



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

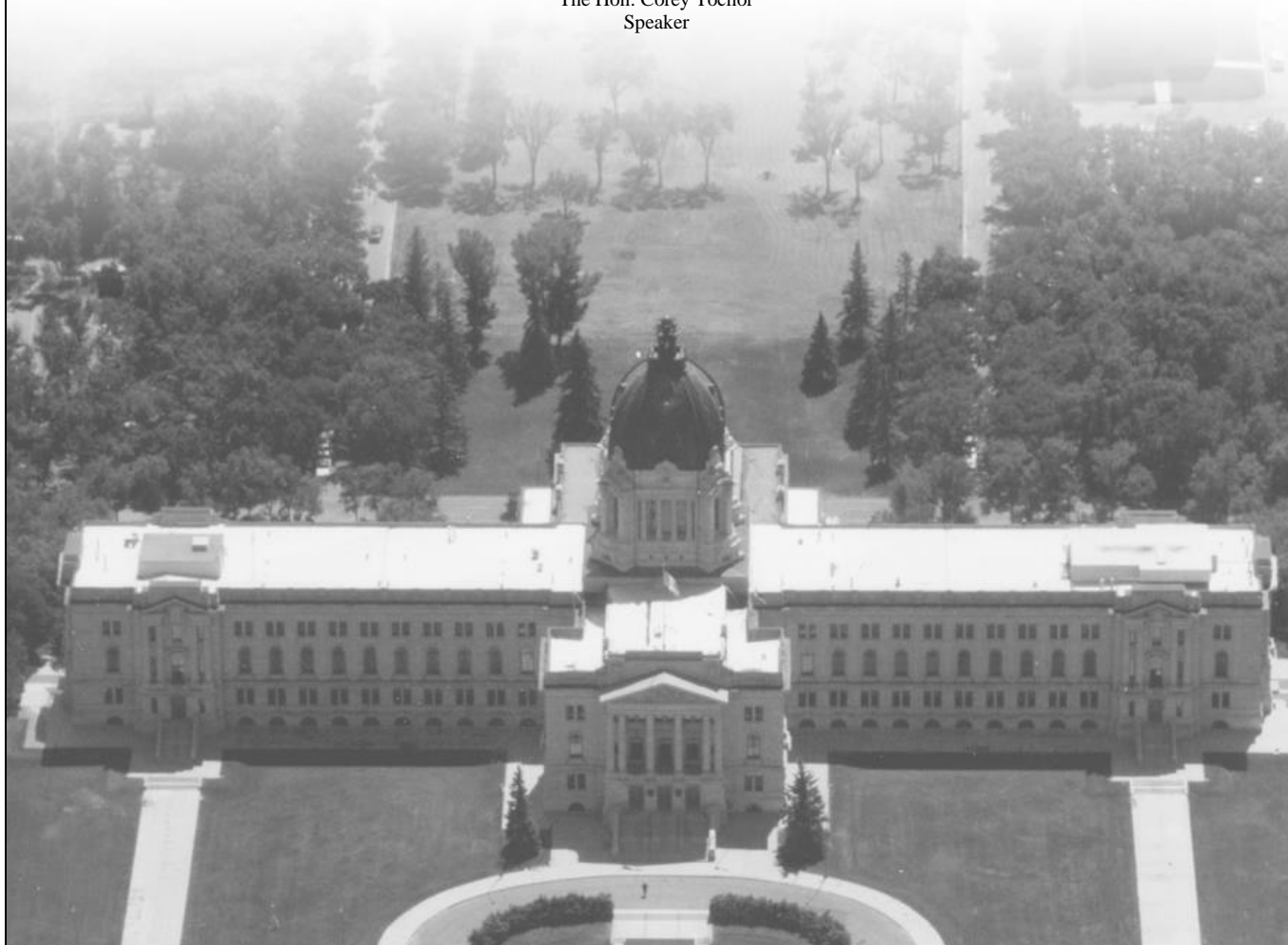
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor
Speaker



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

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor

Premier — Hon. Brad Wall

Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Boyd, Bill — Kindersley (SP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

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Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)

Doherty, Hon. Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)

Doke, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

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Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

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

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

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Heppner, Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

McMorris, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

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

Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)

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

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)

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Tochor, Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)

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Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I would like to introduce someone well known to all of us: senior administrative assistant Jane Johnston, although she really needs no introduction, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — West gallery.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — The west gallery, I'm sorry. It was she who introduced me to life in Advanced Education that first day I rolled my bag of I'm not quite sure what into my new office a year ago this August. It was quite something to have this very accomplished administrator suddenly organizing my days, my priorities, in some degrees, my life. I've never been the same.

Really it should be another minister, former minister Ken Krawetz, standing here introducing Jane. She came over to the Legislative Building in heady days, on November 22, 2007, to work with minister Krawetz in Education, then Finance, until May 2015 when he retired from office. Over those years, a lifelong friendship between Jane and her husband, Dean, and Gail and Ken was formed. Jane would also work with Minister Kevin Doherty in Finance, then in Advanced Ed with Minister Scott Moe and, I'm fortunate to say, with me until now.

Jane will be retiring on June 30th, and this building will be poorer without her, Mr. Speaker. She loves her farm, her family, her grandkids, and would like now to spend more time with them. Thank you, Jane. We wish you all the best in your retirement. We will miss you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this legislature, I want to join with the Minister of Advanced Education in thanking Jane for all of her service throughout the years. In the short time that we had to work together, Mr. Speaker, she always ensured that I had the right material in front of me when I showed up in front of the appropriate people. And it was greatly appreciated, the care and the detail that she took in her work each and every day.

And I know if there was another member that was here today,

the previous member from Canora-Pelly, Ken Krawetz, he would be . . . They formed a long-standing friendship with Jane and Dean and Ken and Gail. But he would also be very, very thankful for the years of service and extremely competent service that Jane has provided him in his service to the people of Saskatchewan as well.

So I want to join with the Minister of Advanced Education in inviting everyone in this House to wish Jane and Dean all the best in the time that they'll have to spend together with their family and grandchildren in the years ahead, and I hope to see you often. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the Minister of Advanced Education and the Minister of the Environment in paying homage to Jane on her retirement coming up at the end of June. I was very fortunate when I went into the Ministry of Finance in that office that Jane was there. I equate her to like Radar, if you recall Radar from the show *M*A*S*H*. Every time Colonel Potter asked for something, Radar already had it on his desk, so to speak, with respect to not even having to be asked for it. So Jane really brought a calming influence to my office when I moved into that portfolio.

And I wish her all the best. And she continues at the farm and in her curling travails over the wintertime and her many golf outings and what have you with her husband, Dean, and their family. And just all the best, Jane. Thank you for everything you've done for various ministers in this government, but more importantly for the people of Saskatchewan. I wish you the best.

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would also like to make an introduction of my senior admin assistant, Jean Watts. Jean has only been with me a short time, but her and I have developed a very good friendship, Mr. Speaker.

She's been working in government here on the government side since 2008, and she'll be retiring here in mid-June, Mr. Speaker. She's worked in a number of ministries: the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Justice, Advanced Education, Education. But she does assure me that she has most enjoyed working for the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments Corporation, and I do believe her because she is very honest. And like I say, we have developed that friendship, and despite what the Deputy Premier might think, I know that she's telling the truth.

Jean's retiring next month, as I said, and is excited to relax with her husband, Morris, and visit her five children and spend even more time with her six grandchildren. And she assures me that she's going to stay off ladders. And she and I both know what that's about, yes.

We'll miss Jean. I'll miss Jean because she's been excellent with me, and I do appreciate it and wish her the best in her

retirement. And we thank her for her many years of service, and I'd like all members to join me in thanking Jean for her many years of service. Thank you, Jean.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister in thanking Jean Watts for the years of service that she's had, given to this building. She was my senior admin for nine years, and she spent the last year working for the Minister Responsible for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. And she's been very open about saying that had she known how nice it was to be here, she would have stayed a lot longer had she been able to work for the Minister for CIC before she worked for me. Early on I was quite disorganized, had papers all over place. And I remember her getting me ready for a question period one day, and she told me that she had a new puppy that was a lot easier to paper train than I was.

In any event, she has been wonderful to work for, will be missed around the legislature. I want to wish her and Morris the very best and encourage them to spend some time travelling, enjoy the grandkids, and whatever else. I note that recently Morris has gone back to work part-time driving a school bus and want to wish both of them the very best.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the ministers who have already introduced these two excellent employees, public servants in the province of Saskatchewan. We have been served mightily and in very, very . . . in the most constructive, positive ways by administration professionals throughout the building.

My mom was an administration professional in the school system in Swift Current for years, so I have understood from an early age who actually runs things in an organization, Mr. Speaker. I understand that in my office as well.

But I just want to join with ministers in the introduction to thank both Jane and Jean for their service. If it were up to me, in Jean's case, if it were up to me to bestow the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, we would confer one on her immediately, after nine years with the Deputy Premier, but that's not my decision.

But I just want to say, on behalf of all of us and on behalf of a grateful province, thank you for being professional servants of the public interest. Thanks for all your help and guidance for our ministers and to me as well. We appreciate it very much and wish you all the best.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to take a moment to introduce a member of my office staff, Mitch Graw. Mitch is seated in the west gallery. With him is summer student, Troy Buechler.

Now Mitch has been with the government for a number of years, serving in a number of offices including Justice, policing and corrections, as well as House business. He has been in my

office for a year now and has been a tremendous asset to our team. He's a hard-working individual, and it's rare that he's not the first person in the office every morning. Sadly, we are losing Mitch this summer. He's going to continue his schooling in Ottawa. He says he's also going to straighten out a few things out there, so we wish him well.

I'm glad to have the opportunity to work with Mitch, and we are sad to see him go. I wish him all the best and wish to ask all members to extend their wishes to Mitch as he travels to Ottawa.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with my colleagues and welcome Jean Watts to her Legislative Assembly. Jean is a constituent of mine so I've always enjoyed the opportunity to follow Jean's escapades in her backyard, on Facebook, and also just knocking on doors and visiting with her. She's got an absolutely incredible backyard and I know she's going to have a little more time to enjoy it. And good idea of having your husband get a part-time job because two retired people at the same time probably doesn't quite work so well.

You know, I must say that both Jean and Jane have been absolutely incredible. As an MLA in the city having quite a few requests for help with issues from a minister's office, both of these two fine women have been very responsive and have done an exceptional job in serving the Government of Saskatchewan. So thanks to both Jean and Jane for your work and your dedication to the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure again today to welcome a group of Spartans to their Legislative Assembly. We have the grade . . . it says grade 12, but grade 11 and 12 leadership class, I believe, from Sheldon Williams Collegiate here with us today. And they're accompanied by their teacher Ms. Samantha Taylor and Ms. Kim Anderson Cobb.

Some members may remember that last year the leadership group from Sheldon was here to announce their very successful campaign to raise funds to ensure additional English language classes for refugees for the Regina Open Door Society, Mr. Speaker. And this year, this group has set their sights on raising awareness and raising funds around the issue of mental health. And I just want to commend them.

We have lots of groups that come here, Mr. Speaker, and we have, you know, great groups of kids from around the province who are engaged in their communities, who ask great questions, who are involved. This is a group of kids that sees needs in their community, and they go about changing it in very meaningful ways.

I was able to attend the One Life kickoff earlier this month where they had just a full room in the assembly. They had the mayor there; they had dignitaries from the school board, and a

really great video presentation. They had student leaders who spoke about their experience with mental health. And these kids are going to change the province and they're going to change the world, and I want to thank them for that dedication.

This year they've set their sights on raising funds for mobile crisis here in Regina, to provide them with some GPS [global positioning system] units and upgrade the radios so that they are more able to find those who are in crisis and respond to them.

And I just want to welcome you and thank you, and I couldn't be prouder to welcome you here today. So I would invite all members in this Assembly to join me in welcoming this group to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As they've always said that you save the best till last, my first school group of the year is also the best school group of the year. I have 18 grade 5 students from the town of Naicam, the Naicam School. Of course Naicam being a Norwegian community well known for its lutefisk, I don't go around there often when they're serving it.

But these young grade 5's had to be on the bus very early this morning. They had to leave by at least 7 o'clock so they could be here this morning. I'm very pleased with them. They're accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Gail Zenner, and chaperones, Karyn Crone, Christina Hutchison, Brandy Woolsey, and Brian Ungar. I'd like the Assembly to welcome these young people to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce an individual seated in your gallery. It's my dad, Owen Sarauer. He's here today to watch the proceedings. He hails from the Lake Lenore area where he grew up on the farm, moved to Moose Jaw and went to STI [Saskatchewan Technical Institute] at the time. And I'm sure he studied very hard but I think it was around that time when he mastered the art of the air guitar and the gainer — I think it's called gaining. I don't know, the '80s was a really weird time, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

He served at SaskPower. He's been working at SaskPower for 35 years now. He's celebrating his 35th year anniversary there. And at the same time, at the tender age of 55 he also announced his retirement, so his last day of work will be in June sometime. And I know he's looking forward to spending more time at the lake, fishing and spending more time with his incredibly charming two daughters.

He also taught me the value of working hard and playing hard. He's a lover of live music. I think he's seen Trooper live more times than anybody should ever admit publicly, Mr. Speaker.

I'm incredibly proud to be his daughter. I'm very proud to have him here today and I ask that all members join me in

welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I too have a few introductions. The team from visitor services is joining us today in the Speaker's gallery.

On Saturday, May 20th, the summer season officially begins. Tours of the Legislative Building will be offered every half-hour from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., seven days a week. The tours are available in both French and English. The information officers will welcome visitors from all over the world to the Legislative Building this summer. They will be conducting factual, informational, and interesting tours for them.

Our front-line staff are the face of the Legislative Building. The visitors' experience is in their hands.

Please welcome our team, six new employees this year — please give a quick wave when I mention your name — Ross Zimmermann, Annabel Asselin, Brittany Lougheed, Gabby Demmans, Ava Tomasiewicz, Caleb Roberts-Winter, and the director of visitor services, Lorraine deMontigny. Please welcome them to their Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Canada Celebrates 150th Anniversary of Confederation

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Fathers of Confederation joined together more than a century and a half ago to plan, dream, and strategize how they would stitch a country together, I can guarantee they could have never imagined what an amazing nation the Dominion of Canada would become.

On July 1st of this year, Canada will celebrate officially becoming a nation for 150 years. This celebration, which started on New Year's Eve, will include festivities that stretch from sea to sea. From the party that will take place on Parliament Hill and every community, large and small, it is sure to be a showcase of everything Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as we take part in some sort of Canada 150 celebration, whether back in our constituencies with our families or travelling to other parts of the country, we should all take time to appreciate the nation which we all call home. Canada is a place we can be proud of regardless of our political stripes. From our history to where we are today and the bright future ahead of us, we can be proud to be Canadian.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that one would not be able to celebrate a national milestone like this without recognizing all the women and men, past and present, who wear our nation's uniform and have fought for our freedom. For their sacrifice, we are eternally grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in celebrating Canada 150 this coming July 1st and all year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Centre.

Saskatoon Pride Festival's 25th Anniversary

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, across the globe June is celebrated as LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] Pride Month, and in Saskatoon this June marks the milestone 25th anniversary of our city's annual Pride festival. Hosted by the Saskatoon Diversity Network, the Saskatoon Pride festival is an opportunity to celebrate queerness, foster pride, and raise awareness of queer culture within the larger community.

This year's festival will kick off at the raising of the Pride flag at city hall on June 12th, and accumulate in the annual Pride parade on June 24th. The parade is expected to have record attendance, and for the first time in Saskatoon's history, our mayor, Charlie Clark, will be leading the parade as grand marshal.

Mr. Speaker, although our country has made great strides in LGBTQ2 [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning or two-spirited] rights, Pride month and the events like the Pride parade are still so necessary. In more than 70 countries, homosexuality is still illegal, and tragic acts of intolerance still happen in our backyards.

I, along with the members from Saskatoon Riversdale, Nutana, Meewasin will be walking in solidarity with the LGBTQ2 people in this year's Pride parade, and I'm pleased to say our Regina MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] will be doing the same here in the Queen city, as well as our Prince Albert member in her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing June as LGBTQ2 Pride month right across this province, including Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Estevan, Weyburn, Swift Current, and many other communities raising positive awareness of queer culture throughout the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Lumsden Team Wins Gold at Hoopla

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand in this Assembly today to acknowledge a school in my constituency who won the 3A Hoopla gold basketball championship. The Lumsden High School Angels won their second straight title this March and fourth championship in seven years. The Angels defeated Regina Christian's Grizzlies 69 to 58 in a great game that both sides won't soon forget. Everyone on the team had a great game. Emma Ulmer scored 25 points for the Angels, and all the graduating players played exceptionally well.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Exner had this to say, and I quote, "I don't think we could have written a better script for the season." The coach recognized every player, from the seniors to the rookies, as well as Nicole Squires, who managed the team, and assistant coach Lisa Ulmer, and all the parents and volunteers that supported the team throughout their winning season.

Mr. Speaker, sports always have the ability to bring a

community together, and the Angels from Lumsden High are no exception. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in congratulating the Angels for their big win and for an amazing season, and join me in wishing the graduates success in whatever comes next.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With a projected debt of over \$18 billion — double Saskatchewan's debt in 2013 — more cuts to the province's vulnerable and no investments to build a better future, Mr. Speaker, it's clear the Sask Party can't manage the tough times and has no vision to build a better future.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has forgotten who they're working for. It seems with each day a Sask Party promise is broken whether through tax hikes or cuts to Saskatchewan families trying to get ahead. The Sask Party arrogantly and recklessly spent the people of Saskatchewan's money, and now it's those people, those families, and those workers that are being forced to pay for that government's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

The Sask Party promised to not raise taxes, yet here we are: standing up against a budget that hikes taxes on families, the middle class, and the job creators in the construction business. To put it simply, the Sask Party broke their word. On top of tax hikes, everything from power bills to children's clothes, fishing licences, and a case of beer will cost the people of Saskatchewan much more.

The Sask Party has made it plain as day how arrogant and out of touch they have become. Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, this government will be held to account. The Sask Party's short-sighted attack on families, workers, and the vulnerable has only sharpened our resolve to fight for a better future for all Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Constituent Inducted Into Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Agriculture serves as one of Saskatchewan's primary industries and, for many of us, it's a part of our past and our current character. It's important to recognize those producers who have made significant contributions, innovations, and improvements within our province's agriculture industries.

Since 1972, the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame has recognized and honoured a number of diverse producers across the province. The most recent induction ceremony was held on April 22nd at Saskatoon's Western Development Museum. The ceremony honoured a very deserving and hard-working constituent of mine, Mr. Tim Oleksyn. Mr. Oleksyn also happens to be my former classmate, friend, neighbour, and fellow 4-H leader. Mr. Oleksyn holds a long list of accomplishments and volunteerism within the agriculture industry, but his dedication, research, and expertise in the cattle

industry has earned him a place within the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Oleksyn has dedicated his career to ensure “the values of the beef and grain industry are retained,” which can attest to his passion, his character, and strong Saskatchewan work ethic.

I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Mr. Tim Oleksyn and all inductees to the 2017 Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame. It’s people like Mr. Oleksyn who contribute to keeping Saskatchewan strong. Thank you.

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

Khalsa Day Parade

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa. Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh. In the next coming week, the Sikh Society will be celebrating with a Khalsa Day parade, which includes celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary in both Regina and Saskatoon. This will be Regina’s second parade and Saskatoon’s first. The parade will be an open opportunity for all ages to come out, participate, and enjoy one another’s culture and tradition, together as one community.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a province for all, and we are grateful for our new neighbours we are gaining and thank them in sharing their faith and celebrating with us. I encourage all who are in this area to attend the parade, participate, and share in harmony, and celebrate diversity together. This government is committed to fostering this diverse atmosphere, and I look forward to more events put on by the Sikh Society.

This Saturday is Regina’s parade day, beginning at the Sikh temple at 11 a.m., arriving at the Legislative Building. There will be free food and fun for all ages, and then going back to the Sikh temple. The Saskatoon parade will be on May 27th, beginning in Wallace Park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to please join me in thanking the Sikh Society and its organizers for putting on this event and wish all participants well, in advance, on parade day. Thank you. Thanks.

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

Habitat Saskatchewan Day

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently I had the honour of celebrating Habitat Saskatchewan Day in Saskatoon alongside some very special volunteers, partners, and families. Here in our province, Habitat for Humanity assists hard-working and committed Saskatchewan residents to build safe, affordable, and quality housing.

Over the years, our government has been fortunate enough to be a part of a number of Habitat projects. Since 2009 we have committed a total of \$9.8 million to Habitat. This includes the announcement made on May 5th of \$1 million in joint funding from the federal and provincial governments to support Habitat for Humanity Saskatchewan affiliates and chapters. Mr.

Speaker, by supporting Habitat, our government is empowering families to build stronger communities. This record is revealed in the 13 communities across the province where Habitat has constructed housing developments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the volunteers, partners, and staff who are a part of Habitat for Humanity. These individuals dedicate countless hours of hard work and craftsmanship. Habitat’s continuous support, leadership, and collaboration helps numerous families across the province achieve their dreams of owning a home. Their mission, vision, and values help keep Saskatchewan strong. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I’d like to thank members for the improved decorum over the last couple of weeks. We should have vigorous debate in this Assembly on policies and on ideas, but we shouldn’t question the character and motives of hon. members. Let’s have a respectful day.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Security of Personal Email Account

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday, instead of hearing the Premier take some responsibility for his private political email server, we heard the same lines and nonsense from the Premier. Well I guess the Minister of the GTH’s [Global Transportation Hub] lips were also moving but it was clearly the Premier’s words.

They seem so sure that the former minister, who is plagued by scandal, did not use the private political server to discuss the GTH. Mr. Speaker, how do they know that with such certainty? And if they’re able to know that, why does the Premier still know nothing about the key phone calls that minister plagued by scandal took with regard to this scandal, and how is it believable that he was so unaware for so long of the former minister’s relationship with the original seller of land that made off with \$6 million?

[10:30]

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the reason we’re so sure is because the minister told us he has never used his Sask Party account at any point. So that would be a fairly good indication that there was no business done on that server, if he never had an account on it, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to the email account question, members opposite well know that we all have party accounts. We all have MLA accounts. We all have government accounts. We have caucus accounts. We have personal accounts. We all do. And you know, Mr. Speaker, we can all endeavour to ensure that we use the appropriate account for the appropriate piece of business, but it can be a challenge when emails are sent to an account, a personal account or a party account or a caucus account, in terms of responding. I think people and the public know that

could be very much the case.

We will endeavour to ensure that we do our best to use the appropriate account for the appropriate piece of business. And I would encourage members opposite to do the same, who have a long history of using personal accounts for government business as well.

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on budget day that Premier said he was happy with their budget. As usual, he took and still takes no responsibility for his decade of mismanagement, scandal, and waste. That's how arrogant and how out of touch he and they have become. Mr. Speaker, they've forgotten who they're working for. From their GTH scandal to their \$2 billion mismanaged bypass and its massive overrun, the \$1.5 billion CCS [carbon capture and storage] debacle, \$100 million in giveaways to corporations, the wealthy, and the well connected, and on and on and on. But they've refused to take any responsibility.

They've refused to take a 20 per cent pay cut on their ministerial bonuses. They've refused to walk back adding more seats to this legislature or work to cut five more MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, with all of this, how can the Premier justify the Sask Party's arrogance and going after the most vulnerable in Saskatchewan? It's as heartless as it is damaging.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only am I happy to defend what the government has done over the last 10 years, we've campaigned on the record. Mr. Speaker, we've campaigned a year ago on that record. We didn't have a lot to promise because the fiscal situation was obviously very tight, and so in that campaign we pointed to what we had done in government.

So let's revisit that, Mr. Speaker, what the government chose to do with 10 years of some increased revenues. Mr. Speaker, we reduced taxes for Saskatchewan families . . . [inaudible] . . . by \$6 billion. Six billion in a reduction in taxes for families, for farmers, and for businesses, including small businesses, in this province. Twenty billion dollars in infrastructure investment over those 10 years, Mr. Speaker, a more than doubling of the amount of infrastructure investment in this province under our government than we saw in the same period when members opposite were in government and had a lot of money. They had a . . . sitting on a lot of money at the end of things, Mr. Speaker.

But you know what we didn't have when they were sitting on that money? We didn't have a children's hospital. Just Saskatchewan and PEI [Prince Edward Island], the only two places in the country that didn't have one. We didn't have adequate long-term care. Now there are 13 new long-term care facilities, 14 when you count the one in Swift Current. Now those exist in the province. The Sask Hospital in North Battleford was just talked about by members opposite while it fell down around itself. Now that's getting built. There's the

Moose Jaw Hospital. There's 40 new schools and replacement schools in the province. There's less operating debt and lower taxes and, most importantly, 1.15 million people who are living here now because Saskatchewan was the place to be from, and it's still now the place to be, Mr. Speaker.

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

Intent of Bill 40 and Ownership of Crown Corporations

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can make as much noise as he wants, but neither he nor any of their candidates ran on the cuts and sell-offs that we see here today. Just a year ago, they swore to the people of our province that they would never sell off SaskTel or our Crowns. Then came Bill 40 to chop up and sell off potentially all of our Crowns. A full sell-off of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. A complete betrayal of Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, the cabinet are so busy setting up meetings with their corporate friends, who are looking to buy up our Crowns, that they can't even figure out what a meeting or an offer is anymore, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear the Sask Party's plan has been to sell off our Crowns despite all the promises and pledges otherwise. That Premier has broken his word and broken trust with Saskatchewan people. Will he not at least admit that this will result in hundreds of millions of dollars of Saskatchewan people's dollars going to pay taxes in Ottawa? And will he explain why he has not had the decency nor the backbone to bring his plan to Saskatchewan people, the real owners of our Crown corporations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister . . . the member has mischaracterized Bill 40. Bill 40 defines privatization so that it cannot happen. Let's be very clear. It defines privatization using the World Bank definition so that the government cannot privatize the Crowns. Now, Mr. Speaker, though I think he's mischaracterized it, I don't call into question his decency. I just think he's wrong. And I just think this characterization is incorrect, but if that's his tactics, if that's what he wants to continue to do, I'll leave that to him. That's a decision he'll want to make.

What we have done in the Crown corporations through Bill 40, though, is prohibited in perpetuity the privatization of those Crowns even as we allow for a partnership. Now, Mr. Speaker, when the NDP [New Democratic Party] were in office, they thought these partnerships, so long as majority control rested with the people of the province, they thought they were a pretty good thing. We've introduced emails . . . well sorry, they're not emails. They're memos. They're memos from SaskEnergy whereby the NDP government of the day had talking points, and the talking points said this.

For SaskEnergy, for example, they were going to sell part of that off, but it was a partnership. They said, any business arrangement we undertake will have two conditions. First, it will grow this company and keep jobs in Saskatchewan . . . Well the member for Nutana doesn't like these answers because it demonstrates that they say one thing and did one thing when

they were on this side, but now that they're on that side of the House, they say completely different . . . Mr. Speaker, people see right through that. This particular deal is exactly the kind of opportunity that Bill 40 would allow. What Bill 40 will not allow, will not allow, is the privatization of the Crowns.

The Speaker: — Let's continue to have a respectful question period. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's Saskatchewan people that are questioning the decency of that Premier for attacking the most vulnerable . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Whoa. We should have vigorous debate in this Assembly on ideas and policies, but not on the character and motives of hon. members. I caution the Leader of the Opposition. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that Premier has absolutely no mandate to sell off SaskTel, STC, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], or any of our Crowns. They've put history in a blender and are playing with words, but these are Saskatchewan people's Crown corporations, not that Premier's. Their services, their lower rates, their innovation, their dividends, their local jobs are all being placed at risk.

The Sask Party of course aren't being straight with Saskatchewan people. These sell-offs and cuts are heartless and will be felt for generations. They're gutting our province. Cuts to health care, to education, the most vulnerable in our hometowns. Mr. Speaker, on top of all of this, their arrogance is being taken to a whole new level as they're taking over everything, silencing local voices in health care, in education, and even ripping up contracts with our cities, towns, and villages.

Mr. Speaker, from where does the Premier get the gall? From where does he think he gets the mandate? Why doesn't he trust in Saskatchewan people and local leaders to do their job?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it was a very, very long preamble and touched on a number of issues. I'll do my best to try to answer each of the issues in the preamble, the first one with respect to Crowns.

Let me be very clear. Bill 40 prevents privatization, period. Mr. Speaker, much like the NDP, if we were to entertain a partnership in the Crowns, what would be paramount for the government would be jobs here in Saskatchewan, would be revenue for Saskatchewan people who own the Crowns. All of those things, all of those things would be the parameters around which any partnership was considered. What will not be considered is a privatization, and Bill 40 prevents privatization. And I know that doesn't fit with the member's talking points, but that is the case.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the budget, we made some difficult choices. Mr. Speaker, it's pretty apparent now — although forecasters were not forecasting this just years ago — that oil is

going to be lower for longer. Resource revenues have been off by more than a billion dollars. This is the third year of that happening with no immediate relief in sight.

The good news is the industry's adjusted to lower commodity prices and people are going back to work at 50-bucks West Texas, but it doesn't help the government revenues. The most important part are the jobs, so that's good. But we have to make a decision then around how do we deal with structurally lower revenue in the province. And so we've made some difficult decisions to do that. We made some decisions to shift away dependence from resource revenues. We've made some decisions to shift away from taxes that hurt job creators in favour of tax policies that will incent new jobs, Mr. Speaker.

We want to continue the momentum that has seen Saskatchewan move from the second worst place in Canada for job creating . . . sorry, the worst job-creation record in Canada under members opposite, in the country, to second best in Canada.

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

Carbon Pricing

Ms. Sproule: — With all the programs they've cut and all the taxes, fees, and fines that they've hiked, after all of their mismanagement, scandal, and waste, it's no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that this province wants to change the subject to make anyone else look like the bad guy.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is on them. Of course we're against having the federal government impose their scheme on us. We oppose it now; we opposed it when they first threatened it, and we'll continue to oppose it. But we also oppose that Sask Party government because the whole thing is their fault. It's because of the Sask Party's inaction and their refusal to even enforce their own price on carbon, which passed through this Chamber six years ago, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan people are vulnerable to the feds' scheme.

And it's because of them that our trade-exposed producers are worried. So will they finally take an effective step to stop Ottawa? And will they finally enact and enforce their own price on carbon and investment in the future of this province through their green tech fund?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — So now the critic — interesting that the Leader of the NDP didn't suggest this — the critic is saying that now is the time, when the economy is showing signs of recovery, signs of recovery, she and the NDP, not surprising, are advocating a carbon tax.

They are arguing that now is the time for a levy on heavy emitters. Do you know who the heavy emitters in this province are? Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. Do you know who else heavy emitters are that she would want to tax now, Mr. Speaker? Mining, potash mines in the province of Saskatchewan. Do you know what other sector is a heavy emitter that she wants us to tax right now? Oil and gas, Mr. Speaker, that is just slowly

recovering, suffering from fifty dollar . . .

And this is the truth. Now we see it. It took until the last day of session for the NDP to finally show its true colours. They want to tax the three most important sectors that drive jobs in this province. Agriculture's one of them. Mining's one of them. Oil and gas is one of them.

And it shouldn't surprise us. She said, well of course we're opposed to the federal carbon tax. Oh, Mr. Speaker, but not the next leader of the NDP. The future of the NDP, the . . . leader of the NDP, the member from Meewasin said, ". . . we applaud the federal government's recent announcement of a minimum price on carbon." Mr. Speaker, these are the true colours of the NDP opposite, Mr. Speaker. Dangerous for this economy, Mr. Speaker, dangerous for working families right across this province.

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

Government Support for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, that's more of the same. At every turn they attempt to distract and deflect, but the fact is that their cuts are hurting Saskatchewan families and they're waging an all-out attack on our schools. Parents don't want more lists and spin from the Education minister. They want, they need more clarity.

And they want and need to know that the supports and care that their kids need and rely on will be there when they go back to school in the fall. Mr. Speaker, in Regina, children living with special needs could lose their preschool. Children in Chinook School Division will see their class sizes grow and their teachers cut. Before the minister stands up and talks more about his Facebook trolling, will he consider how he's going to explain to people across this province why he cares more about social media than he does about the education of our children?

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about Facebook trolling. Well the real issue is, what position are they taking on things? Where are they at? What's their position on this? What's their position on that? And you never know. But, Mr. Speaker, occasionally the window opens up a little bit and we can see into the heart and soul of where the NDP really are on some issues. And, Mr. Speaker, one of the best people to show us where the NDP are is the member for Athabasca, because he stands up and is often the most open and the most candid ever. Mr. Speaker, when Bill 63 was introduced, he got up on April 10th, and this is what he said:

. . . through rules and regulations, is they're now stripping those school divisions of a lot of authority.

Let us not forget that's exactly what this bill is all about, Mr. Speaker. [Then he goes on to say] And those provisions are great.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I agree that anything's great, but we do want things that are workable and things that will support the students and teachers of our province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve better. In every corner of this province, people want answers. They are concerned about what our classrooms will look like in the fall, and that's what they get. It's incredible, Mr. Speaker.

We now know that Saskatoon Public will have one . . . \$11.5 million in shortfall. Almost 40 jobs have been eliminated, including 10 educational assistants, librarians, and support staff. Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister and the deputy minister have been clear that a further 3.5 per cent pay cut is coming, but the Education minister has offered zero clarity when it comes to how this will roll out. He says that teachers should just trust him. Mr. Speaker, they don't.

So will the minister finally tell Saskatchewan families how many teachers will be laid off, how many schools will they close, and which programs do they plan to cut?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite wants us to talk about school closures. I have a number for them. The number that I have for them is 176. Mr. Speaker, we've talked about that almost every day in this Assembly, their record on school closures.

Mr. Speaker, what I'd ask the member opposite to do is take a drive down through her own constituency, take a drive down Elphinstone. She doesn't have to take my word for it, just needs to take a drive down. As she goes down Elphinstone, she's going to see the new Scott Collegiate under construction. She'll see the new Sacred Heart School under construction. And you know what she's going to see? She's also going to see the new Connaught school, something which she is still proudly on record as opposing.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the member opposite, she better change her position on Connaught, stand up, and publicly say, I'm glad to see they're getting a new school.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Closing of Saskatchewan Transportation Company

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, so many people are speaking out about the Sask Party's plan to shut down and sell off the STC. Mayors, chiefs, Métis leaders, business owners, and the list goes on and on. I've heard from so many people, who voted for the Sask Party, who now feel betrayed because the Sask Party didn't mention the sell-off during the last election. And it's the seniors, the poor, and the vulnerable who will be paying the price.

This is about safety, and it's about connecting our communities. It's not too late for the Sask Party to do the right thing like they did with the libraries. Mr. Speaker, will the Sask Party stop

their plan to scrap STC today?

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, as tough a decision as it was to wind down STC, and the 224 employees that were affected, Mr. Speaker, who we thank them for their service, Mr. Speaker, again I'll mention to the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, that the subsidy was increasing dramatically and, Mr. Speaker, that's . . . was the reason for the decline. You decline 18,000 riders in one year, Mr. Speaker, then that's substantial. The subsidy, Mr. Speaker, goes up from \$25 all the way up to \$94, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, that's 85 to \$100 million.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'll mention it. Over the next five years, that 85 to \$100 million could be used in social services, could be used in education, could be used for health care, Mr. Speaker, to help the most vulnerable in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, STC is a public service. And yesterday, twice, the minister responsible for scrapping STC refused to answer why. While BC [British Columbia] works to address the tragic reality of the Highway of Tears, the Saskatchewan Party government is going in the opposite direction.

Twice, Mr. Speaker, he also said that the funding saved from STC was going to other departments. Well they've done no value-for-dollar audit. They didn't look at the consequences before budget day, and now they're claiming that they've used STC money to shrink cuts to other departments. Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that they're making it up as they go along. Exactly how much are the Sask Party expecting to save? And, most importantly, what price do you put on the lives of missing and murdered indigenous women?

The Speaker: — I'd caution the member on his characterization of his last question. Next question. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Deficit Reduction Measures and Public Sector Compensation

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, at the close of last session we all stated our thanks to the many people that make this Assembly work. One of my colleagues opposite said something quite nice about a custodial staffer here at the legislature. It was said, and I quote, "She's just got a special hello and a bright smile to all members, and I want to thank her for her job in making our job easier."

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that woman's shock earlier this spring, and the shock of the 230 cleaners working for government, when they were told that they were to be fired, though they could apply for their old job back with something like a 25 to 30 per cent cut in wages?

In paying for the bad choices of this government, one of the

first moves of that Premier wasn't to reduce the number of MLAs. It wasn't to hold off on making a \$100 million corporate tax cut that they didn't even promise. No, Mr. Speaker, it was to fire some of the hardest working and lowest paid people in the entire public service.

To that government, Mr. Speaker, what does that say about the choices they made in this budget? What does it say about their priorities? What does it say about their values?

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We understand that this impacts jobs and impacts people. This was not a decision about quality of service we were receiving from these employees, Mr. Speaker. We are encouraged that some of these employees will now be business owners. Five of the 13 businesses are employee owned, the ones that have been chosen, and the remaining are Saskatchewan-based companies who have all agreed to hire existing employees.

Mr. Speaker, this is nothing new in the province of Saskatchewan. Thirty government buildings in the North are being cleaned by the private sector over the past 20 years, Mr. Speaker. Again this is not about quality of service, Mr. Speaker. Difficult decisions needed to be made. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to making others pay the price for that government's bad choices, this government seems to have it in for the public service.

When the Premier announced plans to cut public sector compensation by a total of \$250 million, he did not say how that would be achieved. To date, it would seem that the government has accomplished cuts of \$480,000, leaving only two hundred and forty-nine and a half million dollars to go, Mr. Speaker. What is the combination of job and wage and benefit cuts that would be forced on public servants to pay for the bad choices of this government? And will this government be imposing a quarter of a billion dollars of cuts to public servants through legislation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we have said time and time again is we're asking our public servants across the entire public sector here in the province of Saskatchewan to share in reducing our deficit of \$1.2 billion because of our resource revenue downfall over the course of the last three years, Mr. Speaker, to share in this across the entire province, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting that the Opposition House Leader gets up and talks about firing public servants or taking this out on public servants, Mr. Speaker. I just hearken back to the days when he was a cabinet minister. In 2004-05 budget, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh they don't like to hear this when we get into their record. They don't ever want to hear about their record in office, Mr. Speaker.

In 2004-05, when they ran an \$844 million surplus in their

budget that year, Mr. Speaker, it says right here in the budget speech, Mr. Speaker, "It is with great regret that I announce that approximately 500 seasonal, temporary, and permanent staff will be impacted by this budget." They fired 500 people, Mr. Speaker, in the public service when they ran an \$844 million surplus, Mr. Speaker. That's the record of that Opposition House Leader.

They say one thing when they're on that side of the House and do something completely different when they're on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. It's NDP doublespeak.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 436.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered the response to question 436. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to question 437 and 438.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled answers to questions 437 and 438. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 439 through 441.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered the answers to questions 439 to 441. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Request leave to make a statement about the end of session, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Expression of Thanks

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to be between everybody and getting out of the Chamber for the last day, but I do have a couple of quick thank yous that I want to go through, Mr. Speaker.

First off, after the Premier appointed me to be House Leader last summer, I spent a lot of time with the Clerks, and I really have to thank all of them for their guidance. Every Monday I came down, for probably about four or five weeks, and they spent two hours with me going through what I should know and what I need to know and what I have to know. And after they gave me the volume of Erskine May, Beauchesne's, and *Canadian Parliamentary*, about probably 2,000 pages to read

on parliamentary history, I had lots of questions. So I have to thank you very much for all of your guidance. And before session, during the fall session, and during this session, I touched base with them on a regular basis. So thank you very much for instilling probably about 2 per cent of your wisdom on me. So thank you very much for that.

I want to thank the Committee Clerks. Thank you for staying with us late at night. It is probably a very long evening for a lot of them, as it is for our members, but I want to thank them.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, I want to thank you for providing, you and your team, for providing security for us. We feel very safe in this building. This is the people's Legislative Assembly, and you certainly make everybody welcome into this. But on behalf of all of the members here, I want to thank you for making us feel safe here and back at our constituency offices. So thank you very much for that.

I have to thank my colleague Deputy House Leader for his wisdom. He has read all of those Erskine May and Beauchesne's several times, Mr. Speaker, and he is a wealth of information. And it is absolutely amazing the depth that my Deputy House Leader has in such a young age. He knows more than most people do in a lifetime about the proceedings and has the utmost respect for this Chamber and for the members that serve in this Chamber.

I want to thank Exec Council. They are behind the scenes. These are Premier's very close advisers: Reg Downs, Kathy Young, Joe Donlevy, Tim Highmoor, and all the staff that support them for us to be able to do our job.

[11:00]

I want to thank the Premier for his wisdom, his guidance, and his presence and leadership that he brings to this side of the House and represents Saskatchewan, not just across our province — and you see him standing there talking to everybody about what is going on in their world — but not just here, but across Canada, certainly in Ottawa, and around the world our Premier is known as a very respectable man and a very intelligent man on the process of putting Saskatchewan on the map.

And a person that came from Ontario to Saskatchewan — I thought I'd fallen off the face of the earth coming to Saskatchewan — nobody knew about us, Premier. We were very one of those provinces that flew under the radar, but our Premier has put us on the international map several places around the world. And I want to thank you, Premier, for all of your wisdom that you have installed on myself and on the rest of our caucus.

To cabinet, thank you very much for working with me. I know I've been very difficult at times in working with you, getting 70 pieces of legislation through this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. But I want to thank cabinet for working with myself. I also want to thank my caucus colleagues in keeping myself aware of what's going on in their constituencies and all of the guidance that they've provided for me.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Legislative Assembly

staff and the building staff, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate that they keep everything working for us behind the scenes again. I want to thank the people that I get to work with, which is Jarred and Annie. Again wisdom beyond belief at such a young age — we've got a 25-year-old and a 30ish-year-old, Jarred — and just being able to get the knowledge from them that they provide for myself and for the rest of the team.

I want to thank my colleague on the other side of the House, the member from Elphinstone. We have had a very good working relationship. Lots of handshake deals on how things operate in this House. I thank him for always keeping his word to me. We disagree on some things that happen in this Chamber, but when the member tells me that he's going to do something, that's what happens, Mr. Speaker. And it is very honourable to have that.

One of the exchanges we had at the end of the Table where the mace was . . . We were having a discussion back and forth, and my comment to him was, don't worry; we'll work this out. And one of the Clerks, Kathy, said, wow, I really like to hear that between the House leaders that we'll work this out. And we have, Mr. Speaker, to be able to get this legislative session through.

A couple of other people that I want to thank is Hansard. Thank you very much for being the quiet eye in the sky up there. I'm sure that the debate is lively, and I'm sure sometimes it is a little slow. But we very much appreciate you being up there. If you can pass that on to your colleagues, I would certainly appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you. There have been many times where you have corrected me, and this is a learning curve for me as House Leader. I want to thank you for all of your guidance that you have provided in this Chamber and in your office for me to be a more effective House Leader.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of our families. Without our families being able to support us from home, especially those that have to travel, that are outside the Regina area, they keep everything going at home when we are down here occupied in what's going on in the dome. And when we get back to our houses, usually our spouses will give us a reality check of nobody is talking about that issue, but it is the big issue of the day inside this dome.

So again myself . . . Leane and my kids, I want to thank them for being able to be there for me on multiple levels and understanding that I do miss, as all members do, we miss a lot of events back at home.

So saying that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking everybody that I get the privilege to represent in Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland and all of my colleagues for allowing me to make this statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. McCall: — Given that my hon. colleague has taken, you know, the meat of my speech, of course mine will be greatly shortened and made more compact, Mr. Speaker. But I'd certainly attach myself to many of the remarks that the Government House Leader's made. And I guess just to expand on those a bit in my own way, I always think of all the people that work within this Assembly so that we might do the people's business here in this Chamber and in this building, and all the people throughout the province that help us to do these jobs that have been set out for us by the people of Saskatchewan.

So I guess I'll start at the top with members opposite. And it certainly is the . . . As the member from Silverspring has reported, he's as good as his word and I think has been a great student. And certainly I go to the same school. I usually go for prayers, usually after question period, to get absolved of my various sins by the Table, and then go forth to sin some more.

But, Mr. Speaker, certainly this is an individual that's taken on the job and done it very well, and I think subscribes to the same belief as myself in that the procedural part of the job is . . . If you can get that clear, then you can focus on the issues that the people set out before us, Mr. Speaker. And you know, I don't think it's his life's ambition to be off to the procedural wrangling rodeo and it's certainly not mine, Mr. Speaker, which makes me wonder sometimes why this is the job that's been given me on this side.

But I guess . . . But I do want to say thanks to the Government House Leader and to all the folks on the House business team over there for again being as good as their word and having a handshake that means something, which means a lot, Mr. Speaker.

Again I want to say thank you to the folks on our side in terms of the, you know, sometimes the response is, you're asking me to do what? And for them powering through that, it's much appreciated. But again I appreciate the responsibility that's been entrusted in me and the opportunity to do this work.

Again, Mr. Speaker, to yourself and to the Clerk and everyone that works on behalf of the Legislative Assembly Service through the, you know, the myriad of jobs that are there to be done, we say thank you very much.

And as well, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say at this point a very special get well and we hope to see you back here soon to Linda in the cafeteria. And may her healing journey be a good and successful one, Mr. Speaker.

But again you spend so much time here and it's in such a compressed and condensed, passionate, energetic, engaging fashion that it's sort of like dog years, Mr. Speaker, and the time that we spend here together. So again it isn't too much to say that it's sort of like your legislative family in a lot of ways and that's something that I feel very privileged to be part of, and thank you to all those folks that do that work.

And again, Mr. Speaker, to yourself, Bob's your uncle. I haven't seen that in the rulings before but I like it. I like it, coming to, you know, Bob's Beauchesne's . . . Anyway, thank you for the work that you do, Mr. Speaker, in terms of being the guardian of this Assembly and of the rights and privileges of all of us as members of this honourable Assembly.

To those without, Mr. Speaker, in terms of those outside of the building, in terms of the public servants, in terms of — and we've seen this here today — the different constituency folks that were here earlier, and the folks that work in different offices, it's work that we all count on as members of this Assembly. So to that, I add my voice in thanks. And you know, you can't do this work without the folks that are out there across the countryside.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about our family families. And I know that all members come here part of a family, and we'd seen that today with my colleague from Douglas Park, and you know, that's . . . We owe so much to our families, and we're thankful to them for enabling us to do this work.

Mr. Speaker, it's often referenced in this Assembly, the motto of the province is "from many peoples, strength." And certainly the work that we do to serve those people, it's a tremendous privilege, and you know, maybe you forget that sometimes when it's getting a little late in committee or when the member from Elphinstone's going on and on in a speech. But, Mr. Speaker, it's to the people of Elphinstone-Centre I say thank you for enabling me to do this work, and I know that that is a thanks and a gratitude that is shared by all members of this Assembly. So "from many peoples, strength."

As we're able to do the people's business here, Mr. Speaker, and to focus on the issues and hopefully work to ensure that the procedure enables a good, vigorous discussion about the issues and the decisions of the day or a year, Mr. Speaker, we say thank you. And may we do our part to build that strength for this province of ours, Mr. Speaker. So with that I say, thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I too would like to add quick remarks. I'd like to thank all members. I believe we've made some improvements in here. I think this last week has been probably one of the best in a few sessions, and I thank all members for striving to be the best parliamentarians possible.

This procedural rodeo that we're in . . . I didn't start out in my political life thinking that I would become Speaker, and it wasn't the driving force for me to be re-elected, but it is something that I am truly enjoying. And I'd like to thank all members for their confidence they place in me in hoping to improve the decorum and improve everyone's debate in this Assembly.

Quick thank yous to our Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you for him and his team and for his efforts in improving the security in this building. It is noticed. Thank you to the Clerks. I'm very appreciative of their wise wisdom and sage advice. To the Government House Leader and Opposition House Leader, I do appreciate what we've been able to improve on and work on. It's ongoing, and I know when we return, we'll have to continue

to be vigilant on improving our Assembly. To our Pages, thank you very much for your work in the Assembly, including Chase.

And to our CAs [constituency assistant]. We do important work down here in the Assembly. You've got to remember when we leave, you may say it's probably even more important the work we put in back in our offices, listening to the people we represent. And when we're down here in the Assembly, our CAs are our eyes and ears back home. So I'd like to personally thank Helen and Conni in my office, and to all CAs that may be watching right now. In my office, in the Speaker's office, I have Sheila, Irene, and Cherrise, and I'm very thankful for their patience and ability to keep me on track. It's much appreciated. And with that, I'd just like to conclude remarks and to thank all members once again for their willingness to serve in public office. Thank you.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to move a motion.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly adjourns at the end of sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar. It shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 25th, 2017, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker will give each member seven days clear notice if possible of such date and time.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved a motion. We'll take it as read. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until the call of the Speaker.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:15.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

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

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Advanced Education

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

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

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

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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
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Hon. Lyle Stewart
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
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Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

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