



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

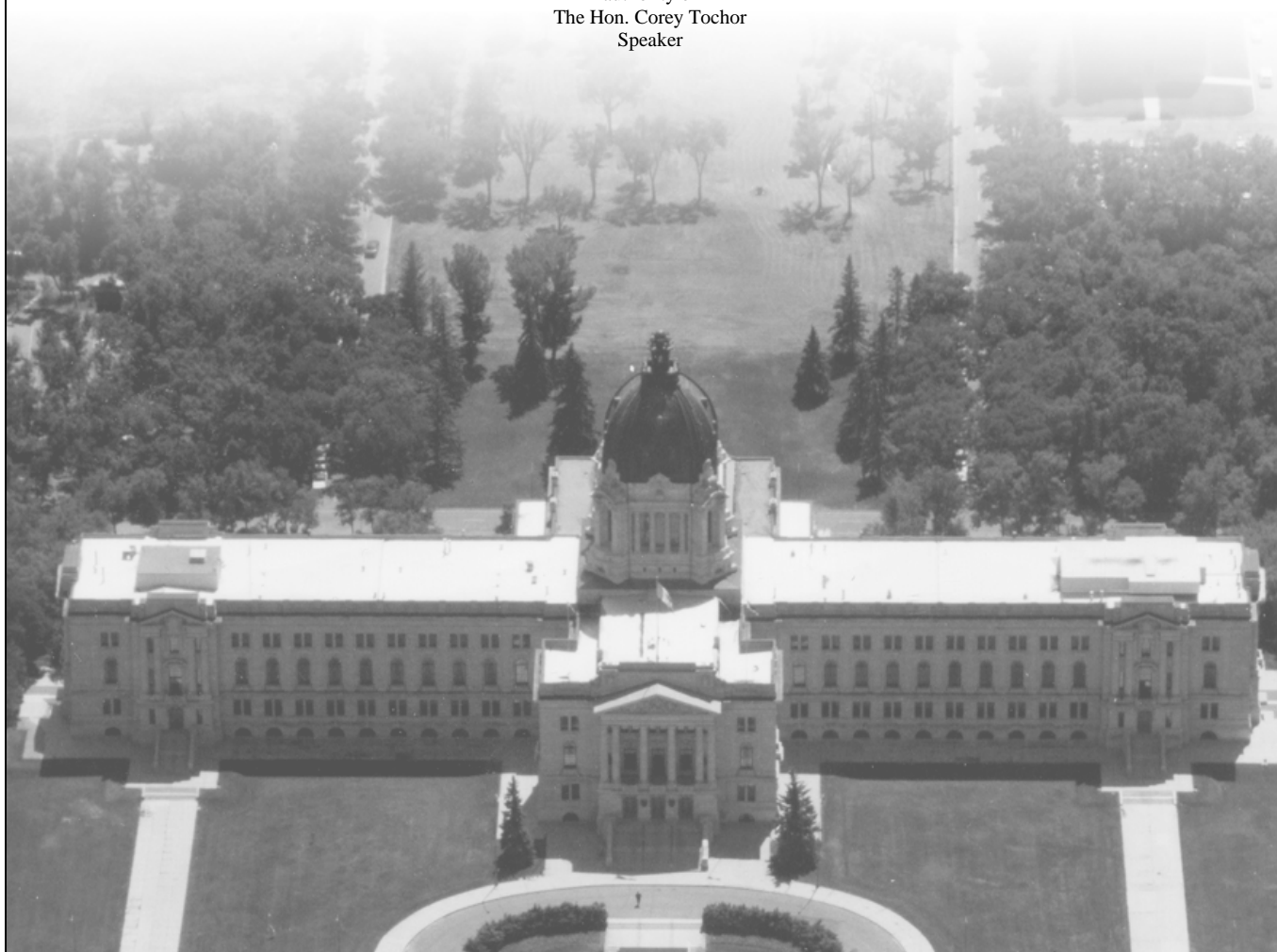
of the

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
2nd Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Corey Tochor
Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
Leader of the Opposition — Nicole Sarauer

Beaudry-Mellor , Tina — Regina University (SP)	McCall , Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Beck , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	McMorris , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Belanger , Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)	Meili , Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Bonk , Hon. Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Merriman , Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Bradshaw , Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	Michelson , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Brkich , Hon. Greg — Arm River (SP)	Moe , Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Buckingham , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	Morgan , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Carr , Lori — Estevan (SP)	Mowat , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Chartier , Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)	Nerlien , Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Cheveldayoff , Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Olauson , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
Cox , Hon. Herb — The Battlefords (SP)	Ottenbreit , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
D'Autremont , Dan — Cannington (SP)	Rancourt , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
Dennis , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Reiter , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Docherty , Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Ross , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Doherty , Kevin — Regina Northeast (SP)	Sarauer , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Doke , Hon. Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Sproule , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Duncan , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Steele , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Eyre , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Steinley , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Fiaz , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Stewart , Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Forbes , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	Tell , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Hargrave , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Tochor , Hon. Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
Harpauer , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Vermette , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Harrison , Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Wall , Hon. Brad — Swift Current (SP)
Hart , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Weekes , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Heppner , Hon. Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Wilson , Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Kaeding , Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wotherspoon , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant , Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	
Makowsky , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)	
Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)	
	Vacancies — Kindersley, Melfort

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Vacant — 2

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce a friend of mine, Marjan Shah. He is a good businessman in Regina, with his son Maaz Shah. Later on today, I will tell about Maaz Shah in my member's statement.

I would like to ask all the members to join me and welcome them in their legislative. Thanks.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Those who signed this petition wish to bring to the attention of this legislature the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence amongst the provinces in Canada. Employers should be obligated to reasonably accommodate survivors of domestic violence in the workplace. Employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty. And Saskatchewan must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Legislative Assembly to pass legislation providing critical support for survivors of domestic violence.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what we call for in our private member's bill, Bill 605. I'm very optimistic that the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Labour, who's actually the same person right now, will see the benefit of this legislation and will call on his counterparts to pass it into law. Those who signed this petition today come from Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I'm rising to present a petition to end the unfair Sask Party tax hikes for Saskatchewan families and businesses. The people who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: the Sask Party has hiked taxes on Saskatchewan families and business by \$1 billion per year, and at the same time Sask Party has handed over \$100 million in tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy and well connected.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party increased the PST [provincial sales tax] to 6 per cent and applied it to everything, from groceries and children's clothes to a case of beer and even insurance

premiums. Then the Sask Party's new tax on crop insurance is a devastating hit on producers. Many small and medium-sized businesses, including those in the restaurant, tourism, and construction industries, will be hit hard by the Sask Party tax hikes. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to immediately stop their unfair tax hikes on Saskatchewan families and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who've signed the petition today come from the fair city of Regina. I so present.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert, which is also supported by the leadership candidate Rob Clarke for the Sask Party.

The individuals that signed this particular petition want me to draw these points to your attention: that the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that connects the southern part of the province to the North, and that this need for a second bridge for Prince Albert has never been clearer than it is today.

Prince Albert and communities north of Prince Albert and businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution; that the support of the people and municipal governments of Prince Albert and neighbouring communities for a second bridge is overwhelming and has been joined by support from industry groups, the Saskatchewan association of regional municipalities, and many others across the province; and that the Sask Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert and this critical infrastructure issue. I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan ask that the Saskatchewan Party government stop stalling, hiding behind rhetoric and refusing to listen to the people calling for action, and begin immediately to plan and then quickly commence the construction of a second bridge for Prince

Albert using federal and provincial dollars.

The individuals that signed this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the community of Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to restore funding to post-secondary institutions. These citizens wish to bring to your attention that the Sask Party is making students and their families pay for Sask Party financial mismanagement; that Saskatchewan students already pay the second-highest tuition fees in Canada; that this budget cuts 36.8 million from post-secondary education and 6.4 million from technical institutions; that funding for the Saskatchewan Student Aid Fund and scholarships have been cut by 8.2 million; and that the Sask Party has broken a 2016 election promise by cancelling their first home plan.

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, this is signed by citizens from Regina. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for the reopening of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre. Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the northern village of Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that the closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre left 15 people out of work and financial impact on their families and to all local businesses. They point out that the closure hurt elders within the community and their ability to take benefit of the help of the inmates doing odd jobs and helping the community generally.

They point out that the closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre hurt the families of the inmates who would be learning new skills while working with skilled employers to obtain employment upon release. They point out that the closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre took the inmates far away from their families, which make visitation difficult or non-existent at all. And, Mr. Speaker, they point out that the closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre took away from inmates the chance to get treatment and to obtain training tickets which of course goes towards rehabilitation and successful rehabilitation, Mr. Speaker.

In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan immediately reopen the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre to better the community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from Buffalo Narrows and region. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave for introduction of guests.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, it is my pleasure to introduce to you a great group of 30 grade 8 students from Columbia School in Yorkton. And they're participating in A Day at the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Accompanying the students today are their teachers, Elora Lake and Sarah Christie-Petrovich, and officials from the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, A Day in the Legislative Assembly is an educational program that was introduced in 2012 by the Capital Commission, part of the 100th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Building, and is now offered each spring and fall. Since its introduction, the program has become a valuable tool for hundreds of the province's students to learn about our democratic process and the roles of the members of the Assembly.

The students from Yorkton will be touring the historic Legislative Building today and observing MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] at work. And I thank you, Mr. Speaker, personally, for agreeing to lead the panel discussion this afternoon at the Chamber. And who knows, perhaps one of these days some of these students may find an interest in public service through the Public Service Commission, Mr. Speaker, or one day they might be standing in my place and introducing another group of students, Mr. Speaker.

So I invite all members to join me in welcoming these fine students to their Legislative Assembly, and I look forward to visiting with them later.

PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This petition I'm presenting is in reference to the permanent closure of Main Street access of Highway No. 1 in the town of Balgonie. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Take the necessary steps and actions to leave the west-in, west-out driving access for vehicles into and out of Balgonie at the intersection of Highway No. 1 and the Main Street.

The people of Balgonie and the area also respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan put up a locked gate on the apron between the eastbound lanes and westbound lanes of Highway No. 1 and Balgonie's Main Street intersection. This gate would allow emergency services access to the eastbound lanes of Highway No. 1 at the Main Street, Balgonie intersection, but would not allow the public access to cross east- and westbound lanes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular page they're from Zehner; they're from Balgonie; they're from McLean; they're from White City, and all throughout the region, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Louis Riel Memorial Day

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. November 16th, 2017 marks the 132nd anniversary of the execution of Louis Riel. He was executed for his role in leading the North-West Resistance in defence of Métis rights.

Louis Riel fought for basic human rights. He was a leader not only for the Métis, but for all Canadians. Mr. Speaker, Riel was a man who stood up not only for the Métis, but the non-status Indians, indigenous people, and the settlers whose land were taken away from them through encroachment. Today is not only one of remembrance, but also one of celebration of the Métis people's biggest heroes, a man who ended up paying the ultimate price for the betterment of his people.

Mr. Speaker, there are events taking place across Saskatchewan which offer a wonderful learning opportunity to broaden people's views of Canadian history. This education is one of the calls to action under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

As we commemorate Louis Riel Day, I would also like to honour Métis people and the Métis communities across Canada. We best honour Riel's sacrifice by working in this House in and around the province with a focus on improving Métis people's quality of life. To accomplish this, we will need a distinct and innovative approach and a real partnership with the Métis people.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I ask all members to join with me in remembering and celebrating the life of Louis Riel and his sacrifice to improve life for all Canadians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon, the Moose Jaw Sask Polytechnic campus will hold a ceremonial flag raising for Louis Riel Memorial Day. The event will feature a flag raising, a traditional meal provided by Sioux Chef Catering, baking, and jiggling.

Mr. Speaker, flag raisings will be held in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon polytechnic campuses. It is important that we recognize such important history as we honour indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. By raising this flag, we are acknowledging Louis Riel's life, his legacy, and his contributions to the Métis community. He was very passionate for youth and education, as he dedicated his life to teaching the importance of Métis culture.

I am proud of my Métis heritage, as well as being a first cousin to Louis Riel.

I will close with this quote from Louis Riel and ask all members to carry it with them today: "We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in thanking Sask Polytechnic for putting on this important event today. Thank you.

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

Thunderchild First Nation Resident Wins Indspire Award

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise today to recognize a friend, Mr. Michael Linklater, who has been selected to receive an Indspire Award in 2018. The Indspire Awards recognize significant contributions by indigenous people in Canada. Michael is from the Thunderchild First Nation, and he is also a constituent of mine in Saskatoon Meewasin. I first got to know Michael when he was working with young people at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge just down the street from my house.

Michael will be honoured for his work in the sports and athletic category, having played university basketball and been a star player in the FIBA [Fédération internationale de basket-ball] 3 x 3 basketball tournaments and travelling around the world.

He is also being recognized for his work with the Boys with Braids campaign. This campaign works to inform Canadians about the cultural significance of braids in First Nations culture. For Michael, the idea of Boys with Braids was necessary after his own experience with bullying and seeing his own sons being bullied in school. Boys with Braids has gained international attention and has been recognized for its role in breaking down harmful stereotypes and views regarding indigenous people.

It's great to see such a fantastic role model for all people across the province recognized for his excellent work. I'd like to take this moment to ask all members of the House to join me in congratulating Michael for his well-deserved award as an Indspire winner.

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

Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan Holds Grand Opening

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my pleasure

to bring greetings on behalf of the government to the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan grand opening, yesterday afternoon. I would like to thank Executive Director Jamie Eng, staff, and board, as well as President Bruce McKee, for their leadership and congratulate them on making their new home a reality.

Mr. Speaker, like many other mental illnesses, schizophrenia is different for everyone. It takes the efforts of many to deliver the services and programs to address mental health and addictions which can be very complex. Mr. Speaker, community-based organizations play such an important role in the education and delivery of mental health services.

For years the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan has provided incredible services and programs to the public, as well as families and friends of those living with schizophrenia. I thank them for the advocacy that they do for the families across Saskatchewan who are in need of support. Mr. Speaker, encouraging communities to educate themselves and become aware of the complexities that come with mental health brings communities closer together.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the member from Saskatoon Northwest and the member from Regina Rosemont, for also joining me to the grand opening event. Each and every member of this Assembly is no stranger to mental health and the effects it can have on our families and our communities. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to please join me in congratulating the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan's grand opening. Thank you.

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

Donation to Children's Hospital

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to acknowledge and thank a very generous family from the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency who's donated \$1 million to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

The family of the late Ken Cugnet donated this money late last year to go towards new pediatric surgical suites. Mr. Speaker, this is just the latest example of the generosity of this family as they choose to stand and help the most vulnerable in our province, ensuring that the best medical practices and experiences are readily available for families.

The suites will be located near the pediatric emergency department and are designed to meet the needs of children who are requiring surgery. They will include an operative area and an induction room where parents can stay with their children while anesthesia is being administered to the young patient.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine what a family may be going through while their young child is in the hospital. This gift that the Cugnet family has given will give space for families to come together during a difficult time under the best medical supervision. So, Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members join me in thanking the family of the late Kenny Cugnet, his wife, Jo-Anne, and sons Dan, Craig, Tim, and Matt and their families, for their generous donation and their dedication and care for

families across this province. Thank you.

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

Junior Squash Player Rising in National Ranks

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand in the Assembly today to recognize a special individual from Regina, Maaz Shah. Maaz Shah is in grade 7 and goes to Jack MacKenzie. He is a 12-year-old and is a nationally ranked squash player. He is currently ranked sixth in Canada for boys under 13 rankings, but he did want me to mention that he is expected to rise to fifth after his most recent victory. This victory was an undefeated showing at Alberta Jesters junior squash open.

Mr. Speaker, Maaz was born in Toronto and, like so many others in the past decade, moved to Regina in 2008. He has since fallen in love with the sport of squash, and through talent and dedication found success, and he enjoys that.

Maaz has had opportunity to travel across the world to compete, including the British Junior Open in Sheffield, the Scottish Junior Open in Edinburgh, US [United States] Junior Open in Connecticut. And he has told me that his dream is to be squash world champion. And after this success so far, I would not bet against him since I know that his family moved from Pakistan from the town produced two squash championships, Jehangir Khan and Jansher Khan.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire Assembly, I do like to congratulate Maaz on all his success. Thank you very much.

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

National Nurse Practitioner Week

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, November 12th to the 18th is National Nurse Practitioner Week. This is a time we set aside to nurse practitioners for their excellent work they do for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, nurse practitioners are committed, passionate professionals who play an extremely important role in health care teams. They dedicate themselves to everyday high quality care for both patient and family centres.

Mr. Speaker, nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced education. They perform physical assessments, order diagnostic tests, diagnose and treat common medical conditions, and prescribe medications. They also perform minor surgical procedures.

Our government values what they do, and we appreciate their contributions to patient care in urban, rural, and remote communities in our province. As we continue to work towards providing the best care possible all across our province, nurse practitioners will continue to play a significant role in our communities. Together we're improving primary health care services for Saskatchewan people to receive the care they need and deserve every day.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deep appreciation to all nurse

practitioners working in the Saskatchewan health care systems. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them the very best this week. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Global Transportation Hub

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party like to talk a lot about their first couple of years in office. But they don't have much to brag about in the last couple. We only need to mention the Regina bypass. They handed it to a foreign conglomerate and let it take up 60 per cent of the highway budget. And the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], Mr. Speaker. Bill Boyd, Laurie Pushor, Joe Donlevy: Mr. Speaker, these names were at the centre of the scandal, but we all know the whole cabinet is complicit.

The member from Meadow Lake spoke his mind during his very brief appearance in the leadership race, but it's back to the company line now. Mr. Speaker, those still running to replace the Premier have called for everything from a full inquiry to selling the whole thing. But, Mr. Speaker, the latest entry, Rob Clarke, says that none of them can earn the trust of Saskatchewan people because they were in the front bench or backrooms for all of these scandals and insider deals.

So again, knowing what he knows now, does the Premier wish he had fired Bill Boyd and Laurie Pushor instead of trusting them with the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'll need to correct the preamble of my hon. friend opposite. She characterized the first couple of years of Saskatchewan Party government as highlighting a number of successes. But I want to encourage her to also consider what's been happening here lately in the last number of years, even through the low resource prices, Mr. Speaker.

The bypass she mentioned, for example, the largest infrastructure project in the history of the province, on time and on budget, 90 per cent Saskatchewan contractors being used, Mr. Speaker. How many schools did we open this fall in the province of Saskatchewan? Nineteen brand new schools, not eight years ago but just this fall. And I was at an event up in Saskatoon when we were working on . . . They are still working on a brand new children's hospital for the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there is the North Battleford Saskatchewan hospital that's under way.

Mr. Speaker, I can also tell you that through some difficult resource times in terms of prices, international commodity prices, we've seen our population grow every single quarter, Mr. Speaker. So the good news is, in just eight years ago, if the hon. members are . . . could just be a little bit more optimistic and hopeful, they'd look around and see how strong this province is through that period of time.

And by the way, that strength includes things like the Global

Transportation Hub where there is over 800 brand new jobs that have been created there, where private companies together with the public sector are investing in a world-class logistics centre as our province seeks to continue to increase exports and keep our economy strong, Mr. Speaker.

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

Education Curriculum

Ms. Sarauer: — That's pretty funny, Mr. Speaker, because that's not what those leadership candidates are saying about the GTH.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Education stood in this place and said that she wanted to apologize "unequivocally." But, Mr. Speaker, she didn't really apologize and she definitely equivocated. She introduced her apology by saying that she was erring, "Erring on the side of caution, probity, and honour of . . . this House."

Mr. Speaker, either she really doesn't get it, or she does and she hopes we don't. The word "err," Mr. Speaker, means to be mistaken or incorrect or to be wrong. In motivating her apology, she said that she was wrong to apologize. Put another way, the minister said in this legislature that, for the sake of decency, she would say sorry even though she was wrong to do it. When she should have been asking, is it too late to say I'm sorry, she was dragging us all back to, it wasn't me.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier really stand by this "sorry, not sorry"? Will he finally send a clear message he said he wanted to send yesterday and fire this minister? Or is he comfortable erring on the side of less-is-more when it comes to indigenous education — which is a serious issue, even though this Premier is heckling and laughing in his seat right now — and the education of all Saskatchewan children?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sorry means sorry. I apologized yesterday, an apology that stands on the record, that was meant genuinely and unequivocally and fully heartfeltdly, Mr. Speaker.

As the Premier said yesterday, we are all treaty people. And as a government that mandated treaty education, we will ensure that students continue to be taught treaty education as is the case right now. Since 2012 we've provided the Office of the Treaty Commissioner over \$1 million to deliver treaty education, to renew resources which are now in use in schools across the province, Mr. Speaker, an invaluable resource that will continue.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, both the Premier and the minister keep talking about a dispute in the facts of what was in that assignment. But, Mr. Speaker, there's no dispute. The curriculum, it's up on the ministry website. You can look at the assignment itself, which is posted online. And yet the minister's refusing to give a direct apology.

Two days ago, when asked directly what she was apologizing for, all the minister could say was for bringing up her son. What about the teachers? What about the parents? What about the students? What about indigenous peoples across Saskatchewan? All she's apologizing for is the "confusion" that she may have caused others. She's blaming them and taking no responsibility herself.

Mr. Speaker, the media gave her many chances yesterday, but the minister refused to admit she was wrong and refused to admit that treaty education is fair and balanced. How can the Premier be satisfied with that? How can he stand by that minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, once again the apology was meant unequivocally. I apologized to everyone that the member for Rosemont has mentioned and that stands and will continue to stand.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we remember the record across education that has demonstrated a clear commitment to First Nations and education that will continue. The First Nations and Métis education fund will continue. Increased graduation rates for First Nations and Métis students will continue to be top of mind, Mr. Speaker. Developing programs such as Following Their Voices, Help Me Tell My Story, Pre-K [pre-kindergarten], KidsFirst, early childhood intervention programs have also seen substantial increases in funding under our government. This is all part of the broader commitment, Mr. Speaker, that will continue. And the apology, once again, stands.

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier says that he's satisfied with the apology, but she hasn't apologized to anyone but her son. She didn't even retract her statement. Mr. Speaker, not in the weeks that have passed, not in the written statement that she released, not in the statement that she gave yesterday, and not even after reporters were questioning her for several days has the minister even retracted her concerns about indigenous education.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister finally and begrudgingly admitted that there's no equivalency between the indigenous experience and the settler experience. Well no kidding, Mr. Speaker. From witchcraft reasoning, though, through to questioning the value of indigenous education, these are concerns that she has shared in and out of this Assembly for a long period of time. How did this Premier ever see it fitting to name that person the Minister of Education? How can he stand by that minister now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to serve in this position and will continue to do all I can every day to regain any trust that has been lost in any circumstance involving this. Mr. Speaker, once again, the apology stands

unequivocally. And I think it's important that we remember too the proud record that I am also very proud of, Mr. Speaker — the commitment in visible ways to the spirit and symbolism of truth and reconciliation.

You look at the māmawēyatitān centre in the old Scott Collegiate, Mr. Speaker — the name means, let's be all together — for students and community members, included a community kitchen open to the neighbourhood, a recording and dance studio, two gyms, a science lab, a construction shop, police outreach, and elders in residence. Mr. Speaker, the hub model at work. We're proud of that. Beautiful Chief Whitecap School in Saskatoon, which marked a unique partnership between Saskatoon public schools, our government, the federal government, and Whitecap Dakota First Nation. It includes a cultural room, historic murals that will help all students learn about Dakota culture and history, including grades 5 to 8 students from Whitecap who are attending. They are beautiful, Mr. Speaker, proud symbols and we are proud of them.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry and take full responsibility for standing up out of turn.

That wasn't hard. However the minister is still refusing to admit that her comments on indigenous education were wrong, saying only that others "misunderstood." And the minister still hasn't explained her own motivation or what her intentions were when she decided to call into question indigenous education. She has said that she will respect the mandate, and that's fine, Mr. Speaker. Despite what the Premier has said, the minister has signalled that curriculum is ultimately in the hands of cabinet — and that means in her hands, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan parents and educators deserve to know what the minister actually thinks and what motivated her to call indigenous education into question in the first place. Will the minister finally explain what she believes and what she was trying to do when she decided to question indigenous education in our kids' classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I will simply repeat what I said and what I have said, that the apology was meant unequivocally and sweepingly, and that I regret any misinterpretation or any intentions or confusion that resulted from the comments, Mr. Speaker. Once again I refer back to the earlier apology and my commitment, our commitment clearly, unequivocally stated to support mandated treaty education in schools in our province. And I also refer to my apology of two days ago — three days ago now — for having raised my son in a public forum; my undertaking not to do so again. And again the Thursday comments that was made last week, Mr. Speaker, that our government was the first to implement mandated treaty education and that will continue to be the case across the board, Mr. Speaker.

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

Education Curriculum Review

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier said the lines that the minister was apparently supposed to say, that the only curriculum under review is math and coding. But the minister stated at the media scrum at the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] that social studies are under review as well. And that's why parents and educators are concerned.

The minister's comments have been following her for the past week — in this House, in media scrum after media scrum, and everywhere she goes. And that's why people are concerned that the minister still hasn't been clear about what she intended with her comments. Beyond her "broad, sweeping," or "sweeping," or "broad-based and sweeping" apology, can the minister simply tell us what motivated her cynicism and drive-by smear of indigenous education in the classroom? Or will she just admit that she's simply not up to the task, and resign?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite has raised a curriculum reform and curriculum development, we do wish to be very clear that in the Throne Speech we announced that we would be developing curriculum on coding, which is quite simply exciting news for the students of this province so that they can begin to take their place alongside Finnish students and Irish students and students in BC [British Columbia], and be prepared for the new tech economy. And at least one candidate for leader on that side has called for just that — inclusion of what he calls digital literacy into the curriculum. And we're getting there, Mr. Speaker.

We also announced that we would begin expanding math reinforcement and supports in common-sense ways, ways that have worked, and broaden access to methods that have proven successful in other jurisdictions. Other curriculum development has been under way for a while, Mr. Speaker, from before my time, in secondary arts education, jazz vocal, I believe, and guitar. Some phys ed updates, practical and applied arts. Nothing too controversial there, Mr. Speaker. And secondary social sciences, a reference committee was struck for that one, and we are waiting to hear back from them. I believe it's in early December. That's the end of the story, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Government Response to First Nations and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That government talks a lot about reconciliation, and some of them say that they are committed to moving forward. But their actions show otherwise. Over two years ago, this Premier promised an apology for the province's role in the Sixties Scoop. First the Premier blamed a scheduling conflict. The latest excuse is that he can't go ahead with it because FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] has some requests before they'll join him for his photo op. Mr. Speaker, the Premier says he understands that we are all treaty people but, like the Minister of Education, he just doesn't seem to know how to apologize.

The FSIN has said they are looking for compensation. The

federal government has agreed that it's necessary. Ontario courts have sided with the survivors. So why won't this Premier even sit down and have a humble and straightforward discussion with FSIN about how to give some meaning to the apology that he promised so long ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. It's a serious matter, and the member is quite right. I extended an apology outside any sort of formal institution such as the Legislative Assembly some time ago now and indicated that we would be wanting to work with both the FSIN and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to formalize that apology, Mr. Speaker, and that offer stands. And we have certainly reached out to both groups to try to organize the event.

Mr. Speaker, there were various reasons for the event not going ahead. I would offer up to members of the House that none of them were related to the government's position. We are prepared to offer the apology in a setting of the choosing of the two groups, Métis Nation and FSIN, at their request, a choice to be made by them, and we would honour that choice, Mr. Speaker. Though the position of the government is that we're not going to have the apology be contingent on resources or some sort of money or compensation that, I understand, that the head of the FSIN has now made known in the order of 200 to \$400 million, I think is roughly the number, some of the numbers that Mr. Cameron has put forward from the FSIN. It's the position of the government that this is an apology and it's meant sincerely, and it won't be contingent on financial compensation.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, the federal government has agreed that compensation is necessary. The Ontario courts have sided with the survivors.

Mr. Speaker, indigenous people in this land have dealt with a lot. From the Sixties Scoop to residential schools, the actions of both levels of government, federal and provincial, have torn families apart and have caused generational damage and trauma.

Mr. Speaker, there's so much more work that we all have to do, but the Premier's promised apology would be a good start. And the FSIN and the Métis Nation have both said they're willing to engage with the Premier and the government on this. But we hear today that the Premier won't even apologize because he's afraid to admit that compensation might be required for the damage done. And I say, shame, Mr. Speaker.

If this Premier is serious about reconciliation and really deal with the issues around the Sixties Scoop and many other traumas suffered by the indigenous people of this great land . . . Or does he just want a nice photo op on his way out the door?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I regret that the hon. member doubts the sincerity, my own sincerity or

that of the members on this side of the House. In fact I would point out to the member that when I indicated, I was actually . . . After listening to a story by Mr. Doucette in the media — I think it was on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], where he described his own experience as a result of the scoop — shortly thereafter I travelled to Saskatoon and met with the media indicating that I think it was time, I believe it's time for the province to formally apologize. I did so at the time actually. I offered it certainly not in an informal way but as a part of the announcement that we would work with FSIN and the Métis Nation to offer an apology on behalf of the province.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP [New Democratic Party] government of Manitoba under Premier Selinger moved ahead with an apology. There wasn't, I don't think, a demand. Certainly there wasn't the proffering of any compensation. The apology just happened sincerely on behalf of the government that represents the people of Manitoba. And we have made every effort to ensure that both the Métis Nation and the FSIN know that we are ready whenever and wherever they wish this to proceed. That stands, Mr. Speaker.

I would offer to my hon. friend, who I know feels strongly about this issue, that he ought not to attach motives to the time that it's been delayed. I would ask him respectfully to not question the sincerity of members on this side of the House when it comes to an apology, and to resist the urge to make some sort of political points off of this. Our offer is current and we stand ready to make the apology, but there will be no compensation.

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

Support for Agricultural Producers Following Fire

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has recently turned their backs on producers in the Southwest as well. Last month, wildfires decimated over 34 000 hectares of land and killed over 700 cattle. Mr. Speaker, along with producers, we had hoped that the provincial contingency fund would help these producers in this time of need. But the Sask Party spent it fixing their own mistakes instead, Mr. Speaker.

Unlike the Sask Party, the government in BC didn't wash their hands and leave the situation to the insurance companies to figure out. The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan says, "The situation is serious enough to warrant the same level of response as in BC earlier this year." So, Mr. Speaker, will the minister follow BC's lead, work with federal government, and get some help for these Saskatchewan producers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture minister has been working on this issue, as has the Minister of Government Relations. Mr. Speaker, there is a prospect for some elements of the AgriStability program to kick in, depending on the recovery of pastures, certainly my understanding. And moreover, we're grateful that the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association have come forward with an initiative to raise some money and some

in-kind donations for those who are impacted by these fires. I can share with members that obviously, being from Swift Current, we're very aware of how severe that fire was and the damages that occurred.

I want to share with members opposite that, later this day or perhaps it's already happened, we'll be announcing matching dollars for the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. We'll also be extending that, by the way, to other natural disaster events where agricultural groups, perhaps the Stock Growers or other groups, wish to come forward and assist producers. The government will provide matching dollars to help with that in the order of \$100,000, Mr. Speaker. And we're also looking at what's possible, certainly with respect to the grass that's involved, the pasture, on the AgriStability program as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

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

Ms. Beck: — I thank the Premier for the update. I'm not sure that that \$100,000 is exactly what producers are looking for. But we do have some ideas. We have a federal minister who lives here in Regina, and today he's here talking about a response for flooding. So why is this government not talking to him about help for producers affected by these wildfires?

We need a joint federal and provincial response. APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] has called for it. SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] has called for it. And all it would take is dipping into the contingency fund, as promised by the former Finance minister, and working with the federal government. So why are they refusing to commit to this desperately needed assistance?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to the member, we do take these situations, these incidents very seriously. And we have talked with Duane McKay, the commissioner, on grass fire fighting and, going forward, on possible courses to help local residents, local volunteer firefighters in fighting these grass fires . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Pay attention. And that being said, we have also talked with Mr. Goodale, and we will be moving forward in the future here on support for our volunteer firefighters for these incidents. Thank you.

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

Expansion of the Provincial Sales Tax

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, last month retail sales in Saskatchewan fell 2 per cent, and StatsCan attributes the decline directly to lower sales at food and beverage stores and the expansion of the PST. Now, Mr. Speaker, my memory may not be perfect but I think I would have remembered if, during the last election, the Sask Party had promised to slap a billion dollars of new taxes on families and small businesses. See, what

I remember is that they actually claimed the opposite, Mr. Speaker. They promised to keep taxes low and make life more affordable for families. But in their first budget, there it was — a huge tax grab.

Small businesses and the restaurant industry raised the alarm about how the PST expansion would move Saskatchewan backwards, and now there are close to 2,000 fewer food service and accommodation jobs. So why hasn't the minister taken a second look at the PST expansion and how it's hurting our already struggling economy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I welcome that question from a member who supports a party that had a PST, I believe, that went as high as 9 per cent when her party was in government, Mr. Speaker. They raised taxes more times than we can even count in this House, Mr. Speaker, but it was okay back then. But it's not okay now, Mr. Speaker. She is well aware that there is a shortfall in resource revenue in this province, and yet she doesn't want debt to rise. She doesn't want taxes to rise. They want to spend money in education. They want to spend money in health care. They want to spend money everywhere, but they have no plan whatsoever, no offer, no suggestion as to where the money's going to come from, Mr. Speaker.

We took a balanced approach on how to address the problem. We do not want to stay in deficits like other provinces have chosen to do. It's great for her to criticize, Mr. Speaker, but we're not going back to the NDP days where their idea of how to address a problem is to close schools, close health care facilities, fire teachers, fire health care workers, and to neglect the highways so we couldn't even get around in this province.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 97 — *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 97, *The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved first reading of Bill No. 97. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When will we read the bill a second time?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 98 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017/Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017*

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that once again I am moving a bill to go forward rather than standing it. I move that Bill No. 98, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 98 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to make a motion by leave to adjust the hours on November 20th.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Sitting Hours

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion reads:

That, notwithstanding rule 6(1) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, on Monday, November 20th, 2017 this Assembly shall meet at 9:30 a.m.; and

That the daily routine proceedings shall be limited to question period; and further

That the Assembly shall adjourn at the conclusion of question period.

So moved.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved the following motion that . . . We will take the motion 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 42 and 43.

The Speaker: — The Whip has tabled the responses to questions 42 and 43.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

National Energy Board's Assessment and Regulation of Pipelines

Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand before you and will be moving the following motion at the end of my speech:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada to amend the *National Energy Board Act* in order to stop the National Energy Board from including upstream and downstream emissions in pipeline approval assessments.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak to this motion that I will be making. I should be able to just say that it's self-explanatory and doesn't need an explanation, but it would seem that our opposition would like to see that all things energy-related should be regulated and taxed to the point where any projects that would promote our economy moving forward to come to a complete halt. So here I stand having to explain why we need to make this request to the National Energy Board from including upstream and downstream emissions in pipeline approval assessments.

Before I get started, I believe a definition of upstream and downstream emissions might be in order. Upstream emissions are the greenhouse gasses given off by finding and producing

oil, bitumen, and natural gas before they even get into a pipeline, and downstream emissions are the ones produced by the refining and burning of petroleum after it leaves the pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start with a quote from our Premier:

Today is not a good day for Canada. It is not a good day for the federation. It is a very bad day for the West. TransCanada made the decision to cancel Energy East, but make no mistake. The reason for it falls at the feet of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the federal government. They have been, at best, ambivalent about the project and then moved the goalposts at the last moment by asking the regulator to consider the impact of upstream greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our job, whether we are in power or sitting in opposition, to fight for what is right for our province, what is in the best interest of our economic future. Let's face it: if our economy is not doing well, the people of this province will suffer.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's economy relies strongly on the production of commodity resources that require transportation to get to market. The national government reviews have grown to involve considerations well beyond safety and marketplace needs for capacity. Under the new government, the transition systems reviews will now grow to involve the consideration of upstream and downstream emissions from the usage of products being transported, including products such as crude oil, natural gas, and refined petroleum products.

Now let's just think about this for a minute. No other industry is asked to consider upstream and downstream emissions for the goods that need to be transported. Let me give you an example. Ontario and Quebec's economies rely strongly on production of manufactured goods, and these goods also require transportation to get to market. What kind of goods, you may ask? Well let's use cars and car parts that are manufactured in Ontario and Quebec. So the next logical question might be, how are they transported. These goods are transported via rail and road. If these goods were put under the same scrutiny before they were transported — such as crude oil, natural gas, or refined petroleum products are going to be — that would be a game changer for the car and car part industry.

When I say a game changer, I do not mean in a positive manner either. It would be detrimental to that industry just as it is detrimental to our oil and gas industry. Any time a road or rail was repaved, rebuilt, or expanded, we would have to consider the upstream and downstream emissions from the usage of the goods carried on the road. We would have to examine whether the cars or car parts being manufactured and carried on the road would lead to more greenhouse gas emissions. But wait. That question is not being asked of cars or car parts. It's not being asked of planes or plane parts. It's only being asked of crude oil, natural gas, or refined petroleum products. Why? Why is our federal government picking winners and losers?

I have heard on more than one occasion people who are a generation older than myself, my parents, my grandparents, talk

about the first Prime Minister Trudeau. They would always talk about the negative impact his prime ministership had on the West. Could history be repeating itself?

We live in this great, vast country we all call Canada, and each province in this country brings something different to the plate from an economic standpoint. I truly believe that we should all have a fair chance to get our products to market on a fair playing field. And the way things are set up right now, it is not a fair playing field. So the real question to be asked is why, for goodness sakes, are the same things produced and carried across Canada from Alberta and Saskatchewan facing the question of if these products will cause more emission and being penalized for it. But those from Ontario and Quebec, cars and planes, are not even facing these questions in the first place.

Now more than ever, we need to stand up for our province and stand up for the West. And we need to be doing this in an unified front. Like I stated earlier, whether we are in governments or opposition, we need to stand for the economy of this province and the West. But instead of standing up for the right thing, what does the interim Leader of the Opposition have to say about the strong fight that our Premier is putting up? Well she says, and I quote:

Once again, the Sask Party has proven that their unbalanced approach, rhetoric, and grandstanding have failed to get pipelines to tidewater built and hurt the Saskatchewan economy at a time when 40,000 people in this province are unemployed and looking for work.

Instead of mocking our Premier's efforts, she should be joining in the battle. And there was an article I read: It was entitled "WIN! National Energy Board review of Energy East to include upstream and downstream emissions." In this article there is a group called the Council of Canadians that is celebrating this decision. So I went to their website to see what they were all about, and it was quite enlightening, to say the least. What I learned while I was perusing their site was that they are a social action organization. I read lines such as "Humanity is at a crossroads." "We are the only species capable of profoundly altering the biosphere."

[11:00]

But what I found most interesting was what I saw in their events calendar. Now this might be a little bit of free advertising for them, but on November 18th, Mr. Speaker, in Windsor, Ontario, they're holding a panel discussion of the Leap Manifesto. Well I certainly found that intriguing. For those of you who may not be aware, the Leap Manifesto is a document supported by the NDP, and I would argue its ideas are supported by the members opposite. And after you hear the highlights of the Leap Manifesto, I would think we should all be afraid of this type of philosophy. The document is pretty much a war on the West, and truly our economic future.

Mr. Speaker, I was reading a *Globe and Mail* article that pointed out some interesting facts about the Leap Manifesto, so I will just briefly go over what was contained in there. The first point was they will be shifting away from fossil fuels so that Canada gets to 100 per cent of its electricity from renewable resources, and then entirely weaned off of fossil fuels by 2050.

I would argue that, while it is important to have a renewable energy mix as part of our platform, we need to think of where we actually live, and is what the NDP proposing actually a reasonable expectation? I would argue not. We need to have a reliable backup, or something we like to call baseload, for when other options are not working or available. And that baseload comes to us from coal or gas.

And, Mr. Speaker, they say they would like us to be weaned entirely off fossil fuels by 2050. What is their plan? To go back to the horse-and-buggy days or maybe even further back in time than that? If they want no fossil fuel usage by 2050, caveman days maybe. Is that what they're shooting for?

Secondly, they want no new infrastructure projects aimed at increasing extraction of non-renewable resources, including pipelines. So in essence they want to completely shut down our oil and gas sector here in Saskatchewan. I don't know if they are aware, but this sector accounts for an estimated 35,000 direct and indirect jobs for 2017. The NDP is continually going on about the fact that our unemployment numbers are not improving fast enough. Well if we follow this philosophy, we will have the highest unemployment rate in all of Canada.

Our oil and gas industry contribute 15 per cent to Saskatchewan's gross domestic product. And let's not forget the 600 million it contributed to our province's revenue last year — revenues which fund things such as health care, education, and infrastructure for our province. Our opposition are always wanting us to spend more, more, and more, always telling us we do not do enough. What do they think will happen if these funds go away?

Third, the Leap Manifesto wants us to expand low-carbon sectors of the economy such as caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts, and public interest media. I don't know how they can expect this to happen when they are trying to reduce the income that comes into the General Revenue Fund because they are opposed to extracting non-renewable resources.

Fourth, the Leap Manifesto declares that:

"Austerity" — which has systematically attacked low-carbon sectors like education and healthcare, while starving public transit and forcing reckless energy privatizations — is a fossilized form of thinking that has become a threat to life on earth.

Mr. Speaker, I have no words for this bullet point. It is simply unbelievable.

And lastly, a little earlier I asked how they were going to pay for some of these proposals. Well they actually answer that in the Leap Manifesto. They will be paying for it all by ending fossil fuel subsidies, imposing financial transaction taxes, increasing resource royalties, hiking taxes on corporations and the wealthy, introducing a progressive carbon tax, and cutting military spending.

Oh, but I guess I digress a little, Mr. Speaker. Okay, well maybe I digressed a lot. But I think it is important to put it all into context and make it clear who is fighting for this province and its economic future, and who is working for the ultimate

demise.

So let's get back to the issue of pipelines and the regulations that are making it economically unfeasible to get a project started, let alone get it finished. The fact is that our world is growing and the population is rising, and the demands of the consumer are going to increase and we will need these products.

The National Energy Board, the same people that have put these regulations in place, are predicting that by 2040, crude oil production is going to grow by 43 per cent. So, Mr. Speaker, if we think rationally about what is going to happen, this oil is going to be transported but it's going to be transported by truck or rail. This is going to put a huge strain on our existing infrastructure which in turn will cost more in maintenance and repairs.

I might also add that this is not the safest way to transport goods. I don't know how many of you remember the incident that took place in a community called Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. Well the reality is that if the oil is moved by pipeline, the odds of this incident happening would have gone down greatly. Mr. Speaker, according to a Fraser Institute study, when you move oil by rail you are 4.5 more times likely to have a spill. I really don't like the odds of that. And one other fact that I don't feel is out in the public enough is the fact that Canada's pipeline companies deliver 99.999 — almost 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker — of oil and gas they move without incident. It only makes sense that we would be moving these products by pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I would truly hope that the Government of Canada looks at the safety aspect of what a pipeline can do for our country. So I would pray that they do the right thing and stop National Energy Board from imposing these regulations. All we are asking is for a level playing field, and the oil and gas industry is not getting one.

Mr. Speaker, to highlight what I've spoken about today, we have a Premier who is fighting for Saskatchewan and fighting for the West. We have an opposition that is not fighting for our province. It would appear as though the commodities in the West are being treated differently than those products in the East. We have an opposition that is tied to the Leap Manifesto, and if that doesn't scare you, it should. Pipelines are safer than rail or road.

And lastly, all we are asking for is a level playing field. So, Mr. Speaker, that brings me to the motion we are here to do today. I would like to move:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada to amend the *National Energy Board Act* in order to stop the National Energy Board from including upstream and downstream emissions in pipeline approval assessments.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Estevan has moved:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada to amend the *National Energy Board Act* in order to stop the NEB (National Energy Board) from including upstream and downstream emissions in pipeline approval

assessments.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and as always it's great fun to wade into the 75-minute debate. I have to say that was one of the most meandering speeches I've ever heard. We kind of covered a lot of ground there, but again, unequivocally, the official opposition supports the development of pipelines in Saskatchewan. We've always been on the record for that, and so that's really not part of the discussion.

Now I am in agreement with a lot of what the member said — not all of it for sure, but definitely some of the points that she made are really pertinent to Saskatchewan. I think it's important that we continue to fight for the West as a province and to ensure that our resources are able to get to tidewater. I mean that's been clear from . . . since I've been elected, and I think before that, Mr. Speaker. So there's no question about that, despite the fact that the hon. member opposite raised some question about that. I don't know whether she's just not been paying attention or perhaps hasn't really understood what it is that our leader has said, and our previous leaders, and certainly other members of the caucus and myself.

Now my problem with this motion, Mr. Speaker, is that it's actually flawed. And I'm kind of concerned that whoever wrote it didn't do their homework because we need to understand that this is not an amendment of the *National Energy Board Act*. That won't help at all what this member spoke about. And so I thought I'd just take a couple of minutes to clarify exactly what the legal situation is and where this motion is actually critically flawed, and should probably be redrafted and maybe re-presented in the House.

So first of all, who is the National Energy Board? I'm just reading from their web page because I think it's important for the public to understand exactly what this board is. Here's the legal responsibilities of the energy board — I'm quoting from their web page:

We regulate pipelines, energy development and trade in the Canadian public interest. Before we make a decision or recommendation, we factor in economic, environmental, and social considerations.

By considering all the evidence with these things in mind, we are able to make decisions and recommendations that represent the ever-changing interests and concerns of Canadians. This is key to achieving our vision of being active and effective in Canada's pursuit of a sustainable energy future.

And they go on a little bit more on their web page, but that's their responsibilities.

Now what laws are they governed by? There's a whole list of laws that they have to follow and that their mandate is established under. But the most important one, Mr. Speaker, is the *National Energy Board Act* and the regulations under there. There is also the Canadian oil and gas operations Act, Canadian petroleum resources Act, oil and gas operations Act, and

petroleum resources Act. And then there's a long list of other Acts that relate to pipelines and resource development here in Canada.

So that's sort of the overall, and a very brief view of what the NEB does. Now let's look at the legislation that the member is suggesting be changed. I think she's referring to section 11 which is the powers of the board. And there's a few things that is listed under as their powers.

But then section 12, I think, is the problem for the member, and I don't think she's properly understood what that section really does. So here I'll read it for the record. Section 12 of the *National Energy Board Act*:

Jurisdiction

The Board has full and exclusive jurisdiction to inquire into, hear, and determine . . . [and I'm going to skip to section (b)]

where it appears to the Board that the circumstances may require the Board, in the public interest, to make any order or give any direction, leave, sanction or approval that by law it is authorized to make or give, or with respect to any matter, act or thing that by this Act or any such regulation, certificate, licence, permit, order or direction is prohibited, sanctioned or required to be done.

So the key phrase there, Mr. Speaker, in terms of their jurisdiction is "the public interest." Now that's not defined in the Act. That is actually something that is defined by the Government of Canada. And so that's where this resolution really falls short, because there's nothing in the *National Energy Board Act* that could be amended to fix the issue that the member's identified.

They have a page on their website, Mr. Speaker, that's called "Regulating in the public interest." And it's really an interesting read. So they tell us on their web page:

One of the National Energy Board's . . . primary roles is to review applications to build and operate energy pipelines and make a decision or recommendation to the Federal Government about whether or not these projects are in the "present or future public convenience and necessity." In other words, are these projects in the Canadian public interest?

And then it goes on to give a definition according to them of what the Canadian public interest is. For example:

The Canadian public interest encompasses local, regional, and national interests. The people living closest to the project and those having direct economic interests are more likely to experience larger burdens, benefits, or both. Other burdens and benefits may be spread through the regional or national environment, economy, and Canadian society. Still, the NEB must make its decision or recommendation based on the overall Canadian, public interest.

To make things even more challenging, the public interest can change over time. To understand these changes, it's

critical for the NEB to listen to what Canadians have to say about their interests and values, and how they may be impacted by the development and operation of energy infrastructure.

One of the ways we hear from Canadians is through our application assessment process. The NEB has a number of options for assessing an application. They include non-hearing application assessments as well as written public hearings and oral public hearings.

And it goes on to talk more about that, Mr. Speaker, but I don't have enough time today to get into all the details.

[11:15]

Now what happened though . . . And I think the member opposite needs to sort of comment more on that. What happened was that in January of 2016, the Government of Canada didn't change the law. What they did do is bring in interim measures for pipeline reviews. So what they did is they introduced five principles that will guide the Government of Canada's decision making on major natural resource projects while the government undertakes a review of the environmental assessment processes. And they were talking specifically about the Trans Mountain expansion or the Kinder Morgan project and the Energy East pipeline project. So those were the two projects that the Government of Canada announced last January, a year ago in January — almost two years ago — that they would assess the upstream greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project.

So part of the new principles that the government introduced was this assessment of upstream greenhouse gas emissions. That was a decision on a policy level by the Government of Canada. And that's why this motion is flawed because that's what really needs to be changed, Mr. Speaker, is this obligation that the government has imposed upon . . . the principles that they've imposed upon it.

In fact, there is an article from Lawson Lundell LLP called Project Law Blog, and on January 27th of 2016, what they said is . . . And this was the Government of Canada's new approach. ". . . today's announcements do not change any of the regulations or legislation governing environmental assessments currently being conducted." So this is not about changing the *National Energy Board Act* at all, Mr. Speaker.

Now it is about making sure that all of these public interest items are being considered. I did pull the list of issues for Energy East that was released on August 23rd, 2017, and there are nine pages of issues that the National Energy Board would take into consideration. The whole first page is project justification; economic, commercial considerations; financial considerations; asset transfers; tolling matters; technical, safety, and security considerations; accidents and malfunction considerations; indigenous considerations; landowner, land use, and waterway use considerations; routing considerations; municipal and local community considerations; environmental and socio-economic considerations, which are quite long; and then finally this new clause, indirect greenhouse gas emissions.

And what happened, Mr. Speaker, is that when the National

Energy Board issued this list of issues, they went further than even what the federal government had been suggesting, and not just the upstream oil production but they also looked at downstream refining. So they went broader, more broad than the Government of Canada had asked at the time. Obviously this had a significant impact on Energy East's decision whether or not to go forward with the application and, Mr. Speaker, we know the results of what happened. It's unfortunate and certainly it's something that I think the National Energy Board needs to reconsider when they look at the extent of the issues that they put in place for that particular project.

I haven't been able to locate a new list for Kinder Morgan, and so it will be interesting to see how that list of issues will be presented because it will have a significant impact on that project as well. And so I think, you know, when we talk about public interest, yes, it's very important for the public interest to be considered. Unfortunately it's a subjective thing for many people, Mr. Speaker. And so unfortunately this motion does not attack the real issue, and I think it really requires some amendment for it to be a motion that makes any sense. So it's unfortunate we aren't able to debate a sensible, logical motion but that's the situation we're in.

So I've appreciated this brief opportunity to comment and I look forward to the rest of the debate.

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

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our province is rich with many resources and oil is among the many. It is a relied-upon industry that provides many jobs, helps families put food on the table, and helps them to enjoy a quality of life in this province. The oil industry has also contributed significant revenues to the government. Its revenues have helped us invest in highways, hospitals, schools, long-term care homes for seniors, group homes for individuals, and many other infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the oil and gas sector has been hit hard over the past few years and continues to struggle to regain their positions within the markets. My constituency of Lloydminster had been the second-largest contributor to the oil and gas sector with revenues in the millions of dollars annually, but has been struggling since oil prices started declining in 2013. Some oil companies closed their doors and many laid off employees. We lost hundreds of working people and families from our community within a matter of months. Many moved to find employment, some taking up even a second mortgage on another home or renting another home elsewhere. Some still haven't been able to sell their home in Lloydminster.

Mr. Speaker, Lakeland College in Lloydminster educates and trains a number of students each year in its oil and gas courses as well as steam ticketing. It just opened its expansive energy park where industry has partnered to provide hands-on training to students. Last Tuesday our Minister of Economy attended an event put on by the Regina District Industry Education Council recognizing Skilled Trades and Technology Week, which gave students attending the opportunity to take part in sessions on pipefitting and boiler-making activities. All these students, along with many graduating from engineering at the U of S

[University of Saskatchewan], will be looking for future employment in the energy sector. We want these students to find that employment right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, today there is some optimism in the energy sector as we see oil prices slowly rebounding, and companies are rehiring and continuing to invest in our province. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people who work in the energy sector are devastated each time they hear in the news that our national government, through the National Energy Board, has stopped the development of another pipeline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our energy sector is one of Canada's and our province's greatest strength, yet its economic potential is being hamstrung by our own national government, even as Canada continues to rely on and import thousands of barrels of oil every day from other countries, countries with abysmal human rights and environmental records.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again our Premier and our government has stood up for the people of this province and the oil industry. Pipelines serve the nation and I, for one, will continue to stand up and support these companies, individuals, and families who work in the energy sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan's economy relies strongly on production of commodity resources that requires transportation to get to markets. Ontario and Quebec's economies rely strongly on production of manufactured goods, and these also require transportation to get to markets. The difference is Ontario and Quebec's produced manufactured goods get transported on rails and roads, not specialized transmission systems like oil and gas pipelines that have to face hearings organized by the national government for capacity expansions.

Worse yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these national government reviews have grown to involve considerations well beyond safety and marketplace needs for the capacity, which is what the National Energy Board was given a regulatory oversight to do. Now under this new national government, these transmission system reviews will grow to involve the consideration of upstream and downstream emissions from the usage of products such as crude oil, natural gas, refined petroleum products all being transported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if we did the same to Ontario and Quebec's economies, then any time a road or rail was repaved, rebuilt, or expanded, we would definitely have to consider the upstream and downstream emissions from the usage of the goods carried on the road, don't you think? We would have to examine whether the cars and car parts being manufactured and carried on the road would lead to more greenhouse gas emissions, don't you think? If asked, the only answer would be yes.

But guess what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The question is not asked. I think we would have to consider the same for planes and plane parts. The question of whether these would lead to more greenhouse gas emissions when used could only be answered with a yes as well. But once again, the question is not asked.

So the real question to be asked is, why for goodness sake are the things being produced and carried across Canada from Alberta and Saskatchewan facing the question of these products possibly causing more emissions and being penalized for it, but those from Ontario and Quebec — cars and planes — are not even facing these questions in the first place?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Energy East pipeline project was conceived and developed as an all-Canadian route alternative to access not only domestic crude oil markets in Eastern Canada, but also to gain tidewater access to other global markets for Canadian oil sands. Energy East would have moved 1.1 million barrels of crude oil a day from Alberta and Saskatchewan as far east as Saint John, New Brunswick. It would have created 14,000 jobs during construction. It would have supported nearly 1,000 full-time direct and spinoff jobs in Saskatchewan during each of the nine years it takes to develop and build the pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, the former head of TransCanada's pipeline strategy, Dennis McConaghy, helped plan Energy East and knows the federal government's excuses for cancelling the pipeline are bunk. From when TransCanada first conceived this project internally in late 2011, accumulated development costs have exceeded 1 billion with the vast majority going to the NEB's convoluted regulatory exercises.

Mr. Speaker, neither upstream or downstream emissions have anything to do directly with the construction or operation of a pipeline. We have a company who committed more than a billion dollars to a project and made earnest efforts to address the concerns of the public regulators, a company that made 700 changes to its plans as part of that response.

Make no mistake, other companies' decisions to invest in Canada have been watching and will be well informed about our federal government's debacle. Mr. Speaker, one can only assume from all of this that our own federal government was hostile to the Energy East pipeline in the first place and did everything it could to frustrate and stop TransCanada's application. The Energy East pipeline would have contributed 55 billion to Canada's GDP [gross domestic product] and 10 billion in provincial and federal payments. I guess Ontario and Quebec don't need or want any more of our western equalization payments.

And now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, once again we hear the demise of possibly another pipeline, as a municipality in Burnaby, BC thinks they have the oversight to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline. Burnaby has refused to issue the required permits to allow the development of the pipeline to begin, resulting in unreasonable delays to the project. This pipeline is clearly an interprovincial work that falls under federal jurisdiction by virtue of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and no municipal body should be standing in its way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, crude oil production in this country is expected to grow by 43 per cent by 2040, from 4 million barrels a day to 5.7 million barrels per day. Mr. Speaker, Canada's pipeline companies deliver 99.99 per cent of the oil and gas they move without incident. Mr. Speaker, without new pipelines and pipelines expansion, more oil will travel by rail, which means more spills and a higher possibility of another Lac-Mégantic, and it could be four and a half times more likely

to have a spill again.

Mr. Speaker, the economic impact of our oil industry in Saskatchewan accounted for an estimated forecast of 35,400 direct and indirect person-years of employment in 2017 and contributes a whopping 15 per cent to Saskatchewan's GDP alone. The combined value of oil and gas production in 2017 is an estimated forecast of 9.1 billion. In total the oil and gas industry contributed 600 million towards Saskatchewan's revenue last year and an estimated 700 million this year.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning, this revenue is critical to providing improved health care, education, social services, highways, and other infrastructure needs in our province. And more importantly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it supports families. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion that was put forward by the member from Estevan, I will be supporting. And I will not be supporting any amendment.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand in my place today to participate in this very important debate, Mr. Speaker. I would say to the people of Saskatchewan that when it comes to the oil and gas sector, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan Party has clearly dropped the ball on many fronts. When they assumed government, Mr. Speaker, when they assumed government, we, the former administration, alongside the people of Saskatchewan, put in a royalty regime that attracted record investment into the province of Saskatchewan from the oil and gas sector, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the things that's really, really important, Mr. Speaker, at the time, the then leader and the premier of Saskatchewan was a gentleman by the name of Lorne Calvert. Lorne Calvert made it very clear that he wanted to stop our young people from going to Alberta to seek employment and opportunity in the oil and gas sector, so he wanted to bring the oil and gas sector to Saskatchewan. And what the conservatives across the way seem to forget, Mr. Speaker, is it was one of their very own, the Conservative premier of Alberta, Premier Stelmach, that actually scared away investment from Alberta, and of course Saskatchewan was there to jump on the opportunity and bring a very robust investment in our oil and gas sector in the province of Saskatchewan.

[11:30]

It's important to note the history, Mr. Speaker. So here we have a Conservative premier in Alberta scaring off investment, and that premier being Stelmach, and an NDP premier of Saskatchewan attracting that investment. And, Mr. Speaker, you can see some of the incredible job opportunities, and certainly the investment and the benefits for Saskatchewan overall occurred during that time when Premier Calvert led this province. Now we told the incoming Saskatchewan Party not to mess with the royalty regime, not to mess with the investment climate that the NDP created, Mr. Speaker, and to just simply follow the game plan that was laid out before them in the hopes that we can continue building a burgeoning and successful oil and gas sector in the province of Saskatchewan.

I want to say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, during a lot of our discussions in cabinet there was very, very strong advocates for the oil and gas sector, and I being one of them. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that at the time, and continuing to this day, it's important to protect the 30,000 people that are working in this oil and gas sector. It is very important that we do all we can to protect that industry. And, Mr. Speaker, there's no question in our minds, as the government at the time, and I would suggest to the Saskatchewan Party government that in order to be a successful government, you must be robust in your approach when it comes to attracting investment in oil and gas and certainly other resource industries such as uranium, forestry, gold, and the list goes on. We are a blessed province, and we are resource rich. So it's important that people out in Saskatchewanland know very well that they have to have a government that is not only attractive for companies to invest in our province, but to also work closely with those companies on other issues that affect their industry.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think every oil and gas company across the country obviously have a very strong environmental regime. They obviously know that the public in general want to have a company that's not only investing but being responsible in many other ways. And I think certainly our oil and gas sector has shown that in spades time and time again.

On the issue of the pipeline, Mr. Speaker, I would add to all the members that are making comments today that when we were first speaking as an opposition about the importance of the safety of pipelines, of the importance of the oil and gas sector to our economies, we also included the Kinder Morgan pipeline, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, the Kinder Morgan pipeline wasn't even on the Sask Party's radar at that time. And, Mr. Speaker, we tried to amend, as an NDP opposition, tried to amend a motion to include support for Kinder Morgan, and of course, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party didn't support it then as they don't . . . as they pretend to support it today.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I would tell the people of Saskatchewanland this: that many people assume that the Saskatchewan Party or the conservatives are trying to attract investment. Mr. Speaker, they are not. In their history they have shown that they failed miserably on that front. And I would tell people out there to have a very, very good conversation with their MLAs. And I would also encourage the Saskatchewan Party to have a more robust, mature look at how the oil and gas sector industry can actually benefit our province for years and years to come.

And when I say mature and robust, Mr. Speaker, we must incorporate all aspects of developing a solid energy oil and gas sector in our province for years to come. And they themselves, the oil and gas sector, will certainly say that environmental stewardship is highly valuable for them from a corporate perspective, and it also lends itself to what the public of Saskatchewan want, a good balance between our economy and our environment, Mr. Speaker.

Now as you look at some of the success . . . And I would point out to the people of Saskatchewan once again that when this whole notion of pipelines came forward, in order to facilitate the development and continual development of our oil and gas sector in the province of Saskatchewan, one of the manner in

which we would transport the oil and gas product to markets, Mr. Speaker, was the issue around pipelines. We wanted to include Kinder Morgan in the debate. Obviously the Saskatchewan Party did not want to do that.

But I would say this as an attestation to what I believe is a failure on the Saskatchewan Party to really capture the imagination of this industry and do the right things in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, today you asked a question: at the time when they had a Conservative premier in Alberta, you had a Conservative prime minister in Stephen Harper, Mr. Speaker, you had a conservative . . . well Saskatchewan Party Premier here in Saskatchewan. And I can tell the people of Saskatchewan that not 1 kilometre of pipeline was built during those conservative power days, Mr. Speaker. Not 1 kilometre was achieved. And now we sit here today and we listen to some of the rhetoric and some of the issues that they forgot about, Mr. Speaker.

So I would say to the people in the oil and gas sector, from the NDP opposition perspective, we have seen the value of your investment. We have also saw the vision that you shared with us on many occasions in which you also want to be good corporate citizens for the people of Saskatchewan and include robust discussions around the environmental protection. And, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to pipelines, perhaps that is the safest way to transport oil and gas. And we have to find the ways and means in which we would have good discussion with the industry, side by side with government and consulting with the people. That's so very important for us to do.

We've always maintained that when we're in government . . . And I will continue saying to the people of Saskatchewan that the conservatives are more about temper tantrums, more about pretending to care about this particular industry, and have done much harm to the industry over time. They have done much harm to industry over time because to them it's all about petty politics. It is not about progressive thinking. It is not about mature, robust discussions in how we as a government and we as a people can embrace the oil and gas sector on making sure that their industry is strong, Mr. Speaker.

And I would end on this note, Mr. Speaker, that it was not one conservative leader in Saskatchewan or Alberta or nationally, Mr. Speaker, that built 1 kilometre of pipeline. Who actually built the pipeline, Mr. Speaker, is the NDP Premier of Alberta alongside of the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada. And yet we still sit here and listen to the rhetoric from the Saskatchewan Party or the conservatives.

And I would say to the people of Saskatchewan this: the Saskatchewan Party and the conservative parties in Western Canada have done a great disservice to the oil and gas sector by playing petty politics with really important issues that affect 30,000 people's jobs, Mr. Speaker. We needed to protect those jobs. We needed to enhance those jobs.

And, Mr. Speaker, yes, you can indeed balance the economy with the environment. There is opportunity in the green sector. Even the oil and gas companies know that, Mr. Speaker. So let us engage the oil and gas sector in a very good, intelligent discussion so they will continue investing here, that we can

continue building their industry alongside of them so that people could have good, mortgage-paying jobs. We understand that.

So I will close on this point, Mr. Speaker. I think it's high time people know that the politics being played by the Saskatchewan Party with the oil and gas sector is disrespectful to them. It doesn't serve Saskatchewan in the long run, Mr. Speaker, and it's time that they wake up to that fact, that they cannot attract investment when it comes to the oil and gas sector. We have proven time and time again that we, as an opposition, can do so. So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that I end my comments on that note.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's always a pleasure to follow the revisionist history of the member for Athabasca. You know, he was talking about all the oil and gas development in Saskatchewan under the NDP, that they did that to keep the young people of Saskatchewan here in this province. Well what they actually did, Mr. Speaker, under Lorne Calvert and that member when he was the minister of Highways, is not fix the highways, so they were full of potholes and ruts and impassable so the children of Saskatchewan couldn't leave, Mr. Speaker. That's the record of the NDP opposite.

And then he goes and says that it was the NDP Premier of Alberta and the Liberal Prime Minister of Canada that's getting the pipelines built. Name one pipeline that they've got built. There isn't any, Mr. Speaker.

There were four pipelines being proposed. Keystone XL to the US — the line's in the ground except for that 20 feet that needs to cross the border. That's been approved now by President Trump. On Monday there will be a vote in the Nebraska State Legislature to approve Keystone XL through Nebraska, and the line will then be completed. And we will have one new pipeline out of Western Canada.

You know, you look at the other ones. Trans Mountain, as my colleague mentioned, Burnaby is holding it up, and the NDP Premier in Alberta says they will do everything they can to prevent that pipeline from going forward. Keystone . . . Not Keystone, sorry. East . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . She's working on that, is she? The one from . . . the BC NDP Premier is working on Keystone. I rather doubt that. You know, you look at the Trans Mountain, I mentioned that. Burnaby's holding it up. The Prince Rupert Transmission Gas line ended — stopped. The Energy East Pipeline, held up going through Quebec because Quebec doesn't approve it. Not that they necessarily get a say-so, but they took a say and it's now cancelled.

You know, this motion by my colleague about the upstream and downstream emissions process for approval of a pipeline really points out the inequities of the Canadian system. As my colleague has mentioned, the oil and gas coming in from offshore is not given any consideration for this. You just simply buy it and regardless of any emissions that may or not be involved in it.

The same with all the manufactured processes that take place in Ontario and Quebec, completely ignored. If you really want to do something about pollution and CO₂ emissions . . . Because CO₂ is not a pollutant. Plants need it. We need it in this country. So what the arguments for CO₂ emissions are is really all about grabbing taxes. It's not about reducing emissions because if you did that, then the federal government, the governments of Ontario and Quebec, the Government of BC wouldn't be able to collect their tax monies if that wasn't being emitted, Mr. Speaker. So it's really all about the tax grab. It's not about reducing emissions.

But if you included all the up and downstream emissions for all manufactured goods, but continued to ignore the emissions for all products produced outside of Canada, that would have a very serious dramatic negative impact on production of everything in this country, Mr. Speaker. But the supporters opposite of the federal government — because the member from Athabasca was praising the Liberal Prime Minister just now — must agree with that.

You know, the member for Nutana, Saskatoon Nutana in her address just now commented how the NDP were supporting the oil and gas industry. So I have to ask her, has she talked to the new federal leader? Because I know that every NDP member holds a federal NDP membership because there is only one NDP membership. It covers both federal and provincial. So their new leader has said, no pipelines. So has she talked to their new federal leader who wants to stop the movement of all oil in Canada?

You know, it might be worthwhile in my constituency, which is a large oil producer, to not build any new pipelines because we have businesses that are benefiting from shipping oil by truck and by rail, but it's not the safest way to do it. It's better in a pipeline, Mr. Speaker.

[11:45]

You know, when I look at the situation through Quebec, Quebec gets their oil in large part by tanker or by pipeline from the US. So if it's acceptable to run tankers through to the Port of Montreal, up the St. Lawrence, you know, maybe we need to stop and think about that. Maybe what we need to do is a new national project. Extend the St. Lawrence Seaway to the Rocky Mountains and we can ship our oil with tankers because that seems to be acceptable. Doesn't make any sense, but neither does the Liberal policy make any sense.

But it would be another grand vision for Canada, just like the building of the CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] or the St. Lawrence Seaway. So we could ship our oil down to the East Coast by tanker from Calgary, Mr. Speaker. You know, when you look at some of the arguments being put forward by those who oppose pipelines, that concept makes as much sense.

So you know, when you look at the issues that have taken place in the oil patch over the years, there have been many attempts to shut down oil production in Western Canada. The CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] and Tommy Douglas tried it in the early 1950s and drove most of the drilling rigs out of Saskatchewan. And they drilled, one of those rigs drilled Leduc no. 1, which started the big boom in Alberta.

In the 1970s, and I was personally affected by this, Allan Blakeney tried shutting down the oil patch in Saskatchewan. And we were down to 30 per cent of production at that time because of Bill 42 here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, where the NDP wanted to nationalize the oil industry actually, you know. So we have this latest episode from the Liberals and Trudeau the second, you know. Trudeau the first did the same thing in the 1980s with his NEB programs. Now Trudeau the second is doing the same thing with the emissions count up and downstream. And lastly we have the new NDP leader, Mr. Singh, who just wants to shut down the oil patch, period, Mr. Speaker.

So this motion I think needs to be debated. We need to defend the interests of Saskatchewan and Western Canada and our partners to the east, Newfoundland and Labrador, who will suffer these same consequences, Mr. Speaker. Now perhaps they ship some of their oil out on tankers already, so they should be able to get it to Montreal. But in the main, what goes to Montreal is Venezuela, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia.

So every manufactured product in Canada, every production needs to be able to operate under the same rules. We need to move away from the disdain that the Liberal government has for Western Canada in general, Mr. Speaker. We need to include the emissions of offshore products if those kinds of emissions are going to be used here in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

So the same rules for everyone: oil and gas, vehicle production, steel production, etc., Mr. Speaker. But the liberal government is true to its Trudeau name — disdain for Western Canada.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to enter into this debate. And as I will say, my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana I think really put it well when she said we should aim for a sensible, logical solution to this issue on both sides of the House. We very much agree to the fact that we are a resource-based economy and we need to have solutions. We need to have well-thought-out solutions as opposed to the revved-up rhetoric that comes out of some people.

And I have to say that the person right before me just underlined it, if you just tuned in five minutes ago. Talk about revisionist history. We just only have to listen to the member from Cannington for his variation on history according to that date, you know, and so . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . There you go.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to, right off the bat, correct the members opposite and read into the record the statement from our Leader of the Official Opposition on the decision on the TransCanada not to proceed with Energy East. So they know, while they're busy doing their research about everybody else, they should actually check our press releases. And this is October 5th, 2017:

As the Official Opposition, we are disappointed to learn of TransCanada's decision to terminate their Energy East and Eastern Mainline pipelines.

Once again, the Sask Party has proven that their unbalanced approach, rhetoric, and grandstanding have failed to get pipelines to tidewater built and [they] hurt the Saskatchewan economy at a time when 40,000 people in the province are unemployed and looking for work.

She goes on to say:

Properly regulated pipelines are the safest way to transport oil and we remain committed to getting our resources to market. We have long supported the Energy East project as part of a balanced approach to grow the Saskatchewan economy. Thousands of jobs . . . have been created by this project, over \$4 billion in economic activity would have been generated in Saskatchewan, and the dependence on imported oil from overseas and the United States could have been reduced.

The people of Saskatchewan as well as those who invest in our natural resources and our energy economy need a government that will put the bluster aside and, instead, provide clarity, long-term planning, and a responsible plan to protect the air we breathe, water we drink, and the land we live on.

So that's our position, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I think it is very, very clear. And while these folks . . . And they rev it up, they rev it up, and the Premier's the one that we can see right in the front of the parade. But talking about the TransCanada pipeline, this is the one . . . These are some of the comments that was made post-decision by TransCanada to halt the pipeline. And we wish it had gone forward, but essentially . . . And this is from *The Globe and Mail*, October 5th, "TransCanada Corp. killed its controversial \$15.7-billion Energy East pipeline proposal Thursday, provoking a bitter regional battle over the Liberal government's energy and environment policies."

But it goes on to say that they had telegraphed their energy decision earlier when they had these new regulations. But this writer talks about, "Despite the political fireworks, many industry analysts were anticipating the Energy East cancellation."

In fact, Dirk Lever had said, "I don't think really anybody in Calgary thought Energy East was actually going . . . ahead," he said. "It was a Plan B."

He goes on, and he talks about the various reasons for it, whether it was price of oil at the time. Because when they started, the price of oil was \$90 a barrel; now it's floating around \$55 a barrel today. So there were other pressures that were happening. But regardless, we do have to be part at the table talking about how NEB makes those decisions. But there's lots to it, but grandstanding isn't the solution.

And I do want to, you know, just take back to when we were debating this in 2016, and this is what the member from Wood River had said at that day. And it was actually June 23rd, 2016. We were sitting late because of the spring election. And I quote:

Pipelines are the most efficient and safest method of transporting large volumes of crude oil long distances in

North America. There are stringent regulatory processes and requirements for pipelines in both United States and Canada.

And he goes on to talk about:

And if I could give an example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the technology today to detect a spill is extremely fast, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know even in the Weyburn and Estevan area they can detect a spill on an oil well within a matter of minutes and can [shut down] that well . . . with the push of a button on a control panel, Mr. Speaker.

Now if the member from Wood River would remember, that in less than a month after that we had our biggest environmental disaster here in Saskatchewan with the Husky oil spill. And so . . .

An Hon. Member: — So what are you saying?

Mr. Forbes: — The Premier would like to know what I'm saying. We do need to do these things carefully and not grandstanding, not grandstanding. Do this carefully. Do it with common sense. Do it sensibly, and don't put things at risk when you think everything is A-okay, absolutely everything is A-okay. They're not. We have to be very, very careful about this. I could go on about what happened that summer in July in Saskatchewan and in Prince Albert along the North Saskatchewan and how it affected Melfort, Prince Albert, Prince Albert in a big way.

And so . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, we seem to have hit a nerve over there. Somehow they didn't want to raise this in this debate. Clearly when we're talking about pipelines, we have to make sure that they're operating safely and with regulations and that the Ministry of Environment is fully transparent and accountable. It's something that we're not seeing today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could go on at length about that, but one of the things I did want to raise because over here, when we prepare for 75-minute debates, we actually do a little research. And I would like the members opposite over there, other than just reading their lines . . . This is what Troy Vettese, a doctoral student at New York University, when he was talking about what's happening in pipelines . . . He may be a Canadian; maybe he's American, I don't know. But he's studying at an American university. He talks about, and I quote, "Today, [one] of the four pipelines that bring petroleum out from western Canada, only one, the Enbridge Mainline, remains a common-carrier." And he thinks that's something we should be talking about.

Now the member from Cannington wants to extend the St. Lawrence Seaway out to Western Canada. But maybe we should be talking about this issue too. Only four of the main pipelines is a common carrier. The other three are owned by monopolies. And this is causing some problems that people don't really want to talk about too much. I think that's very interesting. Now maybe the member here knows more about that, and if he can correct me, that would be fine. But I think we need to be talking about the issue.

That's another issue that we need to be talking about, the issue of common carriers and that people can get, companies can get their product to tidewater and not have to worry about monopoly-owned pipelines that we have in Canada. And we see that as something that's happening in other resource-based economies such as in agriculture. We've seen issues like that when just a few short years ago CP [Canadian Pacific Railway] wasn't stepping up to the plate because of a terrible winter. What was the outcome of that?

So there's many issues here we need to be talking about, but I don't think the grandstanding, the temper tantrums that we see from the other side are constructive.

Today we had a great question in question period about what they did when they rushed out and raised the PST on restaurant meals. Now we see that there are 2,000 fewer people working in that industry. That's something that they did when they raised the PST, and the impact of that. And we're seeing now that we have some 30, 40,000 people looking for work, more than before, and it's because of some of their ill-thought-out policies that have come forward because they haven't really thought of what would happen. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We heard the member from Cannington echo some of the words of his chosen leadership candidate who's not here in the House to support that position, but it's the idea that carbon is not the bad guy. So I want him to tell the Assembly, does he think that carbon is not causing a problem in our environment?

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, carbon, CO₂, is an essential element in the world's existence, Mr. Speaker.

I remember being at an environment meeting back a number of years ago, and we had Malcolm Wilson there doing a presentation. And one of the questions I asked him is, what is the chemical difference between CO₂ emitted by wood burning, or biomass, versus the CO₂ emitted by coal burning, so thermal power, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, his answer was, and this is a Nobel winner, that there was no difference whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. So we need carbon to exist.

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

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The BC NDP have been pretty vocal about their aversion to pipelines. In fact, the BC NDP is fighting to block the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, and has pledged to use every tool available to try and stop the project. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Athabasca. Why didn't you and your party publicly stand up for pipelines when Mike Farnworth from the BC NDP spoke at your convention last month?

[12:00]

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

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that as a former government of Saskatchewan that we're very proud of our history of attracting investment into our province. There's no question as we look and ponder some of the challenges facing the oil and gas sector, that as indicated in my response to this debate, that every party in this province needs to have a meaningful, mature, and robust discussion with the oil and gas sector so we can together sell the values of this industry and protect those 30,000 jobs of Saskatchewan people.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To the member from Lloydminster: why couldn't the Premier get a single pipeline to tidewater in the 10 years he was Premier?

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

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have stood up for the people in the energy sector in this province time and time again. The National Energy Board keeps changing their regulations and the way they want to address pipelines in this province. They have now added upstream and downstream admission regulations. They've changed the board a number of times as well and have had to start over.

Companies are frustrated. They have put applications in and spent billions of dollars, and our national government refuses to work with them on ensuring that they can go ahead with it. Our province will continue and our Premier and our members will continue to stand up for the energy sector in this province.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even the NDP Premier of Alberta, Rachel Notley, was able to call out the federal NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, when he celebrated the cancellation of Energy East. She publicly called his position against pipeline "dead wrong" and "irrelevant."

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Athabasca: when the federal NDP leader came to Saskatchewan to speak at your convention last month, why did not you or either your leadership candidate speak out against his damaging stance on the pipeline?

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

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, I'll rest my case on this point. When the Premier and the Saskatchewan Party assumed government in 2007, they found a lot of money in the bank, Mr. Speaker. They inherited a booming economy. They inherited a growing population. And, Mr. Speaker, they inherited a burgeoning and building and strong oil and gas sector in the province of Saskatchewan. They didn't do any of that work, Mr. Speaker. It was the previous NDP government alongside the

people of Saskatchewan that built that opportunity. We'll take no lessons from the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I note with great interest the way that this government has a big fixation with what's happening with the federal government these days. And you know, it comes through in a lot of different fronts, Mr. Speaker, whether it's today's motion on the NEB, as misplaced as it might be in terms of the technicalities of what's in the Act, or I had noted with interest the fact that the member from Saskatoon Northwest is going to bring forward a lawsuit for the federal government so that Saskatchewan gets fair treatment for its natural resources under equalization. And I cast my mind back over the years, Mr. Speaker, and I think, I wonder if he's going to use the same lawsuit that the Premier sold out to his friend Stephen Harper? Is that the lawsuit they're going to be using, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps the member from Cannington could clear that up for us.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the former administration was attempting to sue the federal government, unsuccessfully I might add, to try and gain a change to equalization. Equalization is renegotiated on a regular basis. In fact it was their government when it was in power that selected potash to be the exempted resource when it come to equalization, Mr. Speaker.

The oil and gas industry has been a boon to Saskatchewan. The boom started during the Devine years, dropped off, and has come back again now, and dropped again, Mr. Speaker. But that is what has been paying the money into equalization that supports Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes. And Quebec . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The member's time has expired. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NDP provincial convention took place on the weekend of October 27th, and they welcomed a special guest, the federal leader of the NDP, Jagmeet Singh. Now Mr. Singh has been public about his opposition to pipelines, despite their economic value to Saskatchewan and Canada as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Nutana. Why didn't any of the members opposite stand up publicly for the people of Saskatchewan and challenge Mr. Singh for his views on pipelines?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, what the government opposite fails to recognize is that we believe in constructive dialogue rather than temper tantrums, Mr. Speaker.

When we have a Premier and an Environment minister . . . I don't know where he is now. We've had so many Environment

ministers, I can't keep track. We have Environment ministers walking out of meetings, and that somehow is meant to be constructive and helpful to the people of Saskatchewan? It's not, Mr. Speaker. It's a shame when we see our leadership over there, cabinet members walking out of meetings instead of being constructive.

So we will continue to be constructive on this side of the House. We will continue to work in a fashion like the Alberta government where they're putting their foot down when necessary, but they're also working with the feds when necessary in order to get things done and to get our resources to tidewater. That's what's needed, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To be the Saskatchewan Party . . . the biggest problem that you have is your disdain for other parties that blinded your judgment and masks your own inabilities.

So the question to the member from Cannington: who has a greater influence on setting the price of oil worldwide? Is it OPEC [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries] or is it the Premier of Alberta?

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — The price of oil for Western Canada and central North America is set by the West Texas Intermediate price. That's where that price is set. And then oil is discounted because we can't get our oil to market because you opposed the pipelines.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time has expired for the 75-minute debate, and we will move on to private members' public bills and orders.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 605 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my privilege and my honour to rise today to talk about our private member's bill, Bill 605, which is drafted to provide very important employment supports for survivors of interpersonal violence, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think it's important to talk a little bit about the history of this bill. It's the third time we have now brought this to the attention of government in the form of a private member's bill. Originally we tabled a bill which contained this provision as well as . . . or these two provisions frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, along with a third provision which provided for the allowance for individuals fleeing situations of interpersonal

violence to be able to break their leases without financial penalty.

We were happy to see, and applaud the government for taking on that piece of our private member's bill, the piece with respect to breaking leases, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was a very good step. It was a very positive step. But it was frankly a missed opportunity because we are hearing from stakeholders that the other two pieces are just as important as the one that government had passed.

It's extremely important, first of all, for survivors of interpersonal violence to be able to know that they can deal with whatever situation befalls them as a result of the violence that they're experiencing while being able to maintain their employment, their ability to earn an income, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which we hear time and time again. And I know the member from Regina Lakeview knows very well, as she used to work in a domestic violence shelter in Regina, that often women . . . And I'm going to speak mostly about women. This could also benefit and would also benefit men who are trying to leave interpersonal violence, but we do know the statistics, that overwhelmingly it's women who experience these situations. So when I'm speaking and I'm speaking about women, I do mean men as well, but we have to accept the reality that this does impact women more frequently than it impacts men.

We're calling on all members on both sides to do the right thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Like I said, this is the third time now that we're presenting these provisions. After the government took on one-third of our original private member's bill, we tabled this legislation last session. Unfortunately it died on the order paper at the close of session, so we're bringing it forward again because we do hear about what an important issue this is and how necessary these provisions are.

So I'm calling on all members, especially members on the government side because unfortunately we have a few less on this side than on that side, to take this on. And they don't have to pass it as a private member's bill. Doesn't have to be an opposition bill; happy for it to be a government bill. It doesn't matter to me. It doesn't matter to us. We just want to see these provisions put into place and these supports provided to survivors.

I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many employers who do the right thing and do provide supports for their employees and do provide days off, paid, if an employee needs to, for example, help their children switch schools or attend doctor's appointments or attend psychologist appointments, or take time off to be able to move from location to location when they're moving out of their home.

But this bill is necessary to protect against the small minority of businesses who do not provide those supports. And it's also there to let employees know that they can approach an employer without fear of repercussion or without fear of consequence negatively against them should they need this. Employees shouldn't have to be afraid to ask for these supports, to be able to ask for some time off because of this sort of situation, because they're afraid about whether or not they will lose their job.

And we are hearing from stakeholders. We are hearing from people that this is a situation that does happen, that people have had to leave their jobs or have been fired because of this specific situation. So although it's the intention of this legislation that it would be used likely infrequently, those who would need it, need it desperately, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also want to take the time to acknowledge the many stakeholders who have approached us and worked on this bill, all three iterations of this bill now, and who have been strong advocates for supporting survivors of interpersonal violence. And those include SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West]; Canadian Labour Congress; PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan], which is the umbrella organization for transition houses in Saskatchewan; the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour]; the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] of Regina; the University of Regina; and also my colleague for Saskatoon Centre, who has done a lot of work on the labour side of this bill. It's a bit of a labour-justice hybrid bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I also want to thank all of the other people who have come out and come to us and come to our stakeholders and shared their personal stories of how this bill would have benefited them had it been in place when they were going through their situation, many of whom, understandably so, don't want to be in the media, don't want to come out publicly and talk about it, but have shared their stories privately with us. And I do want to take the opportunity to thank them.

[12:15]

There's a lot of great work happening in this province to support those who are suffering from interpersonal violence, and that needs to happen because, frankly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have the highest rates of interpersonal violence amongst provinces in Canada, and that's an embarrassment to this great province. And there are a lot of good people in Saskatchewan who want to see that change and, in the meantime, want to do everything we can — and we should be striving to do everything we can — to support survivors of interpersonal violence.

I also want to thank the SFL and Lori Johb in particular at the SFL. I'm wearing my red Hillberg & Berk earrings today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because the SFL partnered with Hillberg & Berk on a fundraising campaign to support survivors of domestic violence. And all the proceeds of the red earrings that were made specifically for this campaign go to PATHS, which does incredible work throughout this province supporting survivors of interpersonal violence, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And as I've said, we've heard anecdotally how desperately these provisions are needed, but the data also shows it as well. PATHS very recently, a few weeks ago I believe, put out a report that they'd been working on for a few years now called *Intimate Partner Violence & the Workplace: Results of a Saskatchewan Study*.

They looked and did a survey on this specific issue in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and made several recommendations for what different levels of government can

do, as well as employers can do, to help survivors of interpersonal violence. And these provisions in this legislation is one of those recommendations that they made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the findings of their study . . . And I do want to talk, spend a good chunk of the rest of my time today talking about this study because it's a very important study and it's very, very well researched, Mr. Deputy Speaker. PATHS reports in their study that these high rates of interpersonal violence affect the well-being of Saskatchewan citizens, businesses, and communities and generates high cost to human service systems, workplaces, individuals, and families, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And they quote another study which estimated the total economic cost of spousal violence in Canada to be \$7.4 billion in 2009, equivalent to \$8.4 billion in 2017. And the total losses to employers totalled \$77.9 million, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So there's actually an economic argument to be made for why these are important provisions to be had and to be introduced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're calling for five days' paid leave to be provided. This is something that has been in place for a long time in Australia, for paid leave to be provided in Australia. And what they've found, the Australian government has found, is that largely those who do need this legislation and who do utilize this legislation, typically only actually require about one day before they're not needing to use it any more. They need it, but they only use about one day.

So it's not an onerous burden on employers, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In fact if you read the studies, the financial hardships on employers is actually in the situation that we have today when we talk about turnover and we talk about recruitment and we talk about training, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They also talk about in this study, and it's something we know and it's something we've talked about several times when we've discussed this bill in the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that this isn't a reinvention of the wheel. It's actually catching us up with legislation that we see in other provinces, legislation addressing . . . This issue has already been implemented, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta. In fact, in 2009 Ontario passed Bill 168, which is the *Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act (Violence and Harassment in the Workplace)* which states that:

If an employer becomes aware, or ought reasonably to be aware, that domestic violence that would likely expose a worker to physical injury may occur in the workplace, the employer shall take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I've already mentioned the paid leave provision in our bill, but there's also a provision in our bill that amends *The Occupational Health and Safety Act* that, similar to the Ontario legislation, provides a requirement for a company to accommodate an employee if they are aware of a situation of interpersonal violence. And that accommodation typically looks like something like changing somebody's work schedule or changing somebody's parking spot because often, and the studies show, that violence will follow somebody to their workplace. And if the perpetrator knows the victim's schedule, then it's easier for that person to harass them in the workplace.

So what the duty to accommodate would provide would be for that situation specifically where an employer would then have to . . . and then would be able to work with the employee to, like I said, for example, change an employee's work schedule around or change an employee's start time or parking spot so that they can go to work and be safe and not feel like they're going to be harassed.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba passed Bill 8, *The Employment Standards Code Amendment Act (Leave For Victims of Domestic Violence, Leave For Serious Injury Or Illness And Extension Of Compassionate Care Leave)* in 2016. And that Act provides a survivor of interpersonal violence with up to 10 days of workplace leave, five of which can be paid or sick days used, and up to five more unpaid days. So, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're asking for in our bill as well.

So again, neither of these provisions are reinventions of the wheel, simply catching us up. And I think at a very base minimum, that's what should we be doing in this province. We should be striving to do much more, but let's at least catch up to the other provinces, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In August 2017, Alberta also passed Bill 17, the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*, which states that employees who have experienced domestic violence can take up to 10 days of unpaid domestic leave per year.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know my time is limited today, and I have a lot of other colleagues who want to weigh in on this very important issue at some point in the future. I do want to take this time to talk a little bit about the findings that were in a study though, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So this study found . . . What they did is they did an online survey, focus groups, and interviews conducted, they were conducted in Saskatchewan between April 2016 and January 2017. They had 437 people respond, and what they found was 50 per cent of Saskatchewan survey respondents reported experiencing abuse, which is compared to 33 per cent in a pan-Canadian study. And 83 per cent of those people who experienced interpersonal violence said that the abuse impacted them at work as well, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They found that a theme that was repeated through the research that they did was the lack of awareness in workplaces. Workers cited a lack of awareness about the dynamics and signs of interpersonal violence, how to respond, and the policies at their workplaces. So a piece that's not in this bill that we do think is important is education and training of employers. And we know PATHS has done a lot of work in creating those seminars, and I do want to acknowledge the Sask Chamber for their work in encouraging their members to do that training and facilitating some of that training. And we do hope to see that movement grow and more employers receive that much needed training.

They also found in their study that the women who have experienced violence have more disrupted work histories and lower personal incomes than those who have not experienced violence, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Their research showed that those experiencing violence are more than twice as likely to talk to co-workers, as managers, which further illustrates that interpersonal violence in the workplace is everyone's business and that all workers must have access to a basic level of

training.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the recommendations that is in here is for employers to take training. We do think that's a very important piece that's a part of this, but as legislators we do need to do everything we can, from a legislative standpoint, to provide supports for survivors of interpersonal violence.

This isn't going to solve the crisis. We can't solve the crisis with legislation. But what this will do is provide at least something in terms of a support that we hear and we know from the studies that those who are experiencing this very, very devastating situation desperately need. So it's one small piece. It's not going to change this crisis, but for someone out there it will change their specific situation. And that's, as legislators, what we should be striving to do, at the very least, in terms of what is essentially an epidemic, considering we have the highest rates of domestic violence in the country, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move that Bill No. 605 be now read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved that Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll not be taking long to say this, but in order to satisfy the procedure of how to both move this bill and then of course proceed to a place where we can adjourn it and then carry on through the process, I'm rising today. But I'm also rising because I couldn't support this legislation more, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I just want to say that we in Saskatchewan, there are so many things that we have wonderful, so many blessings that this province has, but one of the problems that we face and we need to face together, Mr. Speaker, is the problem of leading the country in domestic abuse rates.

And as my colleague, the leader, from Douglas Park, has stated, this is not going to in and of itself solve this huge problem that we face as a province, Mr. Speaker. But it is one helpful step building on the research that's been marshalled by the Provincial Association of Transition Houses, by the experience of other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, in terms of Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, where there is . . . This is one helpful way to address the situation of folks that find themselves in a domestic abuse situation.

So I know, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people interested in this legislation, and it is our hope as well that, as has happened in other parts of the front here, Mr. Speaker, we'd freely invite the government to make this happen and make it happen fast so that this helpful tool will be there for those that need it in the days ahead, Mr. Speaker. So we're going to be watching very closely to see what sort of statements come forth from the government.

But again, just on behalf of the official opposition members, we're very proud of our leader, the member from Regina Douglas Park, and her work on this front, and we couldn't

support it more, Mr. Speaker. On that note, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 605.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 605. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. Pursuant to an order made earlier in this sitting, this House stands adjourned until Monday, November the 20th, at 9:30 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:29.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Fiaz	2949
Ottenbreit	2950

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Sarauer	2949
Sproule	2949
Fiaz	2949
Rancourt	2949
Mowat	2950
McCall	2950
Belanger	2950

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Louis Riel Memorial Day	
Belanger	2951
Lambert	2951
Thunderchild First Nation Resident Wins Indspire Award	
Meili	2951
Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan Holds Grand Opening	
Docherty	2951
Donation to Children's Hospital	
Duncan	2952
Junior Squash Player Rising in National Ranks	
Fiaz	2952
National Nurse Practitioner Week	
Dennis	2952

QUESTION PERIOD

Global Transportation Hub	
Sarauer	2953
Wall	2953
Education Curriculum	
Sarauer	2953
Eyre	2953
Wotherspoon	2953
Beck	2954
Education Curriculum Review	
Beck	2955
Eyre	2955
Government Response to First Nations and Métis Nation of Saskatchewan	
Belanger	2955
Wall	2955
Support for Agricultural Producers Following Fire	
Beck	2956
Wall	2956
Doke	2956
Expansion of the Provincial Sales Tax	
Sproule	2956
Harpauer	2957

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 97 — <i>The Arbitration (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
Morgan	2957
Bill No. 98 — <i>The Miscellaneous Statutes (Family Dispute Resolution) Amendment Act, 2017</i>	
<i>Loi modificative diverse (résolution des conflits familiaux) de 2017</i>	
Morgan	2957

MOTIONS

Sitting Hours	
Brkich	2957

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Lawrence	2958
----------------	------

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

National Energy Board's Assessment and Regulation of Pipelines	
Carr	2958

Sproule	2960, 2967
Young	2962, 2968
Belanger	2963, 2968
D'Autremont	2965, 2967
Forbes	2966, 2968
Wilson	2967
Fiaz	2968
McCall	2968
Lambert	2968

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 605 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017*

Sarauer	2969
McCall	2971

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Steven Bonk
Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Herb Cox
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Larry Doke
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Nancy Heppner
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

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

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

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

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