goal.

Our primary goal is not to help any particular business or any particular company. Our primary goal is to achieve the best for the people of this province. And I always go back to the way we define that the most clearly, which is the best health outcomes. And I reference that in particular because there are some pretty important lessons for us from the health field.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, I, prior to being in this work I was practising as a family physician. And in that field, in the field of medicine, there's a long-standing practice whereby pharmaceutical companies have a practice of giving gifts to physicians. And sometimes those are simple things like a pen or a mug, a pad of paper, or it could be a pair of socks. Or it could be something bigger, a golf trip, a fancy dinner. Or something even bigger like payments directly to that physician for prescribing the drug in question. What's clear is that the greater the degree of connection, the greater the degree of gift, the greater size of the gift, the greater the influence.

But it doesn't actually have to be that big of a gift. Even just that pen, that pad of paper, the logo on an anatomy poster, that influences — studies have shown very clearly — that influences behaviour. That affects the decisions they do, and of course it does. That's why they do it.

Mr. Speaker, the pharmaceutical companies aren't giving doctors mugs because they want them to have a good hot cup of coffee. It's because they want them to prescribe their drugs. And the same is true, the same is true for Crescent Point. The

same is true for Cenovus. The same is true for Encana. The same is true for any of the companies that are giving money to the Sask Party. They're not doing it because they believe in the beautiful vision of this cabinet. They're not. They're doing it because they believe that that will influence their opportunities.

The donors. The reason the donors give money to your party . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. The reason the people give money to . . . Absolutely I say it . . . [inaudible] . . . and I'll say it again . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. The member from Saskatoon Meewasin has the floor. Order. I recognize the member.

Mr. Meili: — And the same is true for donors to political companies, political parties. There's no reason that these companies would give these large amounts if they didn't want to have some influence over your behaviour and your thinking.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a practice that has been investigated quite seriously within the medical profession, and there's been efforts to root that out. They've been expected to root this out, and we've seen a big movement in the right direction where we no longer have those golf trips and other things being allowed in that profession. And certainly it's something that I've avoided doing myself. I've avoided having those discussions with pharmaceutical companies in my office.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's in one of the most trusted professions. Physicians are up there with the pharmacists and the firemen for the most trusted professions. You know who isn't among those most trusted professions — politicians, and there's a good reason for that.

Physicians realize that trust is our greatest asset, with the public and with our patients. If we want our patients to actually take our advice and change their behaviour we need to have their solid trust. We need to have no indication of any influence, any outside influence. And that . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. I'd like to remind the front bench that this is private members' day and we have a private members' debate. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm concerned I might have hit a little too close to home here. But the reality is that we want to be trusted as a profession. We want people to look at us as political leaders and be able to trust that we are not being influenced. And there's a reality. The studies show it very clearly. The members across are very upset about this description, but the reality is you can't avoid — the psychology is real — you can't avoid being influenced by who donates to your party. You won't be.

And even if you could, even if you could set up this perfect barrier that preserves you from any influence from the people who donate to you, the public would still think that the

influence is there. Whatever the reality is, the perception is very clear, Mr. Speaker. Even if you could make that barrier, the public doesn't trust this profession and they don't trust it for some very clear reasons.

What are those reasons? We have public institutions. We have universities, libraries donating to political parties. We have big gala dinners where people pay extra money to have closer access to members of the government.

Mr. Speaker, we have, up until a very recent past, big dollars — you know, up to half a million dollars in the last decade — of top-ups to the Premier's salary directly connected to those donations. Mr. Speaker, we have contracts. We see in today's motion, and today's motion is driven by the realization that people who donated \$1 million, 53 companies who donated \$1 million to the Saskatchewan Party wound up with \$100 million in contracts. Mr. Speaker, whether that was influenced or not, the perception is there, and the trust of our profession is damaged by that, is damaged by that. And we see that . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — There will be ample opportunity for government private members to enter into the debate. Currently the member from Saskatoon Meewasin has the floor. I would ask members to respect the member's right to participate in this debate. I recognize the member.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does seem unusual to have had to sit down three times in a 10-minute speech. I expect we're hitting a bit too close to home.

Because the public knows about this: 81 per cent of the Saskatchewan public says no public institutions should be able to contribute to political parties; 69 per cent said we shouldn't have out-of-province donations; and 74 per cent said no money from charities.

But this party persists in insisting that that behaviour is absolutely fine despite the fact that it is damaging our reputation as a profession, Mr. Speaker. When this happens, when we see this happening, people . . . [inaudible] . . . seeing us differently.

And I wish you would listen because this is really important. This is about you and me. It's about all of us. When people look at this House and they say, they're in there for money and power, when they say that you're in there and you're influenced by big corporations, it cheapens all of our work.

And this work is important, and it distresses me no end to see this sort of a resistance to even a consideration of the way we present ourselves. To see the party across the way point fingers and say, well you do the same things. You take money from unions. You take money from companies. Do you think the public looks at us and says, oh, they're pointing fingers and say, you did it too or you started it — what mature people; oh, we can really trust them even more? Of course they don't. Mr. Speaker, this cheapens our very work.

When the Premier doubles down on this practice, when he further entrenches the idea that we are all in this for money and

power, he cheapens the work of every one of us. Mr. Speaker, when you have this kind of activity, it hurts the reputation of the province and of the profession.

And, Mr. Speaker, Allan Blakeney described this as a noble calling, and I fully believe that it is. I fully believe . . . I had some members across there shouting, saying that I was indicating they were bought and sold. Absolutely not. I know that you're in here for good reasons. Every one of us is in here for reasons of decency. But, Mr. Speaker, this sort of behaviour makes it look like it's the opposite, makes it look like we're in here for money and power, and that's why this needs to be changed.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, we need to get off this drug. We need to get out from under the influence and catch up with the rest of the country. Everyone else in the country, with the exception of BC — and we may very soon see them headed in a similar direction — has been limiting corporate and union donations, has been moving away from this direction.

So that's what we need to do, Mr. Speaker. We need to enact this motion and stop having any connection between corporations that lobby or donate, and contracts. We need to ban corporate and union donations. We need to set a reasonable personal limit so we don't have individuals with outsized influence and outsize ability to contribute to who wins government. We need to absolutely eliminate out-of-province, charity, and public institution donations. And we need to have a good look at the internal party finances as well.

And in the process, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity. We have an opportunity that I really wish . . . I know my members will embrace and I really wish the members across would embrace as well. But we have an opportunity to restore trust, to remove the real and perceived influence of corporate donations that corrupt reputations and the actions of this House, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why I'm happy to support this motion and happy to support any motion that removes this greater influence of corporations and wealthy individuals on our public process. Thank you so much.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now we'll make the trip back from never-never land.

Mr. Speaker, this motion says more by what it left out than by what it says. The NDP wants laws against the big, bad lobbyists and the monster corporations. They want laws to stop lobbyists and corporations from donating to political parties. But what they leave out is the biggest donor to the NDP. They leave out the unions. Yes, Mr. Speaker, they leave out the unions.

The NDP had 43 union donations for a total of \$462,617.07. Mr. Speaker, this they don't mention. They don't count. This is okay just as long as you're not a corporation or a lobbyist. There's also no reference to out-of-province workers coming in

to work the election, Mr. Speaker. Are there no workers, party faithful willing to work for the NDP that they had to bring in outside help?

Mr. Speaker, there are constituencies that did not raise any money. They just used their union cheque. There are seven — seven, Mr. Speaker — NDP constituencies that had zero donors.

What would the NDP campaign look like without their union money? Mr. Speaker, the following is a list of the NDP election campaigns that did not raise any money, other than, of course, their union cheque. They are: Athabasca, Cut Knife-Turtleford, Kindersley, Martensville-Warman, Melfort, P.A. Northcote, and Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland. Mr. Speaker, where do your loyalties lie when you only have one donor? Where do you lean on in any issue? The NDP talk about a level playing field, but they want it tilted in their direction.

Mr. Speaker, just to prove what can happen with union donations, we needn't look any farther than this past week's BC election. The largest donation in BC's political history was paid to the BC NDP by the international steelworkers. The total amount was — are you ready for it? This is like Telemiracle. Bring up the numbers: \$672,576.38.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan NDP don't think we need to include union donations. Let's look at donations, dollar for dollar. The Sask Party's largest single donor was 50,000. The NDP actually received several union donations larger than that: 98,000 from the UFCW; 68 from the United Steelworkers; 55 from Unifor; 37 from CUPE; and 35 from the Canadian Labour Congress. Does that mean those unions are buying influence with the NDP?

The Saskatchewan NDP also received 7,500 from the BC NDP, who wanted to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline, and kill jobs and kill work at Evraz in Regina. Is that why we don't hear much support for the Kinder Morgan or any pipeline? Mr. Speaker, could this be the reason they are weak on their support of pipelines? The Saskatchewan NDP not only gets money from BC; they get campaign workers from BC.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on lobbyists. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner launched a lobbyist registry in August of 2016. Who registers? All those who accept payment to communicate with a public-office holder in attempt to influence government decision or policy. As an independent officer, the Registrar of Lobbyists reports to the Legislative Assembly and not the government. Mr. Speaker, that point has to be very clear. It's to the Legislative Assembly, which is both sides of the House, and not just to the government. This makes it transparent, and one can find out who is meeting with the government. An online registry will allow Saskatchewan citizens to search individuals and organizations lobbying for public-office holders.

Mr. Speaker, as you have just heard, the lobbyist registry has been set up very carefully using a base that is in practice in other provinces. It's not something that is totally new and untested. It makes me wonder why it does not satisfy the NDP.

The NDP claim to be a grassroots party that is very loyal to

Saskatchewan, yet they use companies and staff from out of province. The NDP used consultants from Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, Vancouver. The grand total of these consultants was \$559,580.

They also brought in out-of-province staffers. They were from Burnaby, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Ontario; Vancouver. When the election was done and the smoke cleared, the NDP spent 72.5 per cent of their entire, entire budget on outside consultants and staffers. Now that's supporting your province.

Were there no people in Saskatchewan that could do these jobs? Nobody who was qualified? Were the people of Saskatchewan just not qualified? Or were their political leanings just not far enough to the left? Mr. Speaker, if that's the case, and I suspect it is, this tells me a very interesting story. It says our business community can see the direction our province is going and it is very pleased with what the Saskatchewan Party is doing.

Mr. Speaker, I must say, I'm not against unions. What I oppose is union control, union control of a political party. When you look at this motion, I mean really look at what it doesn't say — not what it does say; what it doesn't say — you can see what the NDP are trying to accomplish. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting this motion.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's interesting, the similarity in comments from these three speeches, Mr. Speaker. And I kind of wonder why they aren't focusing on the actual motion itself, which talks about paid lobbyists and contractors. So my question is for the member from Batoche. What in the motion is offensive to you when we're talking about paid lobbyists and contractors who are getting contracts from the Government of Saskatchewan? That is what the motion's about . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Oh sorry, sorry. We've had some problems with the clock, so I thought that there was a bit more time left for debate. The member has already spoken, but the time has expired. The 65 minutes for debate has expired, and now we will start with a 10-minute period of Q & A [question and answer]. So I will recognize a member from the government side, seeing that it's the opposition motion today. And I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the member from Saskatoon Centre. With the recent \$7,500 donation from the BC NDP to the Saskatchewan NDP, did any Saskatchewan NDP staff and union-sponsored workers go and work for the BC NDP in their recent provincial election campaign?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And this is the type of question that we get when we really should be discussing and debating things . . . [inaudible interjection] . . .

they want deflect. This is what groupthink is all about — deflect, not address our own issues in our own House.

You know, and she knows better than that. She knows better than that. Here we have a situation where we should be addressing issues of credibility and trust here in this province. And I frankly think that is a terrible question. I would ask her that she should go back and tell her researchers, can you do a better job. There you go.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I could ask this of anyone because we all had the . . . We heard three of the same speech, but I'll focus on the member from Canora-Pelly, just at random. To the member, we just heard this question which was about whether or not a BC NDP donation might have influenced our behaviour. So what you're saying in there is that donations can influence behaviour or . . . So which is it? Do donations influence behaviour or do they not? Pick a side.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Dennis: — Yes. Thank you for the question and randomly . . . And I guess we all think alike on this side. That's why we're on this side. And I'm far away from your side . . . [inaudible] . . . Anyway, donations come from people personally, you know, and I accept them from my personal farmers who are corporate, small businesses, and that, and I don't think it, I don't think it should matter.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his speech, the member from Saskatoon Meewasin indicated that he thinks there should no longer be dinners or galas, as he put it, to fundraise for parties. My question is to the member from Saskatoon Meewasin. If you become leader, will you commit to ending your leader's dinner that your party held as recently as last fall? Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — I would really have liked to have heard an answer to the previous question. Does it influence behaviour or doesn't it? Because it seems that you think it influences our behaviour, but not yours, which is a very strange sense of holiness, but I'll . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. We heard the question. I would now like to hear the answer. I recognize . . . Order. Order.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we were very clear. We want to eliminate union and corporate donations. We have legislation in front of us to do exactly that. Let's pass the bill. Let's get it

done. Let's resolve this problem with our own reputation. Your reputation in the back of the front benches is weakened by your commitment to accepting corporate and union donations. Let's all get in this together and remove all of those donations.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I listened with interest to the member from Moosomin and he made some interesting comments about our lobbyist registry and our laws around political donations don't need reformed. But you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have seen the polls, whether they're Mainstreet and others, that clearly in the eyes of the public they are broken, they are broken. So he went on to say that, in fact, our institutions are the envy of others. I'm curious. Could he tell us who is envious of our lobbyist registry and our political fundraising laws?

[12:00]

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

Mr. Bonk: — Mr. Speaker, I find it so ironic the NDP even brings up this motion. They're always yelling and stomping that we need to get big money out of politics. Mr. Speaker, the largest donation in 2015 to the Saskatchewan Party was \$50,000. The largest donation from a union to the NDP was double that. They have more than three other donations that exceed the amount that the Sask Party brought in.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party receives financial support from a wide range of its citizens, small businesses, and corporations. Most of those corporations in fact are our good Saskatchewan hard-working farmers. Mr. Speaker, I do not see how they can even stand up with a straight face and put forward a motion like this. The irony is just amazing.

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

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The members opposite talk about getting big money out of politics, but I'd like to re-share, which we've already heard, some of the donation numbers from the NDP in 2016: 98,000 from UFCW, 68,000 from United Steelworkers, 55,000 from Unifor, 37,000 from CUPE, and 35,000 from The Canadian Labour Congress.

All of these are unions that support policies that would have a detrimental effect on Saskatchewan. So to the member from Saskatoon Centre: will you admit that your party is bankrolled by organizations that advocate for policies that would result in shutting down Saskatchewan industry?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I find it very interesting they spend so much time talking about unions. We could have a really quick solution to this, a really quick solution to this.

Let's all vote in favour of Bill 602 in just a few minutes. Why not do the right thing? Do the right thing. They raise issues about unions, and they won't answer the question about trust. They won't answer that question at all, Mr. Speaker. Let's do the right thing today. Let's vote in favour of 602. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sproule: — To the member from Canora-Pelly: given the Sask Party's top 53 corporate donors received more than \$100 million in contracts from government and Crown corporations, does he agree that this looks a lot like pay to play?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Dennis: — Yes, well I find that hard to believe coming from a party who got over 72 per cent . . . spent 72 per cent out of the province . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Pardon me? Seventy-two? Thank you.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite criticizes our party for the donations we receive and somehow forgets who donates to their own party. An example is a donation of 7,500 from BC NDP who would like to see Evraz, a local employer and employs over 1,000 people, shut down.

My question is to the member from Meewasin. How can you justify taking money from the brunt of their political party and want Saskatchewan people put out of their work? The people of Saskatchewan deserve answers.

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

Mr. Meili: — I explain that by saying that this is a brilliant piece of psychology you've come up with. Somehow donations to your side have no influence on behaviour. Even the mention of it makes members get up and leave and freak out. But if there's donations to us, it absolutely influences our behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, this is an astounding bit of psychology. Somehow we have the absolute furor and fear on that side, but we are foul and foul. Well let's eliminate it for everyone . . . [inaudible] . . . Let's eliminate out-of-province government donations or party donations. Absolutely fine with that. If we're so corrupted, let's get rid of that. Let's get rid of it all.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member from Moosomin, in his remarks, he referenced that he's against any public money in the electoral process. So when can we expect that member returning his election rebate to the people of Saskatchewan?

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

Mr. Bonk: — Mr. Speaker, I don't remember saying that in remarks. I'm quite sure what was in my speech. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering why the members opposite are so dead set against the farmers of . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for the 75-minute debate has expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 3 — Mining Investment in Saskatchewan

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Carr.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to stand before you here in this government and the people of Saskatchewan to speak about the diverse mining industry in our province. The mining industry in Saskatchewan contributes to Canada's economy and the economies around the world. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a leader in mining, in the mining picture, and a prominent player in the global mining scene, ranking number one in Canada, number one globally out of 104 jurisdictions, according to the recent Fraser Institute's report. This report named Saskatchewan the most attractive place in the world for mining investment.

Mr. Speaker, there is a wealth of mineral resources being developed in Saskatchewan: potash, uranium, coal, diamonds, gold, copper, zinc, nickel, just to name a few. Mining is a significant contributor to our economy, a key contributor to the growth sector, and has a significant impact in our province.

In the world, Saskatchewan has the highest quality minable deposits, with the largest reserves in potash and uranium. In fact, Mr. Speaker, potash reserves in Saskatchewan alone could supply the world with the current levels of potash demands for the next several hundred years. There are few jurisdictions in the world that have the high-quality, economically minable deposits of both potash and uranium.

Mr. Speaker, mining has a big impact on everyone in the province, urban and rural. Mining companies contribute revenue annually to the provincial government through royalties and business taxes, plus untold amounts in taxes from employees and spin-offs of economic benefit. The revenue that comes in from the mining companies supports health care, education, social services, infrastructure, and other government programs and services. Globally, Saskatchewan's mining companies are feeding and fuelling the world.

Potash was discovered in 1917 in the Weyburn area and has contributed to providing Saskatchewan with further discoveries and numerous deposit finds. Potash is used to improve crop quality, using it to fertilize the crops and create more quantity to help feed growing populations around the world. Potash is used

to help increase important crop yields in fields of corn, coffee, and rice.

Uranium provides a source of non-GHG [greenhouse gas]-emitting energy to countries around the world.

Estevan, Bienfait, Coronach coal mines provide almost 50 per cent of the power load for Saskatchewan electrical energy. In addition to coal mines, we have world-class clean-coal technology in the form of carbon capture and sequestration facilities at Boundary dam 3. This technology is an amazing example of how Saskatchewan's innovation is changing the world.

Mr. Speaker, the mining association has a quote: "If it can't be grown, it was probably mined." However true, mining benefits us every day. Cars, computers, cellphones, medical treatments, toothpaste — all contain mineral components of some kind. Environmental stewardship is very important to the mining industry, employing environmental professionals to manage agriculture and wildlife habitat so that it is sustainable now and for the future.

The total amount of land mass that mining uses in the province occupies only point one per cent — smaller than Saskatoon — which is significant considering its economic impact. Reclamation and decommissioning plans are put into place, reviewed before any mining takes place. As part of their operating licence, all mines need to provide financial assurance to the government showing that they have the money in place for reclaiming mine sites, and these plans are reviewed annually. Extensive tree planting programs are in place for shelterbelts and wildlife habitat.

The past product of potash, commonly known as salt, is reused for agriculture and industrial purposes as well as being used to de-ice highways. There is zero discharge into streams or lakes from the potash mines.

Mr. Speaker, prior to mining, the topsoil is removed to contour lands to revegetate the land to minimize wind and water erosion. Reclaiming the land provides wildlife habitat and promotes carbon sequestration. As soon as it is particularly coal-mined, the areas are reclaimed to productive farm land, pasture, wildlife habitat, and/or recreational use. Mr. Speaker, the water management plans that are being used by the mining companies minimize the impact it has on the surface or groundwater resources.

Uranium mines issue a licence only if an activity is safe for the health and safety of the people, wildlife, and environment which is living near and around the mine. They ensure that lakes, streams, rivers that are downstream from the uranium mines are running projects that are safe for people, vegetation, fish, and wildlife. Potash mines provide benefits to the province in many ways — providing jobs for people in the province, meeting the agriculture needs to help feed people in the province and the world, helping support government programs through payments of taxes and royalties.

Ninety-five per cent of the potash production is used for fertilizer. The remaining 5 per cent is used for manufactured products or a variety of chemical uses. Mr. Speaker, potash

plays an important role in meeting agriculture needs and is an important mineral in Saskatchewan's economy.

After five years of construction, K+S Potash Canada celebrated a grand opening of their new potash mine May 2nd, 2017. The new potash mine will not only create more than 400 job opportunities for the province, it will also generate taxes and royalties for Saskatchewan for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, we are glad that K+S is investing again in Saskatchewan, especially after a history that their parent company and the mines they operated were nationalized by the government led by the members opposite.

And further, for the fourth year running, K+S Potash Canada received acknowledgement for being an exceptional workplace for the employees. Our government looks forward to having a strong relationship with K+S, creating more jobs, opportunities in our communities, contributing to the growth of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there are other companies that are considering construction and new potash mines in Saskatchewan, BHP Billiton being one of these companies.

Saskatchewan is making history in the mining world. Encanto Potash Corp. and First Nations Muskowekwan Resources Ltd. have established a mining agreement that will develop on First Nations land a great opportunity to provide more jobs and support for their community and the province. The potash mine belt lies directly on Muskowekwan First Nation's land.

Our government continues to offer a competitive tax regime, scientific support, clarity around land claims, and efficient permitting, making Saskatchewan a great province for business to invest in.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker, with the industry employing approximately 3,900 people in 2015, it was forecasted that uranium will be bringing in 115 million in royalties in 2016 and 2017. Mr. Speaker, mining is fundamental to our economy's well-being. Mining resources continue to be a large contributor to our economy. Our government is willing to continue to work together with the mining industry to build strong relationships to benefit Saskatchewan for many years to come.

Saskatchewan's world-class mineral deposits continue to provide a diverse range of career opportunities, prosperity, innovation, and growth for the province, providing the foundation for prosperity for our future. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a wealth of exploration opportunities. Mining is the only natural resource being used across the province. Although it is not extracted through mining, it is relevant because of our government working to make sure that Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work, and invest, Mr. Speaker. Helium, oil, and gas are other resources being explored. Communities and schools expand when these opportunities are explored and jobs are created within our communities.

Southwest Saskatchewan has a history of helium wells being operated in the Swift Current area since 1963. We are happy to announce that Weil Group Resources from Virginia have been doing some exploration development in the province and have

found helium concentrations in the Mankota region. With their findings, they have decided to continue investing in our province and have opened up a helium facility near Mankota last year.

The facility will supply and refine industrial-grade helium for science . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, right. The facility will supply refined . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Keep going, Steele. Yes, we're good to go . . . helium for science, preliminary MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging], and manufacturing industries.

Mr. Speaker, Cypress Hills may be sparsely populated but makes up for it in strong, resourceful energy resources within the region.

Oil has been the world's major commercial energy source for many decades and will maintain this leading role for many more years to come. Oil and gas is necessary for everyone. It heats our homes; allows us to drive our vehicles; travel by bus, ship, train, and air. Petroleum products are also used to make the materials found in everyday household items such as toiletries, electronics, and clothes.

Mr. Speaker, in 2015 the oil and gas industry accounted for an estimated 33,000 direct and indirect jobs and years of employment. Production of oil and gas in 2015 was a combined value of 8.3 billion. Industry investment of oil and gas in new exploration and development in 2016 is estimated at 3.6 billion. There are approximately 300 oil and gas companies that operate wells in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, industry also contributes revenues in the form of corporate income tax, resource surcharges, sales tax, fuel tax, personal income tax, property tax, royalties, and surface lease rentals. Oil and gas sector contributes to Canada's gross domestic product and fees to the government. In addition, industry generates significant profits for SaskPower and SaskEnergy.

Mr. Speaker, clearly a sound investment strategy must be built upon a solid base that underlines the need for market order and stability today and reasonable prices . . . [inaudible interjection] We got to go to 4 o'clock? You're kidding me . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He's full of . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You can do it, yes. I need a drink of water.

The Government of Saskatchewan has a significant interest in ensuring that the Saskatchewan oil and gas industry maintain and lead its competitive position amongst Canadian energy products in the province while ensuring that development occurs in an environmentally responsible manner. Although slumping oil prices have had an effect on Saskatchewan's economy, apparently Saskatchewan is in a unique position to weather the effect due to our diversified economy when compared to other resource-driven economies.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan government has been doing their part to minimize the impact of the oil prices falling. During the oil price downturn, producers implemented steps to reduce costs in drilling, operating, and servicing of wells. This makes operations profitable at prices lower than before the downturn. The overall improvement in the oil industry will

begin before prices fully recover.

Saskatchewan is the number two oil producer and the number three gas producer in Canada. In 2015 Saskatchewan produced 177.6 million barrels of oil. The oil and gas contributed 23.3 billion over the last five years in taxes, royalties, fees to the government. The revenue helps to support public pensions, provide health care, and build schools, as well as hospitals, housing, and highways.

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas is a proud part of our history. With the discovery of an abundant supply of oil, of crude oil and natural gas in the west, Canada's oil and gas industry began expanding in the vast pipeline network in the 1950s. This expansion contributed significantly to the development of domestic and international markets while propelling the Canadian economy forward.

Mr. Speaker, energy and resources is fundamentally our personal and economic well-being. The Canadians rely on natural gas and products made from crude oil to meet more than two-thirds of their energy needs each year and every day. Ninety-four per cent of the Canadian transportation energy comes from petroleum products — the vast majority of passenger vehicles on the road using gasoline and fuel, while most freight transportation trucks use diesel.

We need some papers, boys and girls . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the motion put forward by the member from Estevan:

That this Assembly commends the Government of Saskatchewan for having very active mining policies which has led Saskatchewan to be ranked the most attractive jurisdiction for mining investments in the world.

In the world. In the world. According to just-released Fraser Institute 2016 annual global survey of mining and executives, they gave Saskatchewan a gold star in declaring the most attractive place in the world for mining companies to invest. They attribute Saskatchewan's competitive tax regime and their efficiency in permitting production, and certainly surrounding environmental regulations and land claims, as some of the key reasons for outstanding rating. This moves us up from the environment position being ranked second in the same category in 2015.

I believe the Minister for Energy and Resources summarizes it well as he says:

We are gifted with a variety of resources, and as a government we are doing our share to encourage the industry and to make sure we are competitive and friendly to . . . [invest]. We have maintained a stable royalty structure over the last number of years, supported by clear government policies [More paper, buddy; keep 'er coming] that have helped Saskatchewan remain . . . [in a situation] of choice for investors and business.

He also added, "Aside from having high-quality geoscience information, we place a high priority on collaboration with our stakeholders in the industry to . . . reduce red tape wherever

possible."

Mr. Speaker, making it easy to do business provides investment opportunities for the residents of Saskatchewan. We will dive into the value of opportunity in a minute. However, we must also note that poor policy also results in reduced opportunities.

Unfortunately our fellow province to the west of us seen their mining attractiveness rating become severely downgraded after their policy change. They were once listed at 14 on the index and have slid significantly down to placing 47th overall on the attractiveness index, placing them with Russia, Colorado . . . [inaudible] . . . California, based on different difficulties companies have existed and attempted to develop new projects. Mr. Speaker, policy matters.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan recognized the potential since before the province was signed into Confederation. Bear with me as I provide a little historical perspective on Saskatchewan's mining advantage. In 1880 the first commercial coal mine was opened near Roche Percee. Commercial clay was produced in 1886 in Estevan, Bruno, and Claybank areas. The Bienfait coal mine, of course, mine, started producing in 1905. Copper and zinc was discovered in 1910, gold in 1916, nickel and copper and platinum and gold and silver in 1923, uranium in 1935.

Potash was found in the Radville area in 1942, with the first attempt to mine potash actually occurred in Unity area in 1951. Actually, long-term potash production became the heart of the Melville-Saltcoats constituency in Esterhazy in 1961, which ushered in the great potash rush of Saskatchewan with the mines being built in Belle Plaine, Saskatoon, Allan, Lang, Vanscoy, Colonsay, and Rocanville, all beginning in 1960.

Uranium began to be aggressively mined in early- to mid-'70s in the Athabasca Basin, found in northern Saskatchewan. Diamonds have been found throughout the 1900s, but active stakes were taken out in 1980 in the Sturgis Lake area. Exploration of the rare earth elements began north of Uranium City in 1990. Chinese clay was a product in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, rounding out the broad range of commodities mined in Saskatchewan also includes potassium sulphate in Wynyard, sodium sulphate in Chaplin, salt in Saskatoon and Esterhazy and Bienfait and Wilcox.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of mining are all around us every day. For example, approximately 50 per cent of the power generated in Saskatchewan comes from coal and mined in the South. Okay, got that, in the south. Coal produced, over 9.3 million tonnes of coal in 2015 from Poplar River and Estevan mines. Virtually everything around us, from computers, jewellery, cars, windows, cellphones, wall board, cosmetics, medical treatments, vitamins, toothpaste all contain some kind of mineral, a mineral that was brought up from underneath our Saskatchewan soil.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not grow into . . . If we do not grow it, we probably mine it. Saskatchewan is the largest potash producer in the world accounting for over 30 per cent of the total world product, 40 per cent of our production goes into the US. Saskatchewan uranium powered about 1 in 15 homes in the US.

The Seabee gold mine operation produced over 77,000 ounces of gold in 2016. Big Quill Resources in Wynyard is Canada's number one producer of potassium sulphate, used in everything from lawn fertilizer to glass manufacturing. Canadian clay production in Wilcox, Canada leading clay producer. We will find it in everything from stucco products to drilling mud.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a world leader in a lot of categories and resource extractions. This makes it all more incredible that we have the opposition of members who . . . There is no longer an excuse for building new infrastructure projects that lock us into increased extraction decades into the future. That applies equally to oil and gas pipelines and Canadian-owned mining projects and the world over, and where does that . . . You've got to be kidding me.

[12:30]

Information quotes come from the . . . Come from what? Nothing else than three of the . . . While other government works hard to promote growth and economy, the NDP focus on policy that would send Saskatchewan back — back to the days when our young people had no choice but to look for jobs elsewhere. Back to when Saskatchewan was the last in population growth and had the unfortunate distinction for having the highest unemployment in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to expand on what makes this province such an attractive place to invest. And in the mining sector means that this province and what is also meaning the local area like the constituency of Melville-Saltcoats . . . This must be yours.

Mr. Speaker, although the . . . [inaudible] . . . space taken up by all of the mines in Saskatchewan would fill the space covered by the city of Saskatoon. I think I said that.

Although resource sectors are down in 2016, project and mineral sales are projected to be 6.5 billion . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, why? They had been a high as 8.2 billion in 2015.

In 2012 the mineral industry in Saskatchewan contributed 860 million to the provincial and federal government directly into royalties and taxes. Current estimates for 2016 are that the mineral sales in Saskatchewan will add up to 6.5 billion, down from 8.2 billion in 2015. However, 6.5 billion respectfully contributes to GDP [gross domestic product] of 12 per cent to the provincial economy.

Over 226 million was spent — this better not be a joke — in 2016 on mineral exploration in the province. In the three years previous, over 200 million was spent per year, with a high of 323 in 2012. Mr. Speaker, from the period of 2008 to 2028, it is estimated that the Saskatchewan mineral industry will invest over 50 billion in expansion and in mining new mines.

The world translating into a new investment rates — approximately 6 million a day. According to Saskatchewan Mining Association website, mining could generate a further 28 billion in provincial revenues in a 20-year window, continuing to contribute to significantly to our GDP. These revenues are here to support the government programs and service such as

health care, education, infrastructure, and infrastructure development.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide some examples of where some of the investment would come from. K+S Potash Canada is going to begin to bring their 4.1 billion mining into production virtually any day now. This is the first greenfield mine built in Saskatchewan over the 40 years. Finish it off here. I think this was planned.

An Hon. Member: — Mr. Steele, we would never treat you this way, on this side.

Mr. Steele: — I'm beginning to believe that, I'm telling you.

It is actually, quote, ironic that the company that built or that builds the first new potash mine in Saskatchewan is 40 years in the same company that helped build the last new potash mine in the province in the 1970s before it . . .

An Hon. Member: — Was nationalized. Here, there's two pages.

Mr. Steele: — Want that one back? Okay. Was nationalized by the NDP government to become Potash Corp in the Saskatchewan Lang mine.

In an article published in the *Leader-Post* June 20, 2012 where Bruce Johnstone, he noted that the irony, and I quote, of course it fits that K+S should be building the first new potash mine since the 1970s since it procedures company built the province's last new . . . since process the company built the last province's last new mine. When the mines was acquired, some would say, nationally by the government-owned Potash Corp of Saskatchewan in 1976, the company left Saskatchewan with a bad taste in its mouth. But K+S is back in Saskatchewan again and with no hard feelings.

Canadian president and CEO of K+S is quoted as saying in an interview that day, what brought them back was a change in government, a provincial government with an open-for-business philosophy. K+S sod turning, no hard feelings about the forced sale of the former . . . Your lines here, Warren, are all over this page. He was also quoted, musing however: "Even more than a generation later, you can hardly believe that such an act could happen to a country belonging to the western world. [You're kidding me.] However, after so many years we are not looking back in anger anymore."

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of other companies who have belief in the Sask Party open-for-business philosophy and are planning to have plans in place to build in Saskatchewan. BHP is one of the world leaders in mineral development and is continuing to with their 3.5 billion greenfield project, hoping to have it near completion by 2020. Yancoal, Southey, 3.6 billion solution mine; western Milestone, 1 billion solution mine; Mosaic, 3.5 billion; Canada Gold Fortune Potash, Broadview, Grenfell; first potash ventures, Muskowekwan. None of these were on the drawing board when the NDP were here.

And, Mr. Speaker, this government believes in encouraging business to build and expand in Saskatchewan. We have created an environment that encourages growth, development, not

living with ideologies that formed the leave-in-the-ground policy of the previous decade of the NDP rule.

Mr. Speaker, you just have to look at the blank page of the '90s and early — keep her coming there, big guy — early 2000 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . .

An Hon. Member: — He can only do so much.

Mr. Steele: — He's going to tag in shortly . . . 2000 when there was little to no interest in developing resources in Saskatchewan. Why? Because the companies were afraid to set up shop here, still remembering the pain of the '70s when the NDP said, we could do it better ourselves. Trouble was, nothing happened.

Mr. Speaker, the mining industry in Saskatchewan created direct and indirect employment for approximately 30,000 people in the province over roughly 6 per cent of the workforce over 16 jobs. The Saskatchewan mining industry spent over 3 billion annually on wages, goods, and services. A large percentage of these employees live and work in the rural northern Saskatchewan. Northern Saskatchewan alone had over 2,000 people employed in resource mining and over 50 per cent of these employees have Aboriginal ancestry.

Reported in *The Battlefords News* in March 7th last year: “. . . English River First Nation and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation acquired 30 per cent of JNE Welding, a company that manufactures steel vessels for mining companies.” With these types of partnerships, it's not a surprise that the mining sector is the largest private sector employer of Aboriginal people.

Also found in the Fraser Institute's mining companies survey was the fact that Saskatchewan is considered to be one of the only jurisdictions in Canada where uncertainty of surrounding disputed land claims is not a significant barrier to investment in the mining sector. In fact — give me another page — Saskatchewan has the highest percentage of respondents across all Canadian jurisdictions that view the situation dealing with the disrupted land claims is an encouragement to invest, and not a deterrent, and rated over 80 per cent. This is a significant improvement. Do we need the lines?

The Deputy Speaker: — Why is the minister on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, with leave, to introduce a guest please.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Finance minister has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister may proceed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you to colleagues. I want to introduce today a young lady that's joined my office as a summer student here in the building, Mr. Speaker. Her name is Alexi Rowden. Alexi's sitting up there. Give us a wave.

Alexi is from Prince Albert. I have had the opportunity to meet her parents in the past. Her father is the deputy chief of police for the Prince Albert Police Service, and her mother is a civilian member at the police service up in Prince Albert. And my brother-in-law happens to be the chief of police up there, so I've gotten to know her mom and dad through friendships with my brother-in-law and what have you.

Now Alexi is a basketball player, and she plays for the University of Regina Cougars basketball team here at the University in Regina, just returned from a trip to China, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where her and her teammates went over there thinking they were going to be playing some equivalent-type teams from university. They ended up playing the Chinese national team. They ended up playing some former division I United States college basketball teams where they . . . I think it enhanced their game and their skills by competing against that calibre of teams over in China, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So Alexi will be joining our office as an intern. She's studying at the University of Regina. We're delighted to have her here in my office for the summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we look forward to Lexi learning about the political process and gaining some experience here in the legislature during the course of the summertime, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I would ask all members to join me in welcoming Alexi Rowden to her legislature, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 3 — Mining Investment in Saskatchewan (continued)

Mr. Steele: — Mr. Speaker, there may have been some inappropriate language in the comments here. I apologize for that.

Saskatchewan has the highest percentage of respondents across all Canadian jurisdictions that believe that the situation dealing with the disruption of land claims as an encouragement to invest, and or not a deterrent and rated at over 80 per cent. This is a significant improvement from 2012, when belief was only held by 70 per cent. This is a stark comparison to BC where it is believed by just over 30 per cent of the respondents that disputed land claims are not a deterrent to invest. But there is more work to be done with our First Nation partners.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the policies of the Saskatchewan Party, the Sask Party, has made this province a have province. We now have our young people staying in the province because of opportunity. Our population numbers have recently released and provided that. The NDP said it was impossible for Saskatchewan to grow by even 100,000 people in 10 years. This government has exceeded the goal of . . . Our 16 Saskatchewan cities saw their populations increase from 2011 to 2016 by almost 10 per cent.

An Hon. Member: — Read that last part.

Mr. Steele: — The bottom part?

An Hon. Member: — Yes.

Mr. Steele: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend a little time to provide some examples of what the resource sector means to one constituency, the one constituency of Melville-Saltcoats, Mr. Speaker. We are extremely proud of the Mosaic company, exceptionally, the Esterhazy division.

Just a few days ago I had the pleasure of standing in the east legislative to brag a little over our last achievement: Mosaic K3. This is the first new production shaft built in the province in 40 years.

I do like to speak a bit about the K3 expansion at the Mosaic potash mine in Esterhazy. K3 demonstrates Mosaic's commitment to the long-term sustainability of their operation and their vision. They have the future of their potash mine operation in Saskatchewan.

Mosaic has 50 years of legacy in the Esterhazy area. Today marks the next 50. K3 is a major part of the future of potash industry in Saskatchewan. These new production shafts are the first to be sunk in nearly over 50 years. Upon completion of K3, Mosaic yesterday . . . operation is expected to be the largest, most competitive underground potash mine in the world.

[12:45]

Mosaic invests generously into the communities near their operations, whether it is St. Anthony's Hospital in Esterhazy, STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] ambulance, new Mosaic Stadium, or a new children's hospital of Saskatchewan. They are committed to being good neighbours and helping Saskatchewan people thrive.

Saskatchewan plays a major role in the global food story. Here at home we're an agriculture powerhouse, growing a variety of crops and contributing to food security. Our potash is used to help grow crops in other regions of the world like China, India, and Brazil. As the world continues to grow, so will the need for increased food production. Saskatchewan potash will be in a position to play a big role in the filling of these needs. Canada is the number one exporter of potash in the world.

The potash at K3 is 365 million years old. The north headframe soars 384 feet into the air, making it the tallest building between Calgary and Winnipeg. The headframe houses two massive hoists: Blair with skips that will bring potash to the surface from more than 3,350 feet underground. The hoist will move 60-ton skips, compatible and lifts 10 million short tons of potash per year.

Mosaic uses state-of-the-art technology, like 3-D seismic exploration drilling to study the geologies and the formation posed in the new K3 mine for years. To reach potash, 20-foot-diameter shafts were constructed. Freezing technology is used to control water flow. To sink the shaft, drilling and blasting is to be used. As the shaft sinks, it is lined accordingly, depending on the geological accounted.

The Blair hoist will carry a cage of people and equipment. The distance between the two shafts is 400 feet. Twenty-four ropes will be used to six Blairs and eight Koepes to 3,800 feet in total. Fully designed production capacity is 6.3 million tonnes of production or 19 million tonnes per year. Are we in fast time?

Mr. Speaker, mining is a major industry in the province. The industry has continued to grow because we have an attractive business climate.

Mr. Speaker, let me read some of the mining facts into the record. Saskatchewan is a leader in the Canadian global mining scene. In 2013 it continued to be the world's largest producer of the export of potash, supplying almost 30 per cent of the world's supply, and the second-leading uranium producer, providing almost 16 per cent of the world's supply. High-quality . . . [inaudible] . . . minable deposits of both potash and uranium are currently produced in relatively few jurisdictions in the world.

Canada, Russia, Belize together count for just over two-thirds of global potash production. Kazakhstan, Canada, and Australia produce two-thirds of the world's uranium. Saskatchewan has the largest high-grade reserves in the world of both potash and uranium. Saskatchewan hosts almost half of the world's potash reserves and 8 per cent of the world's unknown recoverable uranium reserves.

Canadian mineral production is valued at a robust 44 billion in 2013. Potash, coal, and iron ore were the leading commodities by value and production. Saskatchewan was Canada's third-leading mining jurisdiction in 2013, the mineral production value of 7.2 billion. Mining companies operating in Saskatchewan produce 16.4 per cent of Canada's total mineral production value in 2013.

Potash was Canada's leading mineral by the value of production in 2013 at 6.1 billion. Uranium was one of Canada's leading minerals by the value of production in 2013 of point seven billion. Saskatchewan produces over 90 per cent of Canada's potash production, and one of additional potash mines in New Brunswick.

In 2013, 15.8 million tonnes of potash, KCl, was produced from the 10 potash mines in Saskatchewan, including eight conventional underground mines and two solution mines. Potash Corporation owns and operates five mines: Rocanville, Allan, Lang, Cory, Patience Lake.

Mosaic company owns, operates mines in Esterhazy — K1 and K2 — Colonsay, Belle Plaine; Agrium owns, operates one mine at Vanscoy.

All brownfield potash mines have invested in expansion projects totalling over 13 billion in the past five years. New production headframes and potash corporation at Rocanville, Scissors Creek, and Mosaic Esterhazy and K3 are in progress.

Mosaic Esterhazy mine complex is the world's largest potash mine. K+S Potash Canada KP is developing the first new greenfield potash mine built in Saskatchewan in nearly 40 years. Production from the solution mine is targeted for 2016. BHP Billiton continues to advance the underground Jansen

potash project and potential initially production for 2020.

In 2013, Saskatchewan produced 100 per cent of Canada's primary uranium, representing 16 per cent of the world's production from two operating mines: McArthur River and Eagle Point. This is a decrease from 2005 when Saskatchewan production was represented by 28 per cent of global production. In 2014, Cigar Lake uranium mine, commercial production with a first shipment of ore being developed in . . . [inaudible] . . . lake mine . . . mill.

McArthur River, Eagle Point, and Cigar Lake uranium mine are all operating by Cominco corporation, however they all have separate ownership structure. The Eagle Point mine is 100 per cent owned by Cameco. McArthur River mine is operated by Cameco and it's 69.85 per cent. Areva Resources Canada Incorporated is . . . 30 per cent of Cigar Lake mine is owned by Cameco. The McArthur River mine is the world's largest and highest grade uranium mine. In 2013, it produced 20.2 million pounds, accounted for approximately 14 per cent of the global uranium produced. Cigar Lake mine is the world's second-largest uranium mine. When it is in the full production it will produce 18 million pounds, 308 per year.

Saskatchewan coal mine in Estevan, Bienfait, and Coronach by a coal company represented the primary source of energy in Saskatchewan, accounting for 40 per cent of the province's available power capacity and the majority of its baseload capacity.

Exploration considered as a key R & D, resource and development component of our industry, is a key sustainability in the mining industry ensuring that we identify new resources and replacing those that have been mined out. The mining industry supports government investment in geoscience to ensure that they continue to attract new investment capital to the province.

Exploration expenditures in 2013 are anticipated to total up to 297 million. Potash continues to be focused on exploration in Saskatchewan, comprising of almost 52 per cent of expenditures. Uranium exploration estimated at one point . . . 122 million, 42 per cent, followed by a base metal of 9.9 million, gold, and 7.5 million in diamonds.

Saskatchewan had gold production from five sites in 2013. Seabee and Santoy alliance operated resources accumulated projection under the 44 million ounces of gold. Seabee Gold Mine reached a milestone producing 100,000 ounces over in August of 2012. Golden Band Resources . . . [inaudible] . . . production from Roy Lloyd and Golden Heart mines in 2013 until operations were suspended in February of 2014.

Saskatchewan has over 25 operating mines producing potash, uranium, gold, coal, salt, silica sand, sodium sulphate, and clay, and bentonite. In addition, the potash, uranium, and gold and coal in Saskatchewan, as a wealth of developing minerals, resources including diamonds, platinum, rare earth elements, copper, zinc, nickel, sodium, potassium, sulphate, and mineralized brines.

The provincial mining industry is recognized as one of the most technologically advanced in the world. Mining is a

collaborative . . . mining in Saskatchewan's economy directly contributing to an average over 1.5 billion in revenue to the province, provincial government. These revenues support government programs and services such as health care, education, and infrastructure development.

Overall in 2008, mining accounted for 7.7 billion in the GDP or 12 per cent of the total provincial economy. Direct or indirect introduced mining employment accounting for 30,500 jobs, over 6 per cent of the total employment, one in every 16 jobs with a payroll of 1.5 billion. In 2015, the mineral industry of Saskatchewan contributed 864 million to the province and federal government directly in royalties and taxes. This does not include personal income tax or employees or tax collected by municipalities. In 2013, the mineral industry in Saskatchewan directly contributed over one billion . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Pursuant to rule 27(4) we will proceed to move the motion moved by the member from Estevan:

That this Assembly commends the Government of Saskatchewan for having very attractive mining policies which has led Saskatchewan to be ranked the most attractive jurisdiction for mining investment in the world.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I believe the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Recorded division? On division? Oh, oh sorry. Call in the members. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:59 until 13:00.]

The Deputy Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 45]

Wall	Moe	Stewart
Wyant	Reiter	Morgan
Harpauer	Doherty	Duncan
Beaudry-Mellor	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Heppner	Boyd	Cheveldayoff
Tell	Eyre	Harrison
Ottenbreit	Weekes	Kirsch
Steinley	Makowsky	Phillips
Lawrence	Wilson	Campeau
Docherty	Michelson	Cox
Olauson	Steele	Young
Fiaz	Dennis	McMorris
Bonk	Nerlien	Lambert
Buckingham	Kaeding	Sproule
Forbes	McCall	Sarauer

The Deputy Speaker: — Those members who are opposed to the motion, please rise.

[Nays — nil]

Clerk: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, those in favour of the motion,

45; those opposed, nil.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion is carried. It is now past the time of adjournment, so this House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:04.]

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