



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

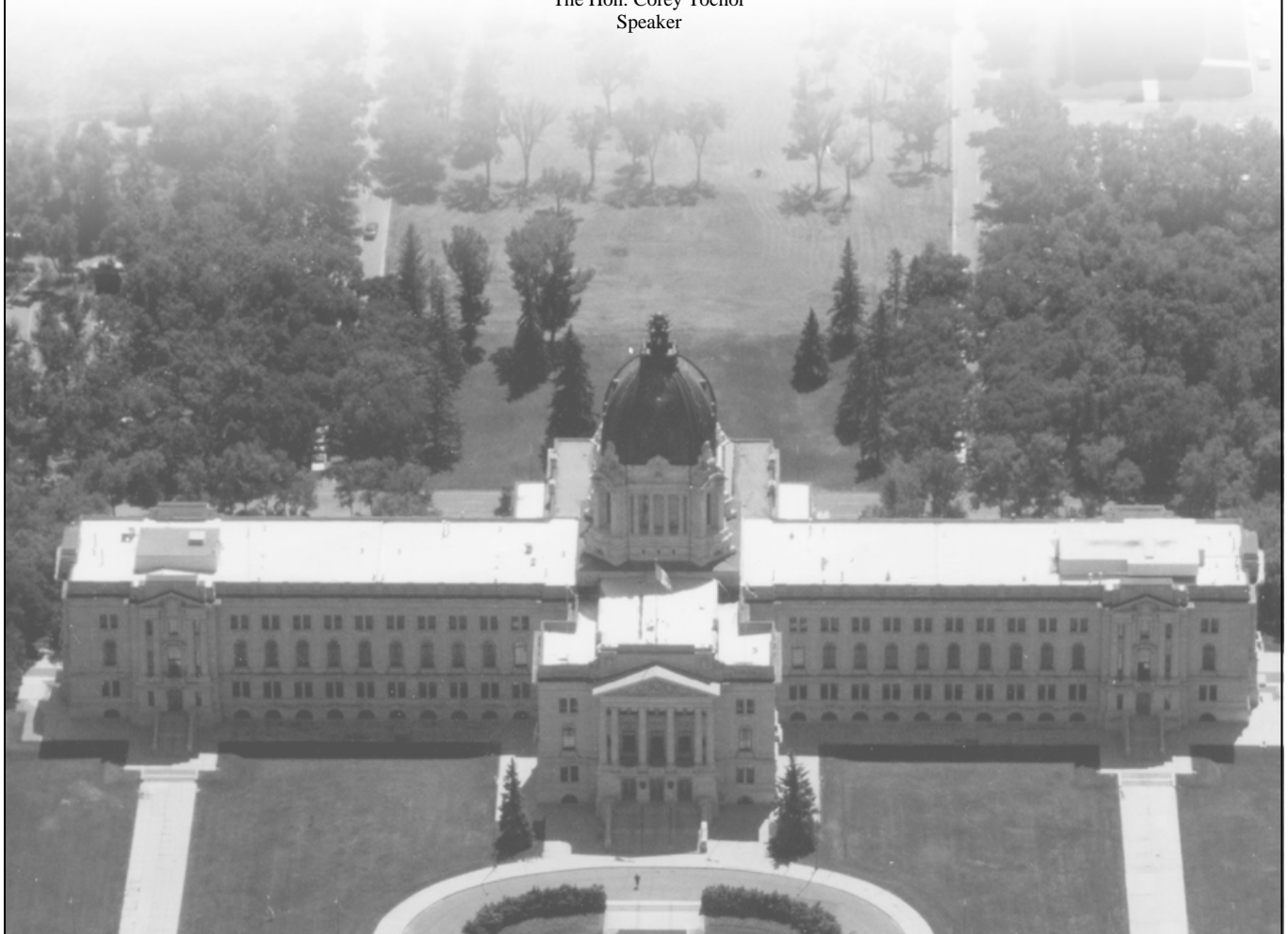
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(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

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

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**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

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this honourable Assembly, please welcome to our province, seated in the west gallery, we have international guests as well as guests from across Canada that are members of the Canadian Simmental Association.

Simmental is an influential breed, Mr. Speaker, of cattle whose history dates back to the Middle Ages. 2017 celebrates 50 years of Simmental cattle in Canada. As part of the finale to the Canadian Simmental's 50th anniversary, they are hosting this year's Simmental Federation of America Conference in Regina as part of Canadian Western Agribition.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that all members of this Assembly join me in welcoming the many people of the Canadian Simmental Association and their international guests to Saskatchewan's legislature.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming our international and Canadian guests with the Canadian Simmental Association and congratulate them on 50 years of this breed and wish them continued success. And I suspect they'll be getting over to Agribition as well, and wish them all the best in their endeavours. I invite all members to join me in welcoming them.

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

**Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my great pleasure to introduce you to Megz Reynolds who's seated in the west gallery today. Megz is the blogger of Dirt Sweat N Tears. She and her husband, Liam, farm just outside of Kyle, Saskatchewan. She has two young children.

You know, social media is a very powerful tool, Mr. Speaker, and coming from a film background in Alberta, Megz has been an important part of the ag community, doing a lot of chat to popularize our agricultural community. Her particular piece on

combining in Saskatchewan has been viewed by many, many people, often with her children in tow. She's used her voice to share her learning and, in addition to that, she used her voice to illustrate the issues regarding the federal tax changes, Mr. Speaker. She became the face of that fight, making it normalized in our part of the world, Mr. Speaker, landing her on the front of *The Globe and Mail*.

She's here today. She's attending Agribition this week where she'll be sitting on a panel to talk about mental health in the agricultural community, which is a very real issue. She's part of a new crop of young women leaders using their voice for good. And I would like to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to welcome a special guest seated in your gallery. Shane Jahnke is here. He's a fourth-generation rancher in Saskatchewan and the third generation who is a president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association.

I'd like to especially thank him for the good work he's done since the wildfires we've had in southwest Saskatchewan. And as far as an advocate for the Saskatchewan livestock industry, it doesn't get any better. So I'd like to ask all members of the Assembly to help me welcome Shane to his Assembly.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Mr. Jahnke to his Legislative Assembly, and also join with the minister in congratulating him for the efforts of the stock growers in raising funds and awareness following the wildfire tragedy in the Southwest. I invite all members to join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

**Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also join with the Minister of the Economy and the member opposite in welcoming Shane Jahnke to his Assembly. I had the opportunity to meet Shane just over 25 years ago, when we were both first-year students at the University of Saskatchewan in the College of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. And there was many a night that we spent in our joint efforts to enhance our scholastic experience as we . . . Our goal was to graduate at the highest of that class together, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge the generational effort of the Jahnke family, including Shane and his father, his grandfather, and his great-grandfather in their advocacy on agricultural issues, whether it be through the stock growers or whether it be through general agricultural issues. Shane exuded that in university as he was heavily involved with the Agricultural Students' Association, and he's gone on to continue in that advocacy through the stock growers and other agricultural organizations here in the province. So, Mr. Speaker,

I ask all members to join me in welcoming Shane to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Carr:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce two members who are sitting in your gallery who are no stranger to this House, Doreen Eagles and Al Brigden. Doreen is obviously the former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for my seat, Estevan, and they're in town to celebrate Agribition and take in the activities that are happening there. Oh, and apparently it was Doreen's birthday yesterday. Yes, 55 I hear; oh lower, she says. So through you and to you, I would like all members to welcome her back to what truly is her Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Just very quickly, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, it's good to see Doreen back at her Legislative Assembly. And certainly, no shrinking violet up in that gallery, Mr. Speaker. But we'd wish her a very happy birthday and, you know, great to see you here at your Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### 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 today wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the dubious distinction of having the highest rates 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.

Mr. Speaker, which is what we've called for in our private member's Bill No. 605, which we're very hopeful that the Sask Party government will take on and support and pass. Those who've signed this petition today come from Regina. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request

that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan 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 this province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Weekes, Porcupine Plain, Carragana, and Tisdale. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today to present a petition regarding the closure of Main Street access to Highway No. 1 in the town of Balgonie. The individuals that have signed this petition are concerned about the permanent closure of Main Street access to Highway No. 1 in the town of Balgonie. And I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan take the necessary steps and actions to leave the west-in, west-out driving access for vehicles into and out of Balgonie, Saskatchewan at the intersection of Highway No. 1 and Main Street, Balgonie.

We 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 Main Street, Balgonie intersection, but would not allow the public access to cross east- and westbound lanes.

Mr. Speaker, the people who have signed the petition that I'm presenting today come from the communities of Balgonie, Lajord, Avonhurst, Kronau, and Pilot Butte. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those outside this province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties. And we know over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.6 million in corporate donations, and of that, 2.87 million are coming from companies outside Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to overhaul Saskatchewan campaign finance laws to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from

the city of Regina and Yellow Grass. I do so present. Thank you.

**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 the following: 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 has been cut by 8.2 million; and that the Sask Party has broken a 2016 election promise by cancelling their first home plan. I'd like to 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.

I do so present. This is signed by citizens from Regina, Mr. Speaker.

**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, they point out that it was shut down precipitously on the part of that government without thought to the impact on community or on the rehabilitation of the folks that went through that facility, or the fact of the employment impacts in a region of the province where employment is already such an urgent issue.

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 our community for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from Buffalo Narrows. I so present.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to stop the cuts to our kids' classrooms. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following: that the Sask Party has cut at least \$674 in government funding for every student across the province; that the Sask Party hiked education property tax by 67 million but cut total government funding for education by 121 million; and that even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, our kids are actually getting less; and that the Sask Party cuts mean that students will lose much needed supports in their classroom, including funding for buses for kindergartners as well as help for children with special needs. I'll read the

prayer:

We, the undersigned, call upon the government to reverse the senseless cuts to our kids' classrooms and to stop making families, teachers, and everyone who works in our educational system pay the price for the Sask Party's mismanagement, scandal, and waste.

Citizens who have signed this petition today reside in Melfort. I do so present.

[10:15]

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Moose Jaw Festival of Trees

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday I along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow had the pleasure of attending the 26th annual Festival of Trees in Moose Jaw. The venue was elegantly decorated with Christmas trees and wreaths and festive displays, and it truly lived up to its reputation as Moose Jaw's social event of the year.

Mr. Speaker, the festival is one of Moose Jaw Health Foundation's largest fundraising events. This year over \$300,000 was raised, bringing the grand total of funds raised to almost \$4 million since the festival began. The highest selling item of the night was a 30th anniversary display from Fifth Avenue Collection which sold for \$17,000. There were also a number of items that were donated back into the live auction, and there was also a special gift presented. Mr. Speaker, in a remarkable, generous gesture, the late Cecil Rathwell donated his home, a gift valued at over \$150,000.

All funds raised, Mr. Speaker, will go toward the purchase of a new portable X-ray machine and a portable ultrasound unit for the Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital.

This speaks incredibly generous of the people of Moose Jaw, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating the organizing committee, the dedicated volunteers, and the citizens of Moose Jaw in supporting this year's Festival of Trees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is recognized across the world on the 25th of November.

Here in Saskatchewan we have the dubious distinction of having the highest rates of domestic violence in Canada. In fact Saskatchewan's rate of domestic violence is twice the national average. As I've said in this House before, these rates are shameful and unacceptable.

Violence against women is more than just a women's issue. This is an issue for everybody in this province. As a province, we must step up and do everything we can to support all survivors who are struggling to get out of abusive situations.

I'm very proud of the legislation we've put forward in this House, and I call on all members to support it. We know that violence often follows women to work, and we must provide support for them in the workplace. Passing this legislation will catch us up to other provinces that have taken these important steps. Now more than ever, we need to invest in supports and programs and services that prevent domestic violence and assist survivors, and I know we can get closer to finally putting an end to all forms of violence against women once and for all. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

### **Saskatchewan Public Servant Named One of Canada's Most Powerful Women**

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today Alanna Koch will be recognized and awarded with the Women's Executive Network 2017 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award, as one of RBC's [Royal Bank of Canada] champions in Toronto tonight. Koch was nominated by KPMG Regina in April of 2017.

The award was first launched in 2003 and over the years has supported and recognized inspiring and hard-working women across Canada. Some of Koch's accomplishments was, she was the first deputy minister to the Premier in Saskatchewan, the longest-serving deputy minister of Agriculture, and the first woman ever elected to the board of Agricore United, a 100-year-old company.

Mr. Speaker, every woman recognized today has proven themselves to be influential leaders in management, executive, professional, and board roles, which is why Alanna was so deserving of such an award. This award serves to recognize talented leaders and to inspire the current and next generation to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Alanna Koch for being recognized for the 2017 Canada's Most Powerful Woman Top 100 Award and thank her for her professional leadership and service to the province of Saskatchewan.

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

### **Remembering Nolan Royer**

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 11th, 2017, we lost a young man named Nolan Royer who was found unresponsive in the pool of a Saskatoon hotel. Nolan was 17 years old and the Regimental Sergeant Major at 2293 Army Cadet Corps. As a former commanding officer of 2293 Army Cadets, I cannot help but feel a strong connection to this tragedy and to mourn with my cadet family the loss of this amazing young man.

Nolan was currently a grade 12 student at Holy Cross in Saskatoon. He held a passion for the outdoors: hiking, biking, running, and camping. Nolan was a national biathlete and he graduated from the esteemed parachutist course.

Although this tragedy happened during personal time and not during a cadet activity, I have seen our cadet family come together over the past couple of weeks to offer support for Nolan's friends and family. This was a tragic loss and a life that was cut too short.

I want to thank Nolan for being an organ donor and his family for honouring his wishes. His organ donation will save the lives of at least five people. I offer my sincere condolences to Nolan's friends, family, and cadet family who are mourning across the country. I call on all members to join me in remembering the life and memory of Nolan Royer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Targeted Enforcement Operations Make Communities Safer**

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from November 7th to 10th, the Saskatchewan RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] conducted targeted enforcement in the Onion Lake area. This planned enforcement effort was in response to increased gang activity and reported calls in the area. A number of nearby detachments and specialized units — including the RCMP traffic services, integrated intelligence unit, general investigation section, police dog services, and members from Alberta RCMP — worked collectively to suppress gangs in the area. This operation resulted in 70 traffic safety charges, 26 arrest warrants executed, and four charges being laid as a result of a search warrant.

Mr. Speaker, an operation like this requires the co-operation and commitment of our dedicated policing partners as well as community leaders. The RCMP, the town of Onion Lake, and Chief Wallace Fox worked collaboratively to achieve their common goal of building a safer community.

It doesn't surprise me to see the community's commitment to this goal. As the MLA for the area, I've had many conversations about how to make our communities safer. Our government is committed to doing as much as we can to support officers in their efforts to achieve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in thanking the officers from all across this province and Alberta who participated in this enforcement operation and the community leaders in Onion Lake. By working together, we will make our communities safer. Thank you.

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

### **Project Red Ribbon**

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak at MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] Canada Project Red Ribbon 30th anniversary

campaign launch later today. The Red Ribbon campaign runs over the Christmas and New Year's holiday season. It is a national awareness campaign run by Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada aimed at reminding people of the terrible costs of impaired driving. During the campaign, people are encouraged to display a red ribbon on their car to serve as a visual reminder to drive safe and drive sober.

Mr. Speaker, with the holiday season comes many parties and celebrations which often involve alcohol and can sometimes lead to people making terrible decisions to drive impaired. Impaired driving is still the number one cause of fatal collisions in our province.

Mr. Speaker, impaired driving is unacceptable. That is why our government strengthened impaired driving legislation. On top of the significant changes that were made in 2014, we now have some of the toughest impaired driving laws in Canada.

SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] also contributes \$23,000 annually to support MADD Saskatchewan initiatives in our province. Mr. Speaker, the MADD Red Ribbon campaign is so important that we encourage everyone to take part and display a red ribbon. I would like to thank MADD Canada for their yearly campaign which really does save lives.

I would also like to remind everyone to plan a safe ride home this Christmas and New Year's season. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Southeast Regional College Offers Online Courses**

**Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to share some news from the Southeast College on their achievements in education. Mr. Speaker, starting this year students can begin taking their first year of university classes in education, health studies, pre-social work, and other programs right in their communities.

Partnering with the University of Regina, Southeast College has taken bold steps to enhance access and opportunity for our province's students. With the help of Skype, students are able to access live-stream courses while still receiving personalized instruction, small class sizes, and student supports at their local campuses. This allows professors to teach in Weyburn while also delivering the same high-quality instruction to the Estevan and Moosomin campuses. Mr. Speaker, according to Southeast College, their students are "absolutely loving the technology."

Not only does this innovative approach to post-secondary education enhance access for the students, it makes studying more affordable as well. Southeast College estimates that students can save approximately \$10,000 by taking their first year of studies at home.

We're proud of all the work our post-secondary partners do to ensure our learners have access to quality education. I ask all members to join me in commending Southeast College and the University of Regina on this partnership to better educate our students, and wish the college well as they gear up for the winter semester. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Truth and Reconciliation Issues**

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this week Sask Party leadership candidates have revealed some very troubling opinions. These are people who have and will likely again sit in the backrooms and front benches of Saskatchewan's government. One of them will even be our next premier.

Mr. Speaker, one candidate said that he doesn't believe we have a problem with racism. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that we have heard troubling comments from that side of the House, and we all have to do better. Mr. Speaker, the first step to solving any problem is admitting it exists. Does the Premier agree that real inequalities still sadly exist in this province, and does the Premier also agree that the first step to truth and reconciliation is recognizing and acknowledging that truth?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely true that we need to do better, all of us, not just in this Assembly but society as a whole. And, Mr. Speaker, it's the effort of the government to endeavour to do that as it is for each individual member. I would say that is true about truth and reconciliation issues that have come to the fore of late. I think it's also true that we, as a province, need to do better by all of the newcomers who have come to Saskatchewan as well.

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

#### **Government Position on Abortion**

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Premier. Rhetoric can sometimes get very heated in this place, but there are some issues that we must all be very clear on, which brings me to another matter, Mr. Speaker.

Three of their leadership candidates have said clearly that they oppose a woman's right to choose. At least one has shockingly even said he opposes a woman's rights in the case of rape. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge the two Sask Party leadership candidates who have said that they defend women's rights.

And I want to ask the Premier: what has his government's position been on a woman's choice? And what assurance can he provide that the already poor access to reproductive rights in Saskatchewan will not be made worse by the Sask Party government after he's gone?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the policies of the Government of Saskatchewan related to this matter, that is largely a federal one, have not changed since our election 10 years ago, and there is no contemplation of a change.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately the concerns for reproductive rights in this province are much deeper. Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights has stated that Saskatchewan is one of the hardest places to get an abortion. Most women outside of major centres of Regina and Saskatoon do not have access to services. And even with the promising approval of new drugs, there remains limits on which doctors and pharmacies are approved or willing to provide these services. And, Mr. Speaker, women without insurance often can't afford to pay the hundreds of dollars these drugs cost.

Mr. Speaker, access to health services should not be determined by who you are, where you live, or how much money you make. So will the Minister of Health commit to supporting a woman's right to choose by ensuring that all women have access to reproductive services, regardless of where they live or how much money they make?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the drug Mifegymiso, that the member opposite I think is referring to, was listed under exceptional drug status coverage this last September 5th, Mr. Speaker, as we followed the same process with this that we do with other drugs that are approved nationally, Mr. Speaker.

As the Premier just indicated a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, our position on abortion has not changed. Our position on how we handle these drugs has not changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[10:30]

### Crime Rates in Saskatchewan

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada released their crime numbers this past week and Saskatchewan is leading the country. And the situation is getting worse. There were 54 homicides in our province last year — that's more than our province has seen since StatsCan started keeping track in 1961, and a higher homicide rate than anywhere else in Canada last year.

The people of Regina Elphinstone or of the province of Saskatchewan don't need to hear these stats to know that crime is a significant problem in this province. Combined with the Sask Party's cuts to social services, community-based organizations, and municipalities, they have made a recipe for the situation to get worse, not better.

Mr. Speaker, 13 of the 54 homicides were gang related, and more than half of those occurred outside of Saskatoon and Regina. Mr. Speaker, 36 of the 54 homicides involved an indigenous victim.

We need action now. When will the Sask Party stop with the one-off announcements and start acting in a comprehensive way to address the growing crime problem in Saskatchewan?

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

Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years, crime rates in Saskatchewan have fallen steadily. However very recently the crime severity index has gone up. And my learned friend is absolutely correct: the homicide rate has spiked up, and spiked up absolutely unacceptably.

Mr. Speaker, my predecessor wrote to the federal government and asked to work with them for a comprehensive strategy on drug issues. Mr. Speaker, the member for Lloydminster recently just highlighted the collaborative work that's being done by the RCMP and leaders in Onion Lake.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you some of the things that have and are taking place. Right now we have 124 RCMP in the First Nations policing program. We have 258 officers in the protection and response team that are now focused on rural crime, 60 police positions currently deployed to the combined traffic services in Saskatchewan. So as part of this, there are 30 new police positions, 30 repurposed police positions, 40 Ministry of Highways commercial vehicle enforcement officers, and 98 Ministry of Environment conservation officers.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is quite right to raise the issue. We share his concerns, and we want to be able to address them.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's so-called rural crime strategy turns out to be more of a shell game than a solution. Even with what they announced last week for Regina and Saskatoon, that targeted funding has only increased 1 per cent over the last three years. And, Mr. Speaker, after the Sask Party's cuts last spring, cities across the province have had to consider cutting their police budgets. In both Saskatoon and Regina, police services were cut by a million dollars each.

Mr. Speaker, police chiefs, community leaders, and common sense tells us that we need more investment in community supports, not less. We need more funding, not less, and we need more action and not less. What the Sask Party is doing is not working. Clearly this is a complex issue that requires a multi-pronged approach. So again, when will they stop with the one-off announcements and start acting to address the crime problem in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member for North Battleford travelled around the province, met with people, developed a strategy. The strategy was a solid strategy. We consulted with police officers. We consulted with communities. And, Mr. Speaker, we're implementing that strategy.

But I can tell the member opposite sort of for the basis of background, since 2007 we've increased funding for police by 68 per cent to the RCMP. Municipal police grants are doubled since 2007. In 2007 under the NDP [New Democratic Party], they were \$6.78 million; in 2017, over \$14 million We have



added over 120 municipal police officers in 2008, and we've added 750 RCMP officers to police rural areas. Mr. Speaker, we take this seriously.

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

#### **Role of the Global Transportation Hub in Land Acquisition**

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister about the sale of the land at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] to Loblaw, and he said he was confused. So let me try it again. The government expropriated the land. They claimed they needed it for public purposes. But, Mr. Speaker, instead they sold that land to Loblaw. So, Mr. Speaker, how much did Loblaw pay for that expropriated land?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Environment, GTH, and SaskPower.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly we are working hard at the Global Transportation Hub to ensure that it is a success. I've had opportunity to tour the Loblaw facility. I know the member has driven past on the road, but I would encourage her and we would help to arrange a tour of any of the facilities at the Global Transportation Hub, including Loblaw, where she will see over 60 countries . . . People from over 60 countries are currently employed at the Loblaw facility, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member will also know that she did ask a written question on this matter, submitted a written question on this matter, and for commercial and proprietary reasons, that the agreement is a confidential document and that will not be released.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, this is Saskatchewan people's money. The government paid over half a million dollars for that land and the people deserve to know how much Loblaw paid.

And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people also deserve to know how much of their money the Sask Party spent to settle the lawsuit that the former landowner brought forward when he found out that the land that was expropriated from him was flipped to a private company. They refuse to tell us in written questions, Mr. Speaker, but will he tell us now? And will he tell the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, how much did this transaction and the lawsuit cost Saskatchewan people?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Global Transportation Hub.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, it seems that when it comes to the way that government deals in commercial dealings, the members opposite want a different set of rules for when we are the government than the time that they were the government.

The member would know and does know — and in fact just

repeated it in her question — that for commercial reasons that this information would not be released. The same rules have been applied in terms of disclosure as when the members opposite did similar types of business transactions, that that information wouldn't be released as well because of confidentiality and proprietary reasons. And so the answer remains the same.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, the Loblaw land is just one of the many lawsuits the government has faced and is facing around the GTH and the bypass land. Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to keep it simple for the minister. We know that the government settled the lawsuit for an undisclosed amount. So can he give us a ballpark figure maybe? Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands? Was it millions of dollars? Mr. Speaker, we don't know.

And again we are talking about taxpayers' money. And if he won't tell us how much was spent on these lawsuits, and he won't tell us how much Loblaw paid for his expropriated land, perhaps maybe the Highways minister can answer an even simpler question. Does the Minister of Highways think that it was appropriate for the GTH to expropriate land and then flip it to a private company?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the government has the power of expropriation. All governments have that power and it's to be used carefully. It's often used for highways. It's often used for a variety of other things. It could be used for airports. It could be used for any number of other things, including something like the GTH, which was a centre that we want to have in our province.

We've got, Mr. Speaker, at the GTH in the Loblaw building, nearly 1,000 people that are working in there. Yes, we used the power of expropriation trying to assemble some of the land there. We'd rather not use the power of attorney. We'd rather have willing buyer, willing seller. But, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day the government has the power of expropriation, and the government uses it when it's appropriate, Mr. Speaker. It was done under the NDP.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, there are a number of lawsuits that these private individuals have brought forward against this government for misusing the expropriation power, for using public dollars to use land to flip it to private sources, private companies, private enterprises. Mr. Speaker, why won't this government . . . Why are they settling these lawsuits? If they're so confident in their position, why aren't they defending these positions in court?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd urge the member opposite to take a drive home this weekend and drive down Highway 11 where the highway was moved out from downtown to around the towns that are on there. Each and every one of those cases required a process to assemble the land, to move the highway, and to twin the highway when it was twinned.

Some cases under the NDP going back into the '60s and '70s, it would've been expropriated and, Mr. Speaker, in some cases it would've been negotiated as willing buyer, willing seller.

The Provincial Auditor suggested some of the GTH land should have been expropriated rather than willing buyer, willing seller.

The members opposite can't have it both ways. You can't say one day, you paid too much for it, and the next day they say, you can't expropriate. Well, Mr. Speaker, those are the tools that are available to the government and, Mr. Speaker, we're going to use them appropriately and we're going to use them fairly.

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

#### Funding for Post-Secondary Education

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, let me start with a quote: "This deficit budget is the direct result of the 5.6% reduction in funding received from the provincial government's budget released in March 2017." That is a direct quote from the University of Saskatchewan's most recent annual report.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan has been forced to cut services and even run a deficit this year because the province slashed funding by \$18 million. Mr. Speaker, how can any government who has any consideration for the future cut advanced education so deeply?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very pleased to be able to rise today and highlight some of the things that we are doing, this government is doing for post-secondary education in this province. The 2015-16 university fiscal year information from Stats Canada indicated the following, Mr. Speaker. The U of S [University of Saskatchewan] receives 63 per cent of their operating revenue from the province, and that's the fifth highest in the group of 15 comparable universities in Canada, that's medical doctoral universities. U of R [University of Regina], 55 per cent of their funding comes from our provincial government.

As far as tuitions go, Mr. Speaker, the U of S tuition revenue is comprised of 23 per cent of their operating revenue, seventh among those universities. And I think it's also important to note here, Mr. Speaker, that of those four universities that were ahead of the U of S, three of them are in the province of Quebec. And that's a pretty convenient fact. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister's response does not acknowledge many of the facts that I identified in my question, so I'd like to ask again. How can any government who has any consideration for the future cut advanced education so deeply? We'll give them another chance, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cox:** — Mr. Speaker, I think as the member opposite knows that we've had serious declines in our revenue and our budget, and that has led to some constraints that we've had to adopt. And we'd like to thank our universities and all post-secondary educations for the efforts that they have taken. However, Mr. Speaker, we continue to support our post-secondary institutions in this province and we'll continue to do that. And I'd just like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that prior to our decade in government, 2006 Stats Canada report illustrated, from 1990 through to 2007 under the NDP's 16 years of government, tuition fees ballooned by 227 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Between '91 and 2007, the average tuition at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] increased by a whopping 320 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We'll take no lessons from the members opposite.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, the fact is they're making students, the next generation, start their lives while paying the price for Sask Party mismanagement. The University of Saskatchewan's annual report also says that the Sask Party's cuts will mean the U of S will "... no longer maintain the same quantity and quality of services." Mr. Speaker, they've already had to put the planned school of architecture on hold. The med school is constantly under threat, and who knows what's next.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Advanced Education commit to providing long-term, predictable funding to our universities and other educational institutions? And will the minister ensure that they won't look to students to cover these funding cuts with even more tuition fee increases next year?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to rise and be able to highlight some of the things that this government is doing for our post-secondary institutions. In 2017-18 alone, Mr. Speaker, we are providing the U of S with \$329 million in operating funding. That's almost \$120 million more than was available to them from the previous government in '07-08, and that's a 57 per cent increase in funding.

[10:45]

Over our last decade of growth, our government's provided U of S with over \$3 billion in funding, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a very solid record. And when you compare those last 10 years of operating funding under the NDP and our record over the last 10 years, our government . . . [inaudible] . . . provide the U of S with \$1.4 billion more or 90 per cent in operating funding, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### Funding for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education says that teachers and parents should be happy with her party's cuts, and she says that things in the classroom are just fine. Well that's definitely not what I'm hearing from parents, teachers, even from students across this province. Yesterday the minister finally admitted to what she called a "slight decline" in the number of teachers in classrooms this year. But she said all is fine, because most of those teachers retired.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter how those teachers left our kids' classrooms. The fact is they're not there now and they haven't been replaced.

Mr. Speaker, there are 188 fewer teachers and support staff in our kids' classrooms this year over last. How can the minister not admit that this is having a negative impact on our kids' classrooms?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a challenging year, the real picture is relatively balanced and there have been some hopeful increases. In '17-18, there were eight school divisions that saw increases in the number of regular classroom teaching FTEs [full-time equivalent]. For example, Saskatoon Catholic, St. Paul's Catholic saw an increase in enrolment and an increase of 18 regular classroom teaching FTEs. Prairie Valley School Division saw a 1.2 per cent increase in enrolment and a 2.5 per cent increase in regular classroom teaching FTEs year over year.

Mr. Speaker, context is important. And growth since 2007 . . . The number of students have increased by 20,000 under this government, the highest enrolment of students in the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system since 2001, Mr. Speaker. With growth comes challenges. For our province, such growth is relatively new in terms of a phenomenon, Mr. Speaker, and we are meeting the challenge by building where they closed — 40 new schools, 21 opening this year for the future, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, our teachers and our kids are being left with larger class sizes and fewer resources, and this is a fact. The Sask Party is also threatening teachers with either a wage cut or more cuts to their classrooms or layoffs. Mr. Speaker, what kind of choice is that?

More cuts, fewer teachers, larger class sizes. It could not be more clear that this government has no respect for teachers and the work that they do in our kids' education. It's become obvious that public sector workers across the board will reject this government's wage cuts. So I ask the minister, what are her plans if teachers reject the government's threats? And will she assure teachers today that there will be no further layoffs?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the minister has noted, the record of the government in education has been significant in terms of increases in operating budgets and significant increases in capital with the new schools opening up.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say that on this issue of the wage mandate, Mr. Speaker, the government has noted that it has a target that would be the equivalent of 3.5 per cent reduction in the overall human resource expenditures of the government. Mr. Speaker, it would be . . . I think it's quite clear, and the Minister of Finance has noted, that the 3.5 per cent however as a mandate at a bargaining table is . . . well frankly, it's not going to be working for this year. Mid-term will be adjusted, and while we're going to continue to pursue the 3.5 per cent overall objective for reduced human resource expenditures in government over the period of time, it will not, Mr. Speaker, constitute a mandate.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — So no assurances about no layoffs, Mr. Speaker. Now the minister can refuse to take responsibility, spin old numbers and rhetoric all she wants, or she can have the Premier stand up to answer her questions. And it might make her feel better, but it doesn't make things better for our kids. It doesn't reassure parents, Mr. Speaker. Teachers are signalling that they won't agree to the government's outrageous and unfair proposal. So let me ask again: what is the minister's plan if they reject the offer? Will she take more resources out of our classrooms? Is she actually ready to cut even more teachers and support staff from our children's classrooms?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk for a moment about our commitment to education and early years education which was challenged yesterday by the member for Regina Rosemont, Mr. Speaker. The other day I happened upon his plan for education. And you know what they say about imitation, Mr. Speaker. We are flattered, because we already have accomplished 23 of his 33 points. Some of his highlights include, Mr. Speaker, ensuring our students learn essential digital literacy such as coding. We're on it.

"Resource and support early years learning" and "Resource early years intervention." Mr. Speaker, we created the first ever early years plan. Since '07 funding for pre-K [pre-kindergarten], pre-K programs has gone from 7.6 million to 27 million this year, 1.6 billion this year to supports for learning, which include special-needs students in the classroom — over a quarter of a billion in a challenging budget year — 18 million to early childhood intervention programs and KidsFirst, for home visits, family in transition support, nutrition development.

Quote from the member for Regina Rosemont: "Facilitate government-ministry co-operation" — such as the Prince Albert hub model, Mr. Speaker? "Utilize schools as community hubs" — such as the māmawēyatitān centre, Mr. Speaker? Check, check, check.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 108 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017***

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I will not be standing this bill. Rather, I will be moving Bill No. 108, *The Statute Law Amendment Act*, and I would ask that it 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. 108 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, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 109 — *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017*  
(No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2017 modifiant le droit législatif**

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I intend to be consistent with this bill. I move that Bill No. 109, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* 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. 109 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, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 54.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled the response to question 54.

## SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

## Questions Surrounding Global Transportation Hub

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. As always, it's good to get to Thursday where we have the opportunity to engage in some meaningful and deep thought-out debate here, in this Assembly, and certainly today is no exception.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important, and why I'm bringing this motion forward is that I think we need to talk about the transparency and accountability, or actually the lack that we've seen of transparency and accountability at the Global Transportation Hub. We know as a result of the auditor's report last June that there were some very, very serious mistakes that were made. We also know that the people of Saskatchewan should be given the answers they deserve around the Global Transportation Hub, and I think what we saw here in question period today is instead another example of the government not providing information to the people of Saskatchewan.

We know that questions remain, serious questions remain about issues and the individuals surrounding the GTH scandal, and that's been amplified by even revelations just recently, Mr. Speaker. And we know that it's unacceptable to the people of Saskatchewan that, after all this time, there are still more questions than answers when it comes to the GTH. So, Mr. Speaker, I will be moving a motion to that effect at the end of my comments, my brief comments, as we commence this debate.

One of the things I really want to focus on today because we are in a leadership race here in the province, Mr. Speaker . . . And for the Sask Party, they are actually going to pick someone who will be Premier of this province without a mandate from the people of the province. And this person is going to be Premier for a long time, depending on when the next election will be, Mr. Speaker. So it's important to understand what their positions are, what their spoken and stated positions are in terms of the GTH.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that some of the backbenchers are going to be getting up to speak to the debate today and many of them have chosen a leadership candidate that they're supporting. So I'm hoping, when they do get up, and I'm challenging whoever is speaking to this today to tell us about your chosen leader's position, whether you agree with it or not and whether or not you think that we should have the GTH

exposed to much greater scrutiny, Mr. Speaker.

So let's first of all see who the brave souls are in the leadership race in terms of stating positions on the GTH. Unfortunately Alanna Koch is not one that has come forward with a clear position on whether or not she believes the GTH should be further examined. She basically has adopted what we hear the Premier saying and that there's an RCMP investigation and we'll see after that. Here's a quote: "If there's questions left unanswered after the RCMP investigation, then I would need to take the appropriate action." She goes on to say:

I'm not sure a public inquiry is the right approach, because it takes quite a long time for [all] that work to be completed and it's a fairly expensive process. So I'd want to make sure that was absolutely necessary, and I'm not sure it is.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have some prevarication on the part of Alanna Koch who's running to be the next Premier of this province here in a couple months.

So let's move on. What do we see the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook telling us? He's good at putting out a lot of words, but sometimes I'm not really sure what he's saying, Mr. Speaker, and this is no exception. Here's a quote that we have from the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook in his capacity as the potential premier of the province. He said, "We've had processes in place . . ." This is a quote, for *Hansard*:

We've had processes in place to protect that in this province, and those continue to be in place. The fact of the matter is that, as we move forward, this team here that we have today will be having discussions on all sorts of public policy.

So, Mr. Speaker, obviously not addressing the issue at all, not letting us know, as the future premier of this province, what his views are on the GTH.

Now let's move on. We have some candidates who are very clear, and one that I really appreciate is the position of the member from Regina University. And I must say I also really appreciate her unequivocal support for women's reproductive choice. So I have to give her kudos for that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, the member from Estevan is suggesting I buy a membership.

**An Hon. Member:** — Weyburn.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Weyburn. I'm sorry, Weyburn. I always get you guys mixed up. But that I buy a membership in his party so that I can choose the next premier. As much as I would like to be able to, I am compelled by the rules of my own party and I am proudly going to remain a member of the New Democratic Party. I'm proud to be able to vote in our leadership race instead.

Going back though to the member from Regina University, we asked her what she thought about the GTH scandal and all the unanswered questions. She's unequivocal, and I will quote: "I support the call for a judicial inquiry into the Global

Transportation Hub land transactions." Clear, clear, clear. And for those that are supporting her, they know exactly what they're going to get, Mr. Speaker.

[11:00]

We do have one member opposite who was briefly in the race and he had a lot to say about the GTH scandal. It was remarkably different than the 110 times he stood up in this House, Mr. Speaker, and gave the government line in response to the scathing commentary that we found in the auditor's report. So what does the member from Meadow Lake say if he was going to be the next premier? He said, ". . . there were very, very serious mistakes made that should never have happened." He also said, "I defended the position of the government and what I'm saying here today is what that position is going to change to, if I'm premier." He went on to say, "We should never have been in this business in the first place. If this was a project that could have had economic merit on its own then the private sector should have been involved in it."

And, Mr. Speaker, that's what we're hearing from the private sector as well and we see that going on in Saskatoon. There's a business hub north of Saskatoon that's entirely privately owned and privately developed, Mr. Speaker. We see that now on the east side of the city on Tower Road, where AGT Food has established its plant. It was originally going to start at the GTH, but I think they realized that a private sector approach might be more appropriate for them. They moved over to the east side of the city and now they're starting their own business hub on the CN rail line, Mr. Speaker. So what we heard today in question period is a direct, direct contrast and perhaps a justification for some mistakes that have been made.

The member from Meadow Lake went on to say, when he's talking about the 2,200 acres that were expropriated for the GTH footprint, he says, "Land development is not a core competency of government." And yet we had the whole front bench today here defending that expropriation of 2,200 acres of farmers' land in order to . . . There's no public purpose there, Mr. Speaker. They flipped it to private interests wherever they can get somebody to buy it. And we know that some of those land deals have fallen through, and that some of those lands that were originally sold are going to be put up for sale, Mr. Speaker.

And of course the member from Meadow Lake refused to answer reporters on August 24th asking if he had brought up all these concerns that he was now bringing forward when he was sitting at the cabinet table, Mr. Speaker. He refused to answer those questions.

Now we have another member, and there are people, backbenchers here who are supporting him, from Saskatoon Northwest. So I'm hoping if you're going to get up in this debate, you will defend your chosen leader's position. In this case this member from Saskatoon Northwest has said, "Without prejudging the outcome, I believe the only way to lift the cloud over the GTH is to shine a very bright — and very public — light on the entire matter."

Now you'll recall, Mr. Speaker, when this candidate for the next Premier was the Attorney General and Minister of Justice,

he actually raised a few questions at the cabinet table when Mr. Marquart had an offer to purchase on the nuns' land. Now you remember all that, Mr. Speaker. But when Minister Wyant raised that at the cabinet table, all of a sudden a second buyer was brought in. Sorry, Mr. Tappauf had the offer to purchase to begin with. Minister Boyd tried pushing that through. Minister of Justice said, wait a minute. So all of a sudden there was a quick deal where a third buyer was brought in, and that's Mr. Marquart, a well-known businessman here in Regina.

So why did the Minister of Justice not question it further at that time? We don't know — cabinet secrecy — but we also know that he's now come out and said that he thinks we need a very bright light to shine on the whole land acquisition processes, and particularly the east parcels.

So I hope whatever backbenchers are getting up in this debate are going to take the opportunity to amplify that and support that, because it's exactly what we've been calling for.

And he said quite a bit actually, the member from Saskatoon Northwest. He said, and this is true on our part as well, Mr. Speaker, "When we get out and talk to people, and if it's not their first or second question, it's their third. And they want to know what we are going to do about it."

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a candidate for the next premier who is hearing from people across the province. It's not just this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. This is people across the province who are concerned about the lack of transparency and accountability that we have seen on this deal, and further dealings I think in terms of land flips with publicly expropriated land, and on and on, Mr. Speaker.

I think that . . . Oh, there's still a couple more. I forgot. There's two more members that are seeking . . . Well one member and one former federal member who are seeking the next premiership of this province with a mandate from only members of the Sask Party. That's the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove. Now he's been very vocal on a lot of his opinions as of late, his personal opinions, Mr. Speaker. Some . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . As my colleague indicates, might be his own worst nightmare. But, Mr. Speaker, he has said this about the GTH. This is the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove, quote . . . Or sorry, this is . . . He has said that the GTH would be "better run in the private sector." And he believes that if we sell the land at the GTH it should be sold to free up money for education and mental health care.

Mr. Speaker, what do you think the GTH is trying to do? They're trying to sell the land. So he's saying they should try and sell it. Well that's what they've been trying to do for the last four or five years, Mr. Speaker, and it's not going very well. As you know, their budget projections for the last three years have been astronomical figures like \$15 million, and they aren't meeting those projections because they can't sell the land, Mr. Speaker.

So how is it that the member from Willowgrove thinks that the solution to the GTH is to sell it? They can't sell it, Mr. Speaker. They're having trouble selling it. So that's one of the most illogical positions I think we've heard from any of the leadership candidates. I certainly hope that one of the member

from Willowgrove's supporters is going to get up and address that. One of the backbenchers perhaps is one of the supporters for that member. So we want to hear from them in terms of what their position is about his solution to the GTH is to sell it. That's exactly what they're trying to do and they're having a lot of trouble doing it. So, Mr. Speaker, that is one of the most illogical statements from any of those leadership candidates that I've heard.

And finally there's a new runner in the race that came out of nowhere recently, and he's pretty clear on his position about the GTH. This is Rob Clarke, a former federal Conservative MP [Member of Parliament] who's recently jumped into the race. And he's basically said, "Right now, these people are upset. They've seen scandals and insider deals." Mr. Speaker, there is some clear, honest words, if I've ever seen it, from one of the Conservatives, and he's actually calling for clarity, accountability, and transparency when it comes to the GTH deal, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things he did say in his press announcement is that people in public office should be "above reproach." Now I'm not exactly sure what that would mean, Mr. Speaker, but clearly he's going to sweep clean, come in with a new broom and sweep clean and dust out all those little dusty corners where some of these backroom deals were made for the acquisition of the east parcels at the GTH.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know there's a lot of concerns. There's a lot of scandal that is still swirling around the GTH. And you look at other issues that are swirling around the GTH as well. We had Public Accounts several times last year, Mr. Speaker. We've had Public Accounts this year calling for that transparency and accountability that we wanted, that the people of Saskatchewan deserve.

And you'd think when it's public accounting, the Public Accounts Committee, when public dollars are being spent by the bucketful at the GTH — \$7 million to move the transmission line, \$13 million for the first Pinkie overpass, and now they're redoing the overpass at Pinkie Road — there's millions of dollars that are being put in into infrastructure to support this project. And yet they still can't sell land out there, Mr. Speaker.

We wanted to ask questions at PAC [Public Accounts Committee]. We wanted to ask questions from the minister who was responsible, Mr. Speaker. We never got that opportunity. He refused to come forward. We also wanted to ask questions of his special advisor who arranged that land deal, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Laurie Pushor, who never came forward. He works in this building, Mr. Speaker. He's still here. And yet he has not come forward to answer simple questions about that particular land transaction.

And you know, this government likes to hide behind the auditor's report. Well they know. They know — and I hope all you backbenchers who get up to speak about this will come clear on that — they know that we have not been served well by this scandal.

I'm running out of time, Mr. Speaker, so I will read the motion that I'm putting forward. And it reads as this:

That this Assembly acknowledges the importance and need for further transparency and accountability on the Global Transportation Hub, considering that very serious mistakes were made that should have never happened, that the people of Saskatchewan are owed answers to questions around the Global Transportation Hub, that questions remain about issues and individuals surrounding the GTH that have been amplified by recent revelations; and further, that it's unacceptable to the people of Saskatchewan that after all this time there are still more questions than answers when it comes to the GTH.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has moved a motion. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan had one gap and many holes to fill: people of Saskatchewan being ignored; less opportunities of employment; less jobs; low GDP [gross domestic product]; this desperate economic situation in Saskatchewan compelling people to leave to find jobs in neighbouring provinces.

The Sask Party government identified room to be filled: work can be done which makes Saskatchewan more business attractive; make our economy grow fast; create more jobs; and making Saskatchewan able to be recognized in global market.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub is not one new idea; it is a very simple and old market tactic existing since thousands of years. People produce and manufacture and bring their goods and services into one place where sellers look for buyers and buyers look for sellers. When connections get established between buyers and sellers, it is known as a market hub or trade centre.

For example, Mr. Speaker, take a look at Regina downtown. People go there to buy services and to buy commodities. Just imagine we live in Regina and eliminate downtown and any business centre, or eliminate any trade centre or market, this will make life so miserable and difficult. How would you buy agri-products? How would you sell your services? We, as a world, depend on these trade centres. We, as a country, depend on these markets to sustain our economy. We, as a province, depend on these trade centres to provide our people with jobs and services.

Mr. Speaker, this Global Transportation Hub is one unique way to connect to the world here in Saskatchewan. Just like the World Trade Centre in Vancouver, BC [British Columbia]; the Northern California World Trade Center; and the World Trade Centre in Los Angeles, California, we would like to be fully equipped to succeed and grow in the international marketplace as other countries, states, and provinces are doing. There is business, and we want people to come in Saskatchewan and establish their business here.

We are on the right track, Mr. Speaker. Many businesses already succeeded here in the Global Transportation Hub such as Loblaw Companies Limited, Canada's largest food retailer, supplies some 250 stores from its distribution centre at the GTH. They're very active in the community. They are one of the biggest donors to the Regina food bank. They volunteer for

Habitat for Humanity. They volunteer with animal shelters and donate pet food. They volunteer and donate to the Canadian Mental Health Association. And they support the Piapot First Nation powwow and are also sponsors of the North Central smudge walk. This is just a small example of the wonderful corporate citizens they are.

Mr. Speaker, this trade centre was long overdue when we look at the economic impact on Saskatchewan, such as the private sector investment which has topped \$485 million. There are over 860 full-time jobs. Also the GTH employment during the construction has created 1,800 construction jobs. Mr. Speaker, this project was designed to support trade for generations to come. One can see many successful business stories associated with the GTH.

I remember when the member of Regina Rosemont used to say, there are approximately 5,000 trucks that are crossing per week on Dewdney Avenue. Well, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Regina bypass, those trucks will be off Dewdney and on their way to the GTH. I will say that he was right about one thing: there are, I think, approximately 4,800 trucks moving in and out of the GTH every week.

This is an old saying, Mr. Speaker: the moving wheel makes the economy better. I would like to quote from the North American Strategy for Competitiveness, Tiffany Melvin: "Inland ports are huge economic engines . . . The GTH has the opportunity to be a major player in the continental freight movement network, and to put Saskatchewan on the map."

[11:15]

Many people in Saskatchewan are also excited about the GTH. I would like to quote from Steven McLellan, CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce:

We're big fans of the GTH. The concept makes great sense — as a province we rely heavily on exports and the better we do that, the more we prosper. The opportunities in the future are extremely positive.

One of the realities of the supply chain world is that it has many peaks, valleys, players, and complexities. The GTH simplifies that by providing expertise in the area in a geographically centralized location.

The GTH also provides the ability for service companies and producers to exist in one space for pickup and drop-offs. As the GTH grows, it reduces costs, time lag, and unknowns, which is great for business. It was never intended to be an overnight thing, but an investment in the future success of the province. The GTH is something that will keep us in the export world for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, we're connecting to the world here in Saskatchewan. We have many clients succeeding here in the GTH. We have Brightview; Canadian Pacific Rail mainline access to the GTH connecting to seaports and key North American markets; and Consolidated FastFrate. FastFrate offers cross-dock and LTL [less than load] transportation solutions to major Canadian centres.

Mr. Speaker, there is a very good connection here at GTH. CP Rail brings bulk shipments, and at the same time, same place, LTL and cross-dock services are available by FastFrate. Emterra Group, Regina's curbside recycler processes 50,000 tons of material annually at the GTH which helps the environment, conserving energy, and reducing landfill. Future Transfer, Loblaw Companies, Morguard Investments, SaskPower, SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], Slinkemo Enterprises — all these businesses, small or big, play a significant role in our economy. The existence of physical capital such as factories, machinery, and roads will lower the cost of economic activities and leave more revenue for businesses and for government.

As we are working to retain business in Saskatchewan, over 17 million's generated in incremental diesel fuel tax and 15.2 million in province personal income tax. Mr. Speaker, I invite them to visit the GTH and see how they are attractive for the Asia-Pacific rim and other international entities seeking to enter the North American market. With their commitment to providing a premiere transportation and logistics hub, coupled with the encouragement and support from the Saskatchewan government, they have engaged private sector partners to help establish a global trade and exhibition centre, manufacturing assembly facilities, and e-commerce fulfilment solutions at the GTH. They are working together to attract entrepreneurs, investors, suppliers, and service providers to launch and upgrade these existing opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in, the Government of Saskatchewan was lacking necessary infrastructure. There were inadequate roads. They were closing schools and hospitals, and businesses were closing down and leaving the province. Saskatchewan was barely on the map when it came to global trade. Our government has worked hard to turn that around and to attract investment and trade opportunities. The GTH is a giant step to bring businesses into our province and encouraging international trade. The members opposite like to stand up in the Assembly and rant every day about the GTH, but I bet none of them has ever even visited it.

Mr. Speaker, the GTH has invested 42 million into its infrastructure to support its current and future clients. Mr. Speaker, our government welcomes the opportunity to attract people, jobs, investments. The Global Transportation Hub is our gateway to Asia, our gateway to the world, and the right location to have. Mr. Speaker, that is why I will not be supporting the motion put forward by members opposite.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's awfully disappointing to have to be weighing in again in this Assembly as we have, and again and again and again on this Premier's scandal, this Sask Party's scandal, this land scandal, the one that this Premier of course, this outgoing Premier stood in this Assembly and defended day after day after day after day, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's interesting. The outgoing Premier, here, you know, a lot of outgoing premiers might sit down maybe with Sheila Coles in the morning show for an interview. But not this Premier. He sits down for a one-hour interview with the RCMP, Mr. Speaker. That's a different type of

departing interview.

And really it's because we've had a government that's obfuscated every step of the way, that's blocked the information, that hasn't provided any accountability, and at the very least — at the very least — ripped off taxpayers, ripped off nuns, wasted millions of hard-earned public dollars, Mr. Speaker. And of course we see the impacts of that as well. Saskatchewan people have observed their SaskPower bills and they see all too well as they stroke that cheque, or as it, you know, comes out of their account at the end of the month with the massive increases. They see the impacts of decisions like using \$25 million from SaskPower as a slush fund to get this deal done with two donors of the Sask Party.

You know, in many ways this deal and the way this government's responded to it really sort of speaks to the devolution of trust under this Sask Party, a betrayal of Saskatchewan people, a betrayal of the trust of the people that that Premier and the Sask Party were intended to serve.

You know, we had a minister that presided over this debacle but a Premier that says he was there every step of the way. They worked together. And you know, it makes sense, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, any premier worth his salt or her salt would have punted that minister, plagued by scandal, a long period ago instead of allowing some sort of graceful exit. And that's why this is so concerning for Saskatchewan people because it's not just about the dollars that were, the hard-earned dollars that were wasted. It's not just about the lack of accountability. It's about a culture of that Sask Party in this late stage with a big majority, a culture of entitlement, a culture of arrogance, a culture and an interest of self and partisan interest and maybe of friends of that government and donors of that government, but not the best interests of Saskatchewan people. Not the public interests of the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

And in many ways we know Saskatchewan people are shifting. They're shifting their opinions of that government in many ways, and more and more are looking for change within this government and change of that government, Mr. Speaker, and I think this deal that relates directly to trust is front and centre on this.

Of course we have a Premier . . . You know, I had the chance to question that Premier for a good couple of years on this front. We have questioned that Premier on this front. Our Finance critic has questioned this Premier on this front. And day after day he provides non-answers. In fact we have a Premier and a Sask Party that misled, that misrepresented, misrepresented the auditor's report, Mr. Speaker, a report that exonerated no one, Mr. Speaker, and hid behind that report, pretending there was sort of no wrongdoing, never ever getting to the bottom of the issue.

And of course the RCMP are engaged. The RCMP have engaged in a full investigation, and they don't do that in a frivolous way, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP have a lot of competition for their resources. There's a pretty high threshold before the RCMP would dedicate a full investigation to a matter, and that's something that sadly they've had to do in this case because we've had a government that's resisted any level of transparency every step of the way. But we know now that



that investigation is over with prosecutors in another province and certainly we'll await what the results of that are. But regardless of whether or not there's criminal wrongdoing that's found in this case or not, what we know is that taxpayers were ripped off. What we know is that nuns were mistreated and ripped off, Mr. Speaker, and we know that public dollars were wasted.

You know, we've had chances in this Assembly to have accountability where we go before the Public Accounts Committee, and this Sask Party just has been unwilling to come clean with Saskatchewan people, blocking witnesses like Laurie Pushor, a civil servant supposedly, that works up just a hall in this building, Mr. Speaker, who should be there to serve Saskatchewan people. And as a civil servant, if that's his role, he should be there before this committee to answer questions. Or Bill Boyd who's now of course out of politics, Mr. Speaker, who was allowed a graceful exit by this Premier, who, the Premier actually highlighted, was the DNA of the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. These are people that should be before this committee.

Of course we see the chain of emails, Mr. Speaker, that implicate the Premier's office, that connect Laurie Pushor, that connect the former minister, that highlight things such as the fact that this appraisal now appears to be nothing more than some sort of bogus appraisal to prop up an exorbitant price for, you know, to pay to a donor of the Sask Party, and with no answers from this government as to the true motivations in this deal. You know, I remember one of the emails . . . You know, if I go back here, I think it actually says that maybe we should meet just to say we did. You know, that's the culture of accountability by this government.

And of course the Ministry of Highways was actually looking to acquire these lands, to procure these lands at the same very time. But the minister at the time, Bill Boyd, you know, had a different set of plans, along I guess with Laurie Pushor, but with no coordination with Highways, so Highways was proceeding. They would have either negotiated some sort of purchase; they may have expropriated the land; but instead of course, instead of course . . . And I think the former minister of Highways is departing here at this time. But I guess I can't speak — sorry — to the presence of the . . . I'm new around here, Mr. Speaker. But the Ministry of Highways of course was working and resources were moving ahead. And instead, you know, Bill Boyd, Laurie Pushor, and all the Premier's office coordinated the purchase of this land for an exorbitant price, paying many times more than this land was valued.

At the end of the day, Saskatchewan people deserve accountability. They deserve trust in their government. They're certainly not getting it from the operation opposite, Mr. Speaker. And we're hearing different things from the leadership candidates to serve as premier for a short period of time, Mr. Speaker.

We hear . . . I think actually it's laughable in a way. We have the former Justice minister who used to sit in the front bench, defend this deal day after day after day as we called for judicial inquiries and calling for some accountability. Now he has joined the call for a public inquiry. And I guess we'll see, if he wins, whether or not he's going to be true to his word on that

front.

We hear something similar from the member from University. We hear a few of the other candidates more interested in I guess attacking the reproductive rights and choices of women than entering into a meaningful discussion about accountability on the GTH deal, Mr. Speaker.

And then of course we see the entry of the latest candidate into that leadership race. I think he called, something to the effect of his own worst nightmare I believe, Mr. Speaker. I think he did quote. He said something to the effect that all those candidates have either been on the front benches or in the backrooms, Mr. Speaker. And I guess that would be the case.

But clearly we have a Sask Party with a culture of entitlement, a culture that doesn't permit accountability and transparency, that isn't up to the task of ensuring Saskatchewan people deserve the answers they deserve on this deal.

I wrote the RCMP. I believe I was the first person to write and call for an investigation back in early 2016, Mr. Speaker. I've entered in with our caucus to call for a full judicial inquiry. And the more we learn, that judicial inquiry will likely need to be extended right through the entire bypass as well and have an understanding of the land deals there, Mr. Speaker, and the decisions of this government and the connections to that government. But what's clear is that certainly we can't take this government at its word, and certainly we can't trust them, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll continue to work to make sure we have accountability on this front. You know, as an official opposition, as a team that's working to serve as the next government in Saskatchewan, we'll ensure that there's ultimate accountability for the people of this province because they deserve so much better than a government that blocks accountability, doesn't provide answers, and wastes the hard-earned dollars of the people of this province.

[11:30]

So I'll certainly be supporting the strong and thoughtful motion by the member from Nutana. And we'll fight for accountability on this GTH land scandal every step of the way. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member of Cannington is calling a point of order. I'd ask him to briefly state his point of order.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the member for Regina Rosemont's comments, and him being a senior member of the House, I would like to point out that he referred to the Premier as misleading the public, implying that he was lying to the public, Mr. Speaker, which is clearly against the rules of this Assembly. And I would ask that he rise, withdraw those remarks, and apologize to the Assembly.

Further, Mr. Speaker, during his comments, he referred to Laurie Pushor, a public employee, as a so-called public servant, an insult that that individual does not have the ability to stand on the floor of this House and defend himself. So I would ask that he withdraw that remark as well and apologize, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I withdraw and apologize.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member has withdrawn and apologized. I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to speak against the motion put forward by the MLA from Saskatoon Nutana.

The Global Transportation Hub has been a tremendously large undertaking by this government to help fulfill this government's vision and four goals that it has established for this province. Let's remind everyone what that vision is: "... to be the best place in Canada — to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life." The four goals are: sustained growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people; meet the challenges of growth; secure a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people; and deliver responsive and responsible government.

The Global Transportation Hub has and will continue to contribute to the Saskatchewan plan for growth through the following key objectives: investing in infrastructure required for growth; supporting increased trade, investment and exports through international engagement; assisting in advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource assets and strengths through our transportation design.

Global transportation hubs are not a new concept. As speed and demand to market continues to play a role in distribution decisions, many shippers are evaluating which distribution locations would be ideal. Each distribution hub in North America is unique in more than their location but also their logistics opportunities that lie in each area. They all have one thing in common: they help move countless products through their supply chains.

So let's review the background and decision making that went behind a few of these key global transportation hubs that have developed around North America. Southern California is a top distribution area for numerous industries including electronics and apparel. One of the selling features of Chino, California is it has a close proximity to rail, interstates, and an international airport.

Dallas, Texas is centrally located for all of North America and connects a number of major roadways and destination ports throughout North America. Many industrial and automotive shippers distribute out of this area. In 48 hours, truck shipments from Dallas can reach over 35 per cent of the US [United States] population and over 98 per cent of the population can be reached by rail. Its central location means that a majority of North America can be reached within a three-hour flight. With

its unique proximity to Mexico, it serves as an ideal gateway to supporting the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] shipping lanes.

Toronto, Ontario is considered the largest distribution hub in Canada. Its proximity to US and Canadian markets makes it an ideal location with access to over 135 million people within a five-mile radius. Surrounding infrastructure makes it an ideal port to support transportation modes through air, rail, and road.

Chicago, Illinois has become the distribution hotspot of North America. The area moves around \$3 trillion worth of goods annually. It has become the third-largest intermodal port in the world. It also has three major airports servicing it. Many Midwest farmers utilize Chicago and the distribution solutions in the area to reach markets across North America.

Here understand some of the similarities. Do we see a parallel between this? Let's take the background factors of all these successful global transportation hubs, these successful transportation ports and let's look now at what the potential the Regina Global Transportation Hub has. The Regina hub now has access to both national railways as well as the main railway serving the United States. This hub provides inward and outward potential to reach ports in Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, New Orleans, Houston; the Great Lake ports of Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee; the eastern grain terminals or the eastern terminals of Toronto and Montreal. Within 48 hours, truckloads moving in and out of the Regina Global Transportation Hub could reach destinations in LA [Los Angeles], Vancouver, Houston, Montreal, or even Anchorage, Alaska if we need to get there. In that 48-hour window over 50 per cent of North America's population can take deliveries in or out of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Like LA, Dallas, Chicago, or Toronto, the majority of North America's gateways are within a few hours flight or a short road trip. The borders of our largest trading partner, the United States, can almost be seen from the highest point of the Global Transportation Hub located in Regina. In 2016 Saskatchewan exported close to \$30 billion worth of goods to our largest market such as the United States, but also around the world into China, India, Brazil, and Japan. The foundation of Saskatchewan's economy has been the province's ability to export its products to other markets.

Key export sectors such as the oil and gas, but the agriculture and food, the mining and minerals and manufacturing technology sectors have all contributed to this province's strong trade performance over the past several years.

The United States remains Saskatchewan's most important trading partner. The United States accounts for over half of this province's total exports. It's not surprising given the close trade relationship that Saskatchewan shares with the United States. However the province has also postured market diversification strategies and continues to build strong trade ties with countries in Asia, South America, the Middle East, North Africa. Markets such as China, India, Japan, Brazil, and Mexico, they're becoming large consumers of Saskatchewan's products and continue to play a very large role in the economic prosperity of this province.

In 2016 China and India accounted for approximately 18 per cent of Saskatchewan's export sales. The province's top 10 export markets accounted for roughly 83 per cent of its exports. In 2016 Saskatchewan received \$7.5 billion worth of goods from the United States. This really reflects our integrated supply chain. Oil, still the number one import from the United States, however non-energy products such as recreational trailers, herbicides, ag machinery such as tractors and combines, and motor vehicles are really the key items that we import from the United States. In 2016 manufactured goods represent over 95 per cent of the value of Saskatchewan's imports. China, Mexico, Germany, and Japan are among the top five sources of Saskatchewan's imports; 2013 these four countries accounted for 7.3 per cent of the value of the province's imports. Saskatchewan has a trade surplus with all regions of the world.

So now this little economic history lesson of the province is really a simple reminder of the role that moving goods, whether inbound or outbound, plays in the importance of the economy of Saskatchewan. With our pursuit of our Saskatchewan growth plan and with our provincial economy shifting from the role of being a primary supplier of raw products and resources to a more sophisticated one — that is one of providing value-added production, middle-process and final-process goods — production, shipping, and logistics are going to play an even larger role in our export numbers.

It's the Global Transportation Hub which is part of Saskatchewan's commitment to developing a supply chain, logistics, and transportation infrastructure that is going to play a significant part of supporting our role in the global supply chain. What sets it apart from all other inland port authorities in Canada is that it is the only autonomous and self-governing port in the country. It offers a single point of contact for our clients that sets it apart from any other port or logistics hub in the country. It also retains a foreign trade zone status that offers foreign investors single window access to Canada's duty and tax relief programming.

So unlike traditional land developers, the Global Transportation Hub was not designed to be a for-profit enterprise, but really an infrastructure design that's for trade for generations to come. The very short time frame that this self-governing port . . . It has 12 significant clients on board, helping create new jobs and new types of business opportunities for our Saskatchewan companies.

There are currently ongoing discussions with over 40 qualified prospects. Over the last five years, the Global Transportation Hub has had discussions with companies and organizations in over 52 countries. They're interested in this location because of our stable government and our abilities to service and work with governments around the world. They appreciate and respect our open for trade policy and our willingness to get things done.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub is really, truly a good news story for the economy of the province of Saskatchewan. "The GTH has the opportunity to be a major player in the continental freight movement network and . . . put Saskatchewan on the map." That's from Tiffany Melvin, the North American Strategy for Competitiveness. "The appeal of the GTH opportunity [this is a quote that comes from Glen Hill,

vice-president of Colliers] is going to increase in the years ahead as the Regina bypass moves towards completion."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, unfortunately we do not need to remind the voters of Saskatchewan what happened during the NDP times. It was called SPUDCO, the Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company, which has been described as a pseudo-public-private partnership between SaskWater and Lake Diefenbaker.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the motion put forward by the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and support the motion put forward by my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana.

Mr. Speaker, we, the people elected to serve in this House, we have one job. That one job is to serve the people of Saskatchewan, to improve their health, to improve their quality of life. That's not a simple job. There are competing priorities, economic priorities, geographic, demographic. It's extraordinarily complex. There are many pressures as we try to do that work well.

And to do that work, we need to be guided by a sense of equity and of justice so that we're trying to reach the best possible outcomes. And that means we have to do that work in a way that is blind to personal and partisan connections. We need to be trusted and trustworthy to be able to do that one job.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot in any way be, or even be perceived to be, beholden to outside interests or to be making ourselves or our friends wealthy through this province. We can't be seen to be serving companies that fund the campaigns over the needs of the people of Saskatchewan. And any such impression erodes the trust that people have in this essential institution.

Mr. Speaker, the GTH is one important issue that has eroded that trust. We have certainly heard about this on the doorstep in Saskatoon Meewasin — last spring I heard this non-stop — and as we've travelled the province over the summer. We've been hearing over and over about people's growing mistrust of this government, related specifically to the GTH, though not only to the GTH. Certainly this particular land deal, a land deal that inflated prices, inflated prices for land, using public money to purchase that land, and in a way that was in favour of friends, donors, business associates of ministers of the Crown.

Mr. Speaker, that is a very disturbing erosion of trust. There's another erosion, I suppose, where we have the poor drainage that the member of Nutana . . . There's the erosion that's flooding nearby farms. But it's more the erosion of trust that's the big concern when you see Crown money being used, SaskPower money being used to facilitate these questionable land deals, and not seeming to actually produce any activity on behalf of SaskPower on that land.

We see a refusal to reveal details, the blocking of witnesses that should be testifying, people who know the exact details of when

communication happened, whether or not these associates and donors were given information before the decisions were made to expropriate this land. There are individuals who know that information and they're not being allowed to testify.

[11:45]

We also see the handing over of land at the cost of expropriation to major companies, companies from out of Saskatchewan. What is the purpose of this, Mr. Speaker? Well it's really difficult to know without having a full investigation, a full understanding of what has gone on.

This is certainly not the only issue that has undermined the trust of the Saskatchewan people in this government. Certainly the large donations, as we continue to mention. The member for Saskatoon Centre brought up that petition again today. Over \$6 million from corporations donating to this government, this government's political party. Nearly 3 million of that money coming from out of province, from major companies outside the province. And there's strong connections between the companies that have donated and the contracts that have been awarded and the policies that have been enacted. Policies and service of corporate profit over the best interest of the people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's also the issue up until a few months ago of the Premier's personal top-up which delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Sask Party, dollars that came from those corporate donors to the Premier. And there's the ownership of that Premier of stocks in companies that he personally wrote a letter to, inviting them to set up shop here in Saskatchewan — using his power, using his influence as Premier to invite the benefit of companies that would benefit him. Mr. Speaker, these issues erode the trust of the public.

And right down to the most recent issue of the emails. Emails that might be, that might be a minor thing; okay, you used your Gmail account. It might be a minor thing, but in this context when you've a government that has been so intent on hiding the information, so intent on avoiding transparency, of avoiding accountability, well that issue suddenly becomes very germane, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we've seen the leadership candidates from the Sask Party taking this moment to try to distance themselves from some of this distrust. They recognize the impact of the GTH and other scandals on the trust that people have in this party and they're distancing themselves, admittedly by degree.

You have Ms. Koch, who has expressed no interest in a public . . . Ms. Koch has expressed no interest in a public inquiry or any real change. We have the member from Meadow Lake who suggested that, well we've made very, very serious mistakes and we should divest from the GTH and he would have fired Bill Boyd and Laurie Pushor as well. But now he's supporting the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook and he's gotten a lot quieter on the issue because the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook believes the processes are in place that . . . seems that he thinks everything is just fine.

We have the member for Willowgrove who's said that mistakes have been made and that this really should be handed over to the private sector. It should be sold. We have the member from

Regina University's gone a little further. She has asked for a public inquiry. She said that we need a public inquiry to really get to the bottom of this. And we have the member from Saskatoon Northwest who apparently has seen the light and asked that we shine a light on this issue, asked for a public inquiry, asked that we strengthen the conflict of interest regulations in order to avoid this kind of the behaviour in the past.

And then we have the newest entry, Mr. Clarke, who's described how he's sick of the scandals, how people are sick of the scandals and the insider deals, and says that we should be above reproach. And I couldn't agree more with that last statement. We need to be above reproach. For us to have the confidence of the public and the work we do in this House, we cannot give, we cannot in any way be enriching our friends. We cannot in any way be using the action of this House to advance partisan interests. We need to be above reproach.

And we've started to see some of that, whisperings in that direction from the leadership candidates as they've started to talk about a message of renewed trust. But I've got to tell you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that message of renewed trust is a little bit of a tough sell. It's a tough sell because of some of the actions that have been going on during the Sask Party leadership race.

We've seen recently the first announcement of the donors to the Sask Party. And it was very interesting to see. Ms. Koch, 41 per cent of the donors to her campaign were corporations. The member from Rosthern-Shellbrook, 52 per cent, over half. The member for Saskatoon Northwest, 71 per cent of the donations were coming from corporations. We've seen corporations from outside the province, numbered companies, unidentified numbered companies donating to the tune of — and this one really blows me away — Saskatoon Willowgrove, 89 per cent, 89 per cent of the donations to that, the leading fundraiser in the campaign, 89 per cent from corporations.

Mr. Speaker, it's no wonder that people continue to have concerns about how much they can trust the leadership in this party. Mr. Mandryk, the journalist here in town, described it as a corporate-driven party with two-thirds of every dollar coming from business.

And we had Tammy Robert, the Saskatchewan blogger, who in her article, “. . . Who's Buying Saskatchewan's Next Premier” said that “Political candidates in Saskatchewan are not players, they are pawns who can be bought and sold to the highest bidder.”

Now I don't believe that the majority of the people in this House can be bought and sold. But that is the perception. That's the perception in the media. That's the perception in the public and the actions around corporate and union donations, the actions around the GTH, the actions around conflict of interest questions, around ownership of stocks — all of these contribute to that erosion of trust. And the GTH is exemplary of that loss of trust.

And this motion and its call for greater transparency and greater accountability is so important for the good of this profession, for the good of all in this Chamber, and more importantly, for the good of the province as a whole. That's why we need rules

in place and, more importantly, we need to follow those rules. We need to see those rules in practice fostering a culture of trust and ethics in politics. I'm glad to stand in support of this motion. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well I'd like to say a few words about the Global Transportation Hub and all of the tremendous benefits it provides for the Saskatchewan economy and the Saskatchewan people.

You know, the NDP across the aisle over there, they always like to characterize the Global Transportation Hub as something that's a burden to the province. And quite frankly, you know, Mr. Speaker, that couldn't be further from the truth. Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub already employs over 800 people with full-time jobs, and that does not include the 1,800 construction jobs.

Having spent over 35 years in the transportation industry, I can tell you that this will be a great project for the future of Saskatchewan, and it already is. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is an export province, and if we want to build and expand our exports, it's only natural that we are using the latest in designs and technology like we are seeing at the Global Transportation Hub. Saskatchewan's economy and its history are built on its ability to export its products to other markets. Key markets such as oil and gas, agriculture and food, mining and minerals, manufacturing and technology have all contributed to Saskatchewan's strong trade performance over the past several years.

United States remains Saskatchewan's most important and largest trading partner, accounting for almost half of the province's total exports. But markets such as China, India, Japan, Brazil, and Mexico are becoming larger consumers of Saskatchewan's products, and they are continuing to play a larger role in the economic prosperity of the province. All of these markets and many more mean we will have to have an excellent transportation system to accommodate the flow of goods as we continue to grow.

And this is where the Global Transportation Hub provides such a benefit to Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, with access by rail to ocean ports, Saskatchewan's many products will no longer be landlocked and unable to have timely shipments all around the world. The speed of delivery of our products will significantly increase our exports if we stay committed to having the leading edge in transportation solutions like the Global Transportation Hub provides. With benefits such as a designation of being a foreign trade zone, a taxing authority, and of maintaining autonomy, all benefits that we will enjoy, the Global Transportation Hub is a long-term investment and its growth is consistent with other inland port developments across North America. This is an infrastructure designed to support trade for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub is already seeing 4,800 weekly truck movements and 60,000 intermodal lifts per year. Our province created the Global Transportation Hub to grow our province and our economy and our support of all the

businesses operating or looking to operate at the Global Transportation Hub. Private investment is already at 485 million, and that investment is creating jobs for our people and it's attracting others from all over the world.

There is also lots of room for growth, Mr. Speaker. Of the 1,800 acres that comprise the Global Transportation Hub, over 700 acres are already sold to or are in operation by clients. The Global Transportation Hub is admired by industry peers who understand that logistics parks such as the Global Transportation Hub will take 25 to 30 years to reach full maturation. The Global Transportation Hub will undoubtedly create jobs for decades to come.

This self-governing inland port already supports 12 clients signed on and has tax revenue of 15 million in personal income tax and 17 million in incremental diesel fuel tax. Current businesses include the Loblaw Companies, Canada's largest food retailer which supplies over 250 stores from its distribution centre at the Global Transportation Hub; Slinkemo Enterprises, providing container storage, drayage, transport, maintenance, and handling services. Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority: they import and distribute products across the province. SaskPower, and SaskPower will operate a new logistics complex at the Global Transportation Hub as of 2019. Morguard Investment: Morguard is a leader in Canadian real estate services, offering warehouse space for lease and industrial land for development on the Global Transportation Hub footprint. Future Transfer: they specialize in third party logistics, warehousing, packaging, and distribution services. Emterra Group, Regina's curbside recycler, processes 50,000 tons of materials annually at the Global Transportation Hub; Consolidated FastFrate who offers cross-dock and LTL transportation solutions to major Canadian centres. Canadian Pacific Railway: the CP Rail mainline access to the Global Transportation Hub connects to seaports and key North American markets; and Brightenview, a Saskatchewan-based international business development company.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, this is a very diverse assortment of companies which will only grow more as we continue to diversify. The Global Transportation Hub business development activities are very aggressive, with ongoing discussions with more than 40 qualified prospects. I think it should also be noted that the Global Transportation Hub has interacted with companies and organizations in over 52 countries.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's also important that others outside of government weigh in on the importance of the Global Transportation Hub. I've got a couple of testimonials. Hopefully I have time to share them.

Steve McLellan, the CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, quoted:

Inland ports are huge economic engines and huge drivers for our job creation, growing local companies, and providing opportunities to capitalize on cargo shipping through the province — having trade stop here rather than drive right on through.

That's a portion of the quote but, Mr. Speaker, with all the benefits to our province and to our economy, I cannot find it to

support the member by Saskatoon Nutana. Thank you.

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

[12:00]

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Trade is essential to our economy and the GTH is designed to support trade for generations to come. Trade allows us to bring more money into our province which we can in turn spend on schools, hospitals, and daycares, or potentially some of the initiatives the member from Meewasin is promising in his leadership campaign. And yet he was arrested in 2001 for protesting against free trade.

This question is for the member from Regina Rosemont. Do you support the member from Meewasin's anti-trade stance?

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course New Democrats have long promoted the trade interests of Saskatchewan to make sure that we have freer fair trade that works for Saskatchewan's interests, and that we'll always look out for the . . . And there's complexity to any trade deal, and we'll make sure we know the detail of that as well. I do find it disappointing though for that member, a member that I actually think brings a lot to this Assembly, that would be sent in with a question like that when we have a matter like the GTH before us, a matter of trust with Saskatchewan people, a matter that's ripped millions of dollars off from Saskatchewan people at a time when we should be standing united for accountability in this scandal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I found these speeches from the government side very interesting. Three speeches, 30 minutes — not once did they use the word transparency or accountability. These are foreign concepts to the folks over there.

Now I have a question to the member from Westview. And my question is, does he agree with the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove when he said that the government should, and I quote, "should not have been involved in the Global Transportation Hub venture" and would have, and I quote again, "immediately begin action to sell the GTH"? What do you think?

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Well thank you for the question from the member opposite. I'd like to start out by saying, you know, our government supports all of the businesses at the GTH. And this is a generational project that's going to create and continue to create jobs. We've seen significant investment already at the Global Transportation Hub and hundreds, well over 800 jobs created and 1,800 construction jobs. I think that's very important that we always, you know, talk about the important

things that are happening over there, 800 jobs. Maybe they don't think across the floor that 800 jobs are very important, but to me those 800 people are very important. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Mr. Dennis:** — Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub was created to grow our province and our economy. It's bringing investment to our province. It's creating jobs for Saskatchewan people and attracting new people to the province. There has been \$485 million in private investment in the GTH. It has created 862 full-time jobs and 1,804 construction jobs. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Meewasin: would you shut down the GTH, push out businesses out of our province, and terminate jobs for the people of Saskatchewan?

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, trade is extremely important. It's extremely important to our economy. And the member previously mentioned some previous actions of mine around a trade agreement once upon a time, which was a very bad trade agreement and never actually went through. Because it wasn't actually going to protect human rights, protect environmental rights, it wasn't a good deal. And the GTH, while it may have a very important role, has not been a good deal in the way it's been delivered.

It's been a good deal for friends of Bill Boyd. It's been a good deal for certain landowners. It's been a good deal for certain companies.

I would like to see you manage the trade . . . I would like to see this government manage our trade efforts in a way that don't waste money enriching their friends, and would be focused on getting jobs for people in Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We certainly think jobs are important on this side. In fact, I've called on the Minister of the Economy recently to create a comprehensive job-creation strategy that specifically highlights women and the rising EI [employment insurance] rates that women are facing right now, particularly in light of cuts to education and health care that this government has brought on. We certainly see jobs as important.

There needs to be a comprehensive strategy though, Mr. Speaker, not relying simply on one particular project. My question is for the member from Saskatoon Westview. Mr. Speaker, what does the member for Saskatoon Westview think it says about the GTH that the moment the last minister for the GTH left his position, he called it a mistake and promised to sell it off?

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member from Saskatoon Fairview for the question. I think it's always important that we talk about jobs, talking about jobs for both men and women. And you know, of the 64,000 jobs created in Saskatchewan, I would assume that a lot of those would have been women. So I think it's an important question, and I think . . . 24,000, according to the Minister of the Economy. So I think it's important that we always talk about that. It is important to create jobs for everyone in this province.

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

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is dependent on trade as 75 per cent of what we produce is exported. The GTH is a long-term investment with infrastructure designed to support trade for generations.

Mr. Speaker, the new federal NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, has an interesting view on trade saying, "We've been very clear. It is not about free trade. It's about fair trade." Mr. Speaker, my question is for the member from Regina Rosemont. Do you support Canada pursuing more borders for Saskatchewan companies across the globe and for foreign companies to invest here?

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean, Saskatchewan New Democrats have always worked to make sure that we're building the economy. We recognize the importance of exports and work hard to create jobs and investment within this province, and trade is important.

But so is a government to act in a principled way that serves the interests of the people of this province.

You know, it defies common sense at a time that we see here right now for a government to have an unlevel playing field for procurement, Mr. Speaker, an actual process that shuts out — if you can imagine — Saskatchewan companies in the process of procurement, Mr. Speaker. We have a time right now where we should be working towards a strong economic recovery. Instead we have a government, when it comes to our Crowns, when it comes to procurement, when it comes to deal after deal, that are selling out the interests of Saskatchewan people and businesses.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the member from Regina Pasqua agree with the member from Meadow Lake, who made a cameo appearance in their leadership race, that Bill Boyd should have been fired long ago?

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems like the member opposite has not visited the GTH. What I would like to do, I would like to invite all those members to come in the GTH and visit that with open eyes, Mr. Speaker.

When I see the GTH, I see more jobs, more people working on there. I see the GTH, Global Transportation Hub, as paying people's mortgages. What I see in Saskatchewan, it is an icon in the business world, and go there and see the connectivity of the GTH with the business world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Olason:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Provincial Auditor has looked into the Global Transportation Hub with full authority and access to all documents and the individuals involved. She found no evidence of conflict of interest or wrongdoing. Well the members opposite didn't like that because it didn't fit their rhetoric, so they demanded the RCMP look into the matter. So government has agreed to give their full co-operation to the RCMP for that review.

My question is to the member from Saskatoon Nutana. Once the RCMP has concluded their review, will your party stop their smear campaign against the hard-working businesses that have invested in the Global Transportation Hub and our province?

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's unfortunate that no one could use the words accountability or transparency once in this whole debate.

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

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook.

#### Motion No. 1 — Ride-Sourcing Network

**Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to enter in some comments with respect to the motion that's on the table here. And it's always an honour to follow such a vigorous debate on behalf of the people of the province on Thursdays after our infamous 75-minute debate here, Mr. Speaker, and thank all members for participating in that debate.

But I am happy to enter in some comments here today, Mr. Speaker. And at the end of my comments, I will be moving a motion, Mr. Speaker, a motion with respect to supporting the Government of Saskatchewan's . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I believe the 75-minute debate has expired. We are moving on. I recognize the member.

**Mr. Moe:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I note, I notice that maybe question period today was possibly one minute too long, one too many questions there, Mr. Speaker. And the 75-minute debate might have been a minute short, Mr. Speaker, in light of people still trying to participate, Mr. Speaker.

But at the end of my comments, I will be speaking and moving

a motion with respect to supporting this government's decision to work with municipalities across this province, both large and small communities, to establish a ride-sourcing network or to look at the opportunities for us to have a ride-sharing network here in the province.

Not only for the customer experience and to expand the opportunities for customers to actually participate in a ride-sharing experience or in a taxi-like service or a service where they can have a driver transport them, whether they be young and old, to work or whatever that may be, Mr. Speaker, but also as another tool in the tool box. Here in the province of Saskatchewan, a tool so desperately needed, I would say, in this province, Mr. Speaker, to help us address the drinking and driving rates that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan.

This will by no means be a golden arrow or a solution, but it will be another tool in the tool box for us to make some impact on, hopefully what is some impact on drinking and driving rates here in the province of Saskatchewan.

And I'll speak to some statistics from other cities around the world, Mr. Speaker, on both larger and smaller cities as ride-sharing is starting to expand into . . . out of the cities that we think in the hundreds of thousands of individuals, the hundreds of thousands of people, but down into cities in the tens of thousands, Mr. Speaker.

And in Saskatchewan that starts to affect communities that we know, aside from Saskatoon and Regina, here in Saskatchewan, communities like Swift Current or communities such as Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Mr. Speaker. These are communities that we want to look into the opportunities to incorporate some type of platform for ride sharing here in the province of Saskatchewan in an effort to enhance the access to that customer experience, enhance the customer experience itself, Mr. Speaker, but also as I said be a tool in the tool box to reducing our drinking and driving rates here in the province of Saskatchewan.

There are different platforms for ride sharing, Mr. Speaker, that are utilized around the world, quite honestly. I was talking with some individuals of a ride-sharing service last night, the Minister of Economy and some of the people at the Agribition actually last night, Mr. Speaker, that have a ride-sharing service that is available through an app in the country of Kazakhstan, Mr. Speaker.

The ones we're quite used to here in North America — not so much right in the province of Saskatchewan — would be ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft, Mr. Speaker. But also, in many ways, it really is a similar service to what's being offered in many of our urban centres. Just the access or the dispatch of the service is a little different, going online through an app, Mr. Speaker, and having your payment processes online, and also the accountability of the experience, both from the driver's perspective as well as the passenger's perspective, also being online. Whereas in the taxi industry, Mr. Speaker, we have moved to online applications there as well, I notice in Regina and Saskatoon, but traditionally has been a call service and a telephone or verbal dispatch, Mr. Speaker, in that industry.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about different ride-sharing options and the platforms that are available to communities across the province of Saskatchewan, I have experienced — or at least observed — a ride-share service at its most, you know, basic and really its most primitive measures, if you will, here in the province in a community that I visited a number of years ago. And, Mr. Speaker, what it really consisted of was in a seniors' hall where people gathered periodically three to four days a week, a number of contacts on the billboard in the seniors' hall, Mr. Speaker, with their telephone number. And at the top of it said, if you need a ride, call. And the list was there, Mr. Speaker. The most primitive of ride-sharing apps, if you will, although it wasn't on a smartphone, was actually on the billboard at a seniors' hall out in a small community in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I think that speaks to the opportunity of people in rural Saskatchewan. And I think of a close friend of mine, a retiree in a rural community that would be, you know, quite happy to put their name forward to participate in a service as a driver for a service like this, as I know most of the people in the community and the surrounding area. And they'd be happy to go out and give them a ride home, sometimes even irrespective of the money, just as much so to, you know, get out and continue to visit with people in the community.

So there are opportunities, untapped opportunities I think, when we start a discussion like this with respect to ride sharing, that we may not even understand or anticipate as we go into that discussion, Mr. Speaker. Those are some of the opportunities that I think may arise as we start to enter into this discussion in both rural and urban communities here in the province of Saskatchewan.

I have utilized a ride-sharing service, Mr. Speaker, in some of my travels, and I can think of a fairly lengthy trip I took. I think it was Uber I used at the time, Mr. Speaker, from Baton Rouge . . . Pardon me, it was from New Orleans up to Baton Rouge, if I remember correctly. What we were down in that particular area for at the time, Mr. Speaker, was during my time as Environment minister. We were down there participating in the State Ag and Rural Leaders Conference.

And I can't remember. I think it was in Baton Rouge, but we were down early for a few meetings with some of the Secretary of Energy . . . the Secretary of Energy for the state of Louisiana and some of his team, if you will, Mr. Speaker, to talk about, if you will, a carbon capture and storage and the opportunity to utilize carbon capture and storage on some of the refineries that are operating in that Louisiana area, in that New Orleans area, Mr. Speaker. And there's a great opportunity there, that they were interested in what we have done at Boundary dam 3, and if there's any of the knowledge that we had that they would be able to utilize to enhance their efforts, Mr. Speaker.

And I learned a funny thing with respect to carbon capture and storage, or more so enhanced oil recovery, and some of the carbon that was flowing through a pipeline that had been built in Louisiana — a 36-inch pipeline, fairly significant size — from Mississippi over to, I believe, it was the west Texas oilfield where they were using the carbon for enhanced oil



recovery. Mr. Speaker, I was at . . . I asked where that carbon was coming from and I asked, you know, was there a potential to take some off of these six large refineries here and actually put it in that pipe and utilize some of that carbon rather than spewing it into the atmosphere. And they agreed, that's what they wanted to talk about was exactly that opportunity.

So I did ask where the carbon did come from, and apparently it comes from a hole they drilled in the ground over in Mississippi, and there's a tremendously large cavern of carbon dioxide there that they drill. And they actually extract that carbon dioxide, move it through the pipeline over into west Texas and then use that carbon for enhanced oil recovery, Mr. Speaker.

I think in light of the effort that has been made here in the province of Saskatchewan and the opportunity that this knowledge now can provide to really make an impact on emissions, not just here in our province of 1.165 million people, Mr. Speaker — a fairly industrious province but small in the scope of the world in our population and in our emissions I might add, Mr. Speaker — but a tremendous opportunity to take that knowledge into other areas of the world and to utilize it and to further refine it, Mr. Speaker, and to really make an impact in what is a global conversation around our carbon content in our atmosphere, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm, you know, pleased to be here today to say that ride sharing actually had a part in lowering our greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Speaker, and having a conversation around climate change and what Saskatchewan has to offer the world, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward with this very important conversation.

And I would add that as this conversation continues and the Minister of the Environment and the Premier, Mr. Speaker, have been very active globally in this conversation, that I would put forward this . . . Easy there, easy there, Mr. Speaker. I would put forward this . . . I'm sorry to alarm you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I would put forward this, that it is in the world's interest. And the world might need much more of Saskatchewan's innovation and Saskatchewan's knowledge when it comes to a number of subjects, but in particular on reducing our carbon content in the atmosphere, the opportunities that we have in sequestration such as carbon capture and storage, such as what we're doing in agriculture, the opportunities we have in what we've done in our mining industry, Mr. Speaker, what we've done in our energy industry.

When there is another energy well that's drilled in the world, Mr. Speaker, I think it should be drilled in Saskatchewan because of the suite of environmental regulations we have here in the province, Mr. Speaker. When there's another mine that is being looked at on the global scale, I think it should be looked at in the province of Saskatchewan if we have that natural resource here, Mr. Speaker, because of the suite of environmental regulations that we operate under in this province, Mr. Speaker.

When there is a technology that has the opportunity to be exported around the world such as zero till pulse crop technology, Mr. Speaker, developed here in the province, that technology needs to be recognized either through article 6 of the

Paris accord or at the very least we need to be very loud and boisterous with our customers, Mr. Speaker, and remind them of the sustainable products, the sustainable natural resource products that we develop here in the province of Saskatchewan and give to the rest of the world.

And, Mr. Speaker, to get back to the bill at hand, that ride sharing, Mr. Speaker, played a small part in that, in getting me from New Orleans to Baton Rouge so I was able to meet with the Secretary of Energy in the state of Louisiana, Mr. Speaker, and to talk to them about the knowledge that we have around just that technology, Mr. Speaker, that is so important, not only to the state of Louisiana but the rest of the world as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I finished my digression. Mr. Speaker, the landscape in Saskatchewan . . . I might go down there one more time. But the landscape in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is a little bit different with respect to ride sharing to the landscape in the urban centres in many other areas of the nation of Canada. Mr. Speaker, there are cities, you know, Toronto, Vancouver most notably, but even if we go, you know, to Alberta, Mr. Speaker . . . A fair number more people in the province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker, thanks possibly to the members opposite, I might add. But, Mr. Speaker, we're working on that here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I think we should look at opportunities in ride sharing to ensure that as we grow our population we have all of the opportunities that some of our more populated areas of Canada have.

Mr. Speaker, here we have our two centres of Regina and Saskatoon that would support, I think, what traditional ride sharing would be. But as I look through some of the documents that we had, Mr. Speaker, I did notice that Manitoba has passed some legislation with respect to enabling the opportunity for ride sharing in that province, most notably in the community of Winnipeg, but potentially to be looked at at some of the other larger communities in that province as well, and ultimately in the surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, it says here, and I quote, in a *Winnipeg Free Press* article of September the 18th of this year at 4 a.m. in the morning — they work early, these journalists — Mr. Speaker:

. . . the Progressive Conservative government introduced legislation . . . the licensing and regulatory body governing the industry — and [this] will let municipalities set the rules by which vehicle-for-hire services could operate in the province [of Manitoba]. In April, the NDP opposition used legislative rules to push back the implementation of the Local Vehicles for Hire Act . . . until November.

A little obstinate, Mr. Speaker, but it'll pass nonetheless.

Mr. Speaker, we're also seeing support in our province to explore the opportunities, both rural and urban support here in the province of Saskatchewan. And I would point most notably to an article in *Global News*. And I don't have the date . . . Pardon me, I do have a date, November 21st, 2017. Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

According to Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, one of the barriers in the past to ride sharing has been the legislation

around insurance and licensing at a provincial level leaving major cities with their hands tied.

Mr. Speaker, well we'll do some work with respect to removing those barriers so our municipalities can further along with their decisions around the opportunities for ride-sharing applications that may be available. Or as I said, it may be as simple as the billboard in my seniors hall.

Mr. Speaker, I quote Ray Orb from the SARM, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, Mr. Speaker. I believe lives not too far from where you live, Mr. Speaker. And I quote, "I like the idea if it makes our roads safer." And I will allude to a few documents that I have that show that that just may be case in other jurisdictions where ride sharing has been introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I go on to quote . . . And I think this speaks to at least the inference or the idea around this being one of the arrows in the quiver, if you will, or one of the opportunities to lessen the drinking and driving rates that we have in this province. And we need to exercise on every opportunity available to us, and this just may be one of them, Mr. Speaker. And again I quote:

If a farmer wants to come . . . [down] and take his wife out for supper and have a glass of wine he could be more relaxed if he knew he had a ride home. People tend to stay home more now in the rural areas, so this idea . . . [may] bring back [some] social activity [out into areas of rural Saskatchewan].

"We have to make sure that . . . the availability of safe, convenient and reliable transportations options. And obviously recognizing that a lot of our smaller communities don't have that right now." Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, that was . . . I'd went on to quote Michelle Okere from MADD Saskatchewan who had done some work with respect to this being an opportunity to lower our drinking and driving rates here in the province as well.

Mr. Speaker, there's also been support from certain police officers across the province, Mr. Speaker, and a number of police officers anecdotally in conversations that I've had as I travelled the province the last couple of months, Mr. Speaker. But I do, most notably, just quote a Regina . . . quote this article from 650 CKOM, Mr. Speaker, on November the 16th of 2017: "Superintendent Darcy Koch said he's personally used Uber outside the Queen City, and . . . [am very] pleased when it was brought up in the legislature last month."

Mr. Speaker, there are opportunities for this to trim down Saskatchewan high rates of drinking and driving. And I quote again from Mr. Koch: "(Uber) is just another one of those services. It's important to get home safe — that's what our goal is." And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's fair to say that's what our goal is as all Saskatchewan residents across the province.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the opportunities in rural Saskatchewan . . . Traditionally when we think of ride sharing, we think of some of the larger centres and we think it might not work in a community where I live, Mr. Speaker, a community of 1,500 people. We actually have a taxi operating in the community

where I live right now. It wouldn't be considered a 24-hour service such as we would be looking for from some of the ride-sharing opportunities, but it is a pre-book service, so you are able to pre-book and utilize that service. And I hope she does well enough to continue with that service into the future for the sake of the region in that area to actually have that service that we have not had before, at least on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, the ride-sharing opportunity may be an opportunity for her to actually enhance her service and to pre-book some of her rides online through an application. And you know, without talking to her or having her look at the opportunities there, I don't think it's fair for us to close those doors, if you will, Mr. Speaker, of her access to what might be a larger market for her business, and maybe even to expand that business outside of just that one community into others as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would note an article with respect to moving into the community of Amherst, Massachusetts, a community of 38,000 people about 25 miles to any major urban centre, Mr. Speaker, and over 90 miles from downtown Boston. And there are occasional rides from Uber that have come in and out of that community, Mr. Speaker, but they have now set up an actual Uber service in Amherst, which is a university, has a large university student population according to the document here that I'm quoting out of, Mr. Speaker.

And as a result there's been, the public transportation has been greatly reduced in the months and the times when the students aren't actually taking their classes, Mr. Speaker — maybe they've gone home for a week or two or for summer holidays — and they've found that the public transportation in Amherst just wasn't what they required in that time when the students weren't around. With the introduction of a ride-sharing service it has levelled out that service, Mr. Speaker, regardless of the month, and it seems to be meeting the market that's required at that point in time.

[12:30]

Mr. Speaker, I would point out with respect to . . . And a reason for this, Mr. Speaker, there was some motions passed at a recent convention, and I'll get to . . . But with respect to the opportunity of this having some impact on our impaired driving rates here in the province of Saskatchewan, which I think we have to exercise every opportunity that we feel we have with that, Mr. Speaker, I notice the NDP convention in 2017 just recently held here where there is, and I quote, one of the statements within one of the motions here against ride-sharing services was this: "Whereas little or no correlation with reduction in impaired driving rates is shown in areas where TNCs operate . . ."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I did have the opportunity to look at a few research papers here and that have been done that are showing something a little bit different, Mr. Speaker. And I look at one with respect to a very large community, the community of New York, done in January 2017 by Jessica Lynn Peck titled "New York City Drunk Driving After Uber," her working paper no. 13, Mr. Speaker. And I look at a few of the comments in the . . . I guess it would be the executive summary, the abstract at the front, but, Mr. Speaker . . . And I quote a few sentences out of

here:

A recent increase in the ease and availability of alternative rides for intoxicated passengers partially explains the steep decrease in alcohol-related collisions in New York City since 2011. I examine the specific case of Uber's car service launch in New York . . . in May 2011, a unique example of a sudden increase in cab availability for intoxicated passengers. This study draws on a dataset of all New York State alcohol-related collisions maintained by the New York State Department . . . across New York State counties over time and the careful choice of New York State counties that provide an appropriate control group for New York City's drunk-driving behavior.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on to talk about they've experienced about a 25 to 35 per cent decrease in alcohol-related collisions rated using difference-in-differences estimations in standard errors clustered at the county level, 25 to 35 per cent reduction in impaired driving crashes, Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of ride sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I go on. Some work done jointly between MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Uber, Mr. Speaker . . . And the Uber app was created to ensure reliable access to safe rides whenever, wherever. But a first of its kind, a comprehensive study conducted by Uber and Mothers Against Drunk Driving reveals that Uber is more than just a convenient transportation option, but the choice, the reliability, and the flexibility it also affords it to be a powerful tool in the quest to protect families from drunk driving.

Seattle. In May 2014, Uber set to answer a simple question but an important question, where they . . . Prior to Uber's arrival, approximately 7.6 people per day were arrested for driving under the influence. They experienced a 10 per cent reduction in their impaired driving rates, Mr. Speaker.

So this is, despite the NDP's motion at the convention where they say there's no correlation with the reduction in impaired driving rates shown in anywhere where these ride-sharing offers are available, Mr. Speaker, there are studies out there that say something quite the contrary, Mr. Speaker. So I think this is a great opportunity for us to enhance the customer experience not only in our urban centres, Mr. Speaker, but expand and make accessible this ride-sharing service out into rural areas, rural communities across the province, Mr. Speaker. The cost will be a free market. It'll find its place, Mr. Speaker, and this is something that I encourage the provincial government and the municipalities and all of those involved across the province of Saskatchewan to participate in this discussion to enhance this opportunity as we move forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly support the Government of Saskatchewan's decision to work with municipalities and smaller communities to establish a ride-sourcing network as another tool in efforts to curb drinking and driving in this province.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Rosthern-Shellbrook has moved:

That the Assembly supports the Government of Saskatchewan's decision to work with municipalities and smaller communities to establish a ride-sourcing network as another tool in efforts to curb drinking and driving in this province.

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

**Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Meadow Lake 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:** — That's carried. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:36.]

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