



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

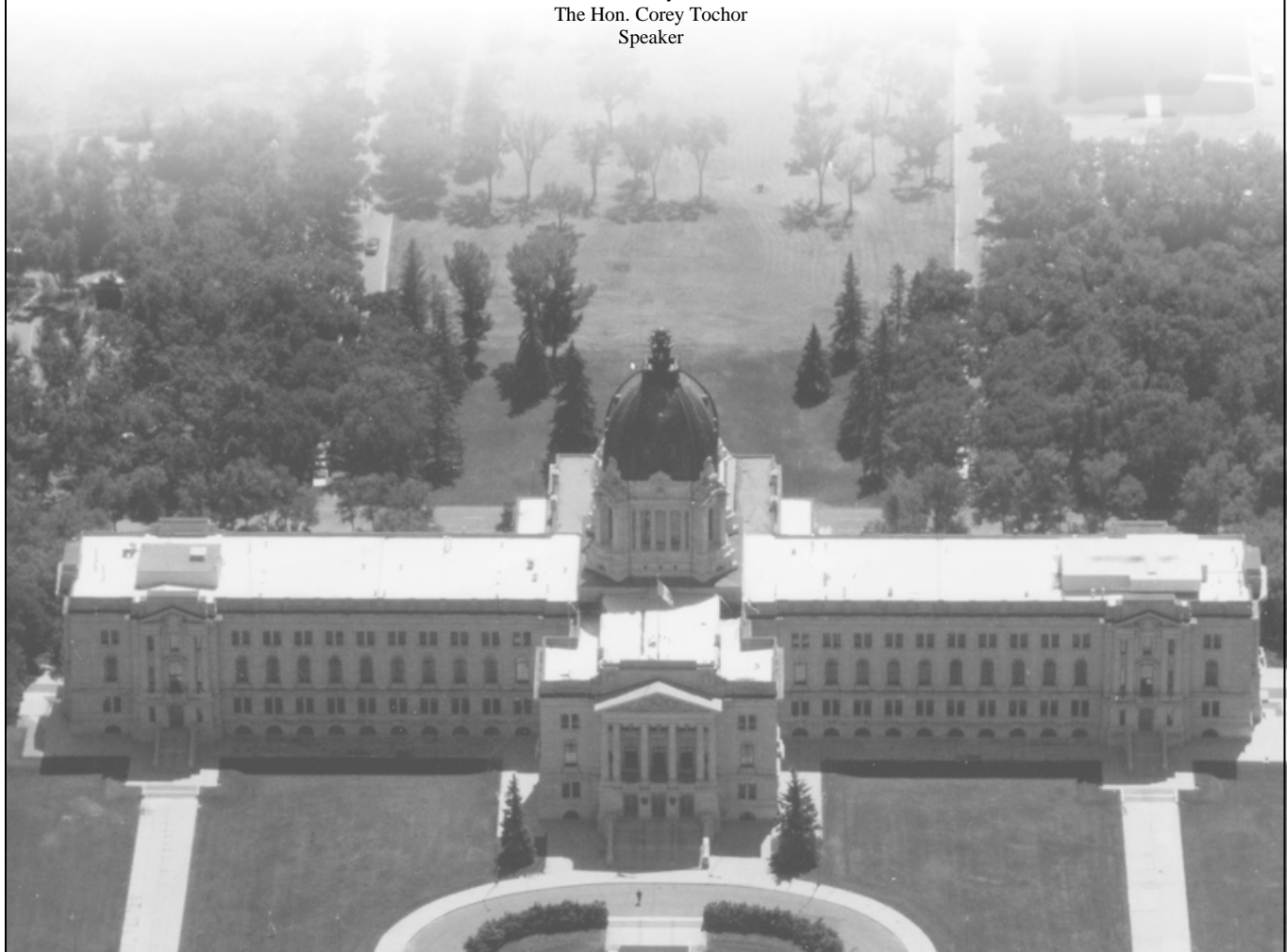
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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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)
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<b>Buckingham</b> , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>Morgan</b> , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
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<b>Cheveldayoff</b> , Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Olauson</b> , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
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<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)
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<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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I notice in the west gallery there are some distinguished citizens of the province of Saskatchewan, labour leaders in the province. And I'm sure they'll be introduced more formally a little bit later on and that I might miss a few but, Mr. Speaker, I can certainly see Larry Hubich, Gunnar Passmore, Lori Johb, and Tom Graham have joined us. I assume they're here for my farewell party, Mr. Speaker. I want them to know they're here just one, they're here one day early. But I appreciate the fact that they're here.

And more seriously, I appreciate the fact that they work every day together with their teams to represent their members and working families across the province. And notwithstanding disagreements we'll have over policy and politics perhaps on occasion, their work is very important to the life of the province and something that we on this side of the House do appreciate. And so I just want to, on behalf of the government and members on this side, I want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will join with the Premier in welcoming these many labour leaders to their Legislative Assembly, the ones that the Premier mentioned. Welcome Tom Graham, Gunnar Passmore, Larry Hubich, also Dion Malakoff. Thank you for being here. And also Lori Johb from the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] who's been instrumental in the partnership that SFL has with Hillberg & Berk in their campaign to raise money for the Provincial Association of Transition Houses. Thank you so much for being here today. It's always a pleasure to see all of you. I'd ask all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'm honoured to introduce some guests today in your gallery. First of all we have Sandy Giesbrecht, she's a good friend of my wife, and we have my beautiful bride, Marjorie Lawrence, here today. And as we all know, without our spouses and significant others we wouldn't be able to do the job we're able to do today. So I would ask all members to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to do a quick introduction to a couple of people that keep me on track up in Social Services, Jill Love and

Ashley . . . Taylor Stenson. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I thought Ashley was up there, but there's Taylor up there. So I just want to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce some individuals from the Calling Lakes area today. I'll be presenting a petition on their behalf very shortly. But in the gallery, in the west gallery today we have Ken and Marj Hutchinson and Aura Lee MacPherson. And I would like to, on behalf of the official opposition, welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly here today, we have some folks here from Ituna who have brought me a petition to present, that I'll be presenting shortly.

I'd ask all members to welcome today, we've got Nancy Deleurve who's an Ituna town councillor; Corinne Sopol who is an area representative with CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] Local 4980 representing health care workers in Ituna and surrounding areas of the Sunrise Health Region. We have Tom Graham, the president of CUPE Saskatchewan, here today. CUPE represents over 30,000 CUPE members working to provide public services throughout the province, and it's the largest health care union in the province. And we have Nathan Markwart, the executive staff with CUPE Saskatchewan. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my pleasure today to welcome a couple of guests to their Legislative Assembly. First, seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is a young man, a constituent, grade 12 student, Diego Ortman. Diego has a couple of passions in life. One of them is politics, and so I encourage everyone to continue to foster that love of politics in this young man. And also music: he has a list of instruments that he plays including the saxophone. He's in the choir and the jazz band at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate. And I invite all members to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome Ms. Katie Emde. Katie is seated in the west gallery. Katie is a mom of two small children. Her and her husband live in Midale, Saskatchewan. And Katie has been just a passionate advocate on behalf of families and children living with autism, a fundraiser, and really has become a bit of a volunteer counsellor for many families and a really positive voice, a strong voice advocating for those families. And so I invite all members of this Assembly to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I'll take this opportunity to also welcome a special guest sitting in my gallery. Right now we have Sheila — give a wave — and more importantly, Cherisse is next to Sheila. And Cherisse was the summer student for the past Speaker, and we were lucky enough to keep her on in that role for this past year. And she's been helping out when she can while she's attending university. So please welcome her. And this is going to be unfortunately her last day working in our office, but I'd like to thank her for the many hours of hard work that she has done. Please welcome her to her Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

We, in the prayer 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 federal carbon tax on the province.

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

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition from concerned residents of Ituna who have had their lab services reduced, effective in October of this year, from five days a week to only three days a week, and the possibility of further reductions in the near future.

The reduction in lab services makes it more difficult for the elderly residents, long-term care residents, and those in supported living with intellectual disabilities in Ituna to access health care when the lab has a closed sign instead of an open sign. In the summer, the residents of Ituna gathered to take action about their lab services being cut and began a petition that today has collected over 500 signatures from town residents and surrounding area. Many windows in homes across the town now display a heart sign asking for Ituna lab services to be saved and restored. Their concerns have been ignored, and they have asked me to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly on their behalf. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain and restore lab services in the town of Ituna including blood work, X-ray, ECG tests, and pacemaker tests to five days per week, Monday through Friday, at the Ituna health centre to serve the needs of the community of Ituna and surrounding area, and in doing so reverse any reduction to lab services in Ituna, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions to save lab services in Ituna are

signed by the residents of Ituna and the following communities throughout Saskatchewan: Balcarres, Balgonie, Canora, Duff, Esterhazy, Fenwood, Foam Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, Goodeve, Hubbard, Kamsack, Kelliher, Melville, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Unity, White City, Willowbrook, and Yorkton. I so present.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to stand in my place today to present a petition as it relates to Orkambi. And I want to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to the attention the following: whereas Orkambi was approved by Health Canada for use in cystic fibrosis patients with two copies of the F508del-CFTR mutation, aged 12 years and older; whereas Orkambi is the first drug to treat the basic defect in the largest population of Canadians with cystic fibrosis, it can slow the disease progression, allow patients to live longer, healthier lives; whereas CF [cystic fibrosis] specialists have established clinical criteria for Orkambi, including the start and stop criteria, these specialists are best suited to manage access to medications in the treatment of CF patients.

So the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Urge the Ministry of Health to negotiate a fair price for Orkambi and make it available through the Saskatchewan drug plan for those who meet the conditions set by Health Canada and the clinical criteria established by the Canadian CF clinicians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this particular petition has hundreds if not thousands of names. And this particular page that I'm presenting today and will be presenting in future days, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Meadow Lake. They're from Hudson Bay. They're from Flying Dust. They're from Waterhen. They're from Buffalo Narrows. They're from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And I so present.

**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 have signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rate of domestic violence amongst the provinces in Canada. Employers should be obligated to reasonably accommodate survivors of domestic violence in the workplace. Employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty. And Saskatchewan must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the pages of the petition I am tabling today come from Saskatoon and Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition to the Minister of Environment and the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan. The people who have signed this are wanting to bring to our attention important information. The Quill Lakes Watershed Association is proposing something called the Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project, and what that would do is redirect saline water from Kutawagan Lake and Pel Lake into Last Mountain Lake and thereby the rest of the Qu'Appelle River chain of lakes.

The Minister of Saskatchewan Environment has reviewed the documents that were put forth by the proponent and determined that the project is not a development under *The Environmental Assessment Act*.

The potential impacts to water quality are not fully known to the public, and a thorough analysis of the short- and long-term accumulative environmental impacts has not been completed. There is widespread concern regarding the proponent's proposal due to a lack of transparency of the project, the public communication, and lack of consultation with Saskatchewan citizens and indigenous peoples.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Minister of Environment and the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan publicly release all documents used to make his determination under *The Environmental Assessment Act* including, but not limited to:

The Quill Lakes flood mitigation assessment, January 2015; Kutawagan diversion project environmental assessment, September 2015; Common Ground drainage diversion design report, May 2017, submitted on June 29, '17; Common Ground Drainage operational plan, submitted on June 29th, 2017; a document entitled "Wildlife Considerations for the Quill Lake Flood Mitigation," submitted on July 12th, 2017; project discussions held between the Quill Lakes Watershed Association and the Government of Saskatchewan working group at meetings held in the rural municipality of Mount Hope council chambers, April to July 2017; a record of engagement activities and letters of support for the project provided by the Quill Lakes Watershed Association; and water quality monitoring data collected in 2017.

Due to public concern and outcry into the potential impacts of the proposed project, that the Government of Saskatchewan determine that the Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project be deemed a development under *The Environmental Assessment Act*, and therefore conduct an impartial, full environmental impact

assessment of the project, including public and indigenous consultations; and finally,

Refuse to issue any permits or licences, nor fund any activities under the Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project proposal until a comprehensive, impartial environmental impact assessment and public and indigenous consultations are completed.

Mr. Speaker, this petition . . . These people have been trying to get the government's attention for a while. They just recently decided to do this petition. There's over 1,050 signatures in just 10 days, Mr. Speaker, in terms of this. And the people that have signed this come from the communities of Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina Beach, Dilke, Craven, Strasbourg, Pasqua Lake, Tisdale, Pilot Butte, Broadview, Indian Head, Regina, Emerald Park, Vibank, Rowatt, White City, Lumsden, Katepwa, Wolseley, Abernethy, Lebet, Melville, MacNutt, and Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

[13:45]

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today to present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. And, Mr. Speaker, on a day like today, when there is maintenance being done on the bridge and an accident near the bridge, it's a clear reminder that Prince Albert requires a second bridge.

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

Prince Albert, communities north of Prince Albert, and businesses that send people and products through Prince Albert require a solution; that municipal governments have limited resources and require a second bridge to be funded through federal and provincial governments and not a P3 [public-private partnership] model; and that the Saskatchewan Party government refuses to stand up for Prince Albert and this critical infrastructure issue.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that's near and dear to many people in Saskatchewan's heart, and this individual petition has been signed by people from Regina, Coronach, and Buffalo Narrows. I do so present.

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

Meewasin.

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition to reopen the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre. The residents of the northern village of Buffalo Narrows wish to bring our attention to the fact that the closure of the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre left 15 people out of work; that it hurt the families of inmates, and that it took the inmates far away from their families, making visitation difficult or non-existent; and it took away the opportunity for those inmates to get treatment and to obtain training while they were serving their sentence. So:

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

The individuals signing this petition hail from Buffalo Narrows. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents across Saskatchewan and around Balgonie that are greatly concerned by the mismanaged bypass project, Mr. Speaker, and the closure of the emergency services access, leaving the community isolated and vulnerable, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

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 at the intersection of Highway 1 and Main Street.

We also respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan put up a locked gate on the apron between the eastbound lanes and the westbound lanes of Highway 1 and Balgonie's Main Street intersection. This gate would allow emergency services access to the eastbound lanes of Highway 1 at the Main Street Balgonie intersection, but would not allow the public access to cross east- and westbound lanes.

These petitions are signed by concerned residents from Balgonie and McLean. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

**Ms. Mowat:** — Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Havernick, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Leclair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault,

Annie Turcotte, and Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz. Mr. Speaker, these 14 women were killed on this day in 1989 at École Polytechnique in Montreal. They were killed because they were women.

Today on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we stand to remember these 14 women. And we stand to remember all women who have experienced violence simply because of who they are. Mr. Speaker, we stand to protest the hate that led to these horrific killings. We call for change and we commit every day to end violence against women. I ask that members now join me in a moment of silence.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to acknowledge December 6th as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. In Canada, December 6th has been proclaimed to commemorate the deaths of 14 female engineering students in 1989 who were targeted and killed at Montreal's l'École Polytechnique because they were women. Today is an opportunity for Canadians to remember all women and girls who have died as a result of violence, and to think about those who currently face violence in their lives.

Our government is committed to finding solutions to reducing interpersonal violence and abuse. Programs such as victim and child protective services, mental health and addiction services, and domestic violence courts all offer support for those who experience gender violence in their lives. But more can still be done and we can all be part of the solution by working together to raise awareness by wearing white ribbons and by supporting violence prevention.

I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Please wear their white ribbons as an example of their commitment to ending violence against women and girls in our society. Thank you.

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

#### Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* Closing Its Doors

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Oscar Wilde once said, "There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." Well for the residents of Moose Jaw, they are losing the ability to be talked about. The Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* will close tomorrow, December 7th, after a storied 125 years of serving the community.

The paper was a staple in the lives of Moose Javians, providing a local perspective on issues affecting the province as well as stories closer to home. As a former journalist, I have such fond memories of the time I spent at the *Times-Herald* in the 1990s before moving to a publication in my hometown.

For many journalists across the country, papers like the *Times-Herald* provided a fertile training ground for them to learn how to cover local issues and how to place their finger on the pulse of the community. And perhaps most importantly it enshrined in them, myself included, a real understanding of why local coverage matters.

In 2017 we find ourselves more connected than ever before. Word travels fast and we're able to access information from across the globe in seconds. Unfortunately it seems many local papers aren't able to stay afloat in this current environment. But when a community loses its paper, it means one less critical eye at a city council meeting. It means that no one is there to objectively assess the health of the community. It means that the stories of the community aren't being told and in time we can lose that sense of community.

On behalf of our caucus, our thoughts are with the 25 workers who will be out of work after the last edition of the *Times-Herald* hits the presses, and with the citizens of Moose Jaw who have lost an important voice in their community. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

#### Teen Challenge Women's Centre Under Construction

**Hon. Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I had the honour to meet with two organizers of Teen Challenge, Drew Byers and Cary Snyder. Teen Challenge is a faith-based addictions recovery program that offers one-year in-patient programs. Their focus is on healing the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their clients' lives. And I realize their name can be confusing. While they accept clients starting at age 18, their oldest graduate is actually 66 years old, which shows that it's never too late to make a change in your life.

This organization has programming across Canada, but most notably for us is their men's program that operates at Allan, Saskatchewan. Over their decade of helping men, over 100 men have graduated from this program. We know that addictions doesn't discriminate based on gender, age, financial circumstances, where you live, how you were raised, and what your job is. People battling addictions don't take drugs or alcohol to feel better; they take them to feel not as bad. And we know that addictions affects the whole family. I lost my own brother to his addictions just a few years ago. He was only 43 years old.

I met with these representatives to discuss an exciting new venture they have started in our province. They are planning to open a 24-bed in-patient facility for women called the Prairie Hope Women's Centre, located near Hague. I am excited by their vision for helping women, not only from our province but those who come to this facility from across Canada as well. The building construction has begun, and they are hoping to have the doors open in the fall of 2018. They rely solely on donations for capital and operations. And, Mr. Speaker, if you're interested in finding out more about Teen Challenge or their fundraising campaign, you can check out their website at [teenchallenge.ca](http://teenchallenge.ca). Thank you.

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

#### Lumsden Devils Win Provincial Championship

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to rise in the House today and announce that the Lumsden Devils 3A nine-man football team last month won their second consecutive provincial title. On November 11th they defeated the Kindersley Kobras in an impressive championship match, winning 68 to 20. Being able to take one provincial title is an incredible accomplishment, but being able to defend your title for a second year in a row truly speaks to the exceptional athletes and committed coaching staff from Lumsden.

Mr. Speaker, the Devils went undefeated this football season under the direction of head coach Luke Dunville. Facing adversity during their first touchdown attempt, the Devils were able to prove to themselves that they were the best team in the tournament. To celebrate the legacy of the grade 12 athletes, each graduating player had the opportunity to be captain during the final game. The coaching staff and returning athletes look forward to continuing their winning streak and plan to return next season with the same commitment, passion, and dedication to the football field.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members to please join me in congratulating the coaching staff and talented athletes from the 3A Lumsden Devils nine-man football team on their second consecutive provincial title. Thank you.

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

#### Teacher and Coach Retires After 30-Year Career

**Mr. Wyant:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a local high school teacher and football coach, Mark Andrews, who recently announced his retirement from Marion Graham Collegiate in my constituency. Known for his fiery demeanour on the sidelines, Mr. Andrews has worked as a physical education teacher for 30 years and a football coach for 27. Over his time he coached at four different Saskatoon schools, guiding his teams to over 100 victories, capturing three city championships and two provincial titles.

Mr. Speaker, he has interacted with thousands of students over his impressive career of 30 years. His students will attest to his enthusiasm, determination, and character, which have inspired so many. This was never more prevalent than almost 10 years ago when he suffered a massive heart attack. Students and teachers rallied to his side, and within weeks he was back on the sidelines and in the gym.

Mr. Andrews made the decision to retire this summer, and he plans to spend more time with his family. Mr. Speaker, through the peaks and valleys of his career, Mr. Andrews's perseverance and heart have been truly inspiring. So on behalf of this entire Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Mr. Andrews for being such an extraordinary example throughout his teaching and coaching career and wish him all the best in his retirement. Thank you.

[14:00]

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

### Saskatoon's Business Tax Climate Named Most Competitive

**Mr. Oluson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the third straight year, Saskatoon has the most competitive tax rates for business investments of any major city in Canada. The C.D. Howe Institute released its annual report that compares marginal effective tax rates across the country, and Saskatoon had a rate of 42.4 per cent. This is 4 per cent lower than Calgary, Mr. Speaker, who before 2015 had the lowest rate.

Mr. Speaker, this rate was calculated by measuring different taxes that affect businesses, including retail sales taxes, corporate income taxes, property taxes, and land transfer taxes, among others. While this report ranks Saskatoon as its top city, the news also reflects positively on the tax competitiveness across the entire province. In fact the provincial tax burden in Alberta is referenced as a significant contributor to Calgary's slide in the rankings.

Since 2009 our government has provided residents, business owners, and farmers \$1.2 billion in education property tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, policy matters. Our province needs to fund important social investments while maintaining this competitiveness, and that's why we've moved towards consumption taxes. But unlike the members opposite who voted against our last measures to support small businesses, we will continue to work toward maintaining investment and opportunity in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Global Transportation Hub

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Premier if he agreed with his deputy minister who took a leave to run to replace him. When asked about the Sask Party's GTH [Global Transportation Hub] scandal, she said, "This would not happen under my leadership."

Mr. Speaker, since the Premier refused to answer my question yesterday, I'll ask again. Does the Premier agree that better leadership could have prevented the Sask Party's GTH scandal?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — You know, it's interesting, Mr. Speaker. The question was answered yesterday, and it's the same old questions from a new leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party], but fair enough.

Mr. Speaker, first of all I disagree with her characterization of the matter as a scandal. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would point out to all members in the House including my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, that in fact when challenges were obvious, this side of the House — at the request of that side, I would say —

asked the Provincial Auditor to look into the matter. The Provincial Auditor and her team did a comprehensive review of the matter. The report's been made public.

The short answer to her question is, there were mistakes made. It's something that we have admitted many times. There were mistakes made in the assembly of land in an environment where we had prices escalating rapidly, Mr. Speaker. There was challenges around communications between ministries in terms of that assembly.

But the auditor went on to say ... And remember, the Provincial Auditor now is an independent officer of the legislature, independent of this side, independent of that side. It's an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. And the same Provincial Auditor that made recommendations on better government policy, which we're implementing, also said on the 4th of July of the year the report was presented — on the radio, in the media — that there were no red flags that would point to concerns around conflict of interest or fraud. Those are the auditor's words.

So, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition knows something more than the Provincial Auditor, I hope she shares that with the House.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we keep asking these questions because we keep getting the same tired lines from this government. It's unfortunate the Premier disagrees with my characterization. It's not just my characterization of what is going on; it's every single one of those leadership candidates' characterizations.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask another question. The Premier's deputy minister also said, "One step over the line is one step too far and there will be consequences." Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that Bill Boyd took more than a few steps over the line, more than a few times. So does the Premier still stand by his decision to defend and stand by Bill Boyd and Mr. Pushor?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government, as I have indicated on a number of occasions, as have other members on this side of the House, in this matter we have co-operated fully with the Provincial Auditor, an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, including releasing cabinet information, cabinet documents.

All that the Provincial Auditor's office, the team that worked on this, any documents that they required for their review, that was made available, Mr. Speaker. Which I would remind the members opposite is in stark contrast to the way that members opposite dealt with concerning matters that were before their government, where in the case, in one particularly well-known case, the deputy minister to the premier, the hand-picked deputy minister to the premier was asked by the premier to do a review. There was no ability to access records, nothing of the sort by an independent officer, Mr. Speaker.

So again, Mr. Speaker, we want to work hard to ensure that the



Global Transportation Hub is a success moving forward.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve so much better than these same old tired lines. Mr. Speaker, was the Premier surprised when he heard that the person he had put in charge of the GTH, the current Deputy House Leader, had just been defending the “position of the government”? And was the Premier surprised when the Deputy House Leader also said he thought that the Premier had handled the scandal poorly and that both Bill Boyd and Mr. Pushor should have been fired?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I take it from the interim Leader of the Opposition’s interest in the leadership of the Saskatchewan Party, perhaps it means that she’s going to take out a membership in the Saskatchewan Party and cast a vote for the next leader or the next premier of Saskatchewan. Because certainly, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the Saskatchewan Party, that’s where she will find the next premier of the province. She’s not going to find it on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, or subsequent premier as well.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Global Transportation Hub, obviously this is an organization that in just a short amount of years have generated, have attracted nearly half a billion dollars in private investment, have grown full-time employment in the Regina area to nearly 1,000 — over 800 people full-time employed and 1,800 construction jobs. Those are the kind of jobs that we need, Mr. Speaker. Those are the kind of jobs that we need to attract to the province. And so in its infancy, the Global Transportation Hub is creating jobs, creating private investment, and we need to see more of that.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier only has today and tomorrow left in question period. And I have to say I agree with the member from Saskatoon Willowgrove when he said that they “. . . owe the people of Saskatchewan answers . . .” But if he won’t answer the questions as Premier, will he at least commit today to testifying and providing answers at committee if he is no longer an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again the government provided any information that the Provincial Auditor’s office, an independent officer of this legislature, required for the review that was conducted by the auditor’s office, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the members opposite know, this matter is being reviewed by law enforcement as well. We await those results as well. And as the Premier has indicated, that won’t rule out further work done, Mr. Speaker, to provide the answers that the people of Saskatchewan are looking for in this matter.

But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, the Global Transportation Hub, its board of directors, its staff and management will

continue to work hard to attract investment to this province. Already nearly half a billion dollars in private-sector investment, Mr. Speaker, 800 full-time jobs, Mr. Speaker, for an organization that is just in its infancy, Mr. Speaker. We want to work hard to ensure that this is a success for future generations of Saskatchewan to allow us to continue to provide the fuel, the food, and the fertilizer and other products that the world demands from Saskatchewan.

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

### Supports for Students With Autism

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, every day we hear stories from parents across Saskatchewan who are struggling because of the devastating impacts of the Sask Party’s cuts on their kids’ education.

Katie Emde is a mom from Midale. Katie’s six-year-old son lives with autism. He needs speech and language services, occupational therapy, and extra support in the classroom. Unfortunately the Sask Party’s cuts have meant that speech and language services in the division are virtually non-existent. The occupational therapist has been cut, and her son has lost the support he needs.

Mr. Speaker, the Education minister refuses to acknowledge the harm their cuts are having on families like Katie’s. So I’ll remind the Premier that time and time again, he and his party have made promise after promise to parents raising children that are living with autism. So can he today tell Katie and the rest of us why these promises have turned into cuts, and will he commit to ensure that those commitments are honoured and delivered before he hits the road?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all we would like to welcome Ms. Emde to her legislature and commend her on her amazing fundraising efforts and awareness-raising in the areas of autism.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have been committed to autism and autism funding. In terms of supports for high-needs students, I would point to the \$1.6 billion we’ve provided to supports for learning since 2012, Mr. Speaker, which helps divisions allocate funding for special-needs students where it’s needed the most. This year over a quarter of a billion went to supports for learning in a challenging budget year, Mr. Speaker.

There are also early childhood intervention programs, KidsFirst, for home visits, family transition and nutrition supports — 18 million this year. Pre-K [pre-kindergarten] funding has gone from 7 million when we formed government to 27 million. In fact this government created the first early years plan.

Mr. Speaker, we also have some very good news coming very soon in terms of early years funding in partnership with the federal government for our youngest learners, Mr. Speaker, so that every student in the province can reach their fullest potential.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, with due respect, the question was to the Premier of Saskatchewan. Katie is not here for patronizing words from a minister who's so clearly out of touch with her file and the cuts, Mr. Speaker. And Katie's not alone. Since she's been speaking out, she's had 10 other families that have reached out to her, that are experiencing the same sort of cuts for their children that are living with autism in four different school divisions.

The government has repeatedly promised these supports, but the promises don't mean anything when the government doesn't deliver. Mr. Speaker, a specific promise was for individualized funding, but families don't know when, if, or how that crucial support will ever be realized. And it hasn't come yet. And as they wait, the Sask Party's cuts mean the loss of occupational therapists, of speech-language therapists, of educational assistants, and entire programs that are serving children living with autism and with other intensive needs.

Mr. Speaker, some of these families are at a breaking point. Parents are being forced to consider pulling their students, their children, out of classrooms and are looking to other provinces that provide the supports that they need and deserve. How can the Premier, how can the Premier justify breaking his promise and failing these kids and their families? Why won't he step up and make the investment these children need and that these children deserve?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — The hon. member raises a very important issue. And we welcome Katie here to the Assembly today. She's representing parents and families from across the province.

The whole issue of support for kids with autism has been something, Mr. Speaker, that has been important to me personally and to members on this side of the House. What we took over 10 years ago, which is really not that long ago, what we took over was a situation where the total funding from the then government — the members opposite, their government — the total funding envelope for supports for autism was a half a million dollars a year. That's it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have made some changes. The funding today is seven point . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the Deputy Leader wants to heckle on this issue, heckle on this issue especially when their last few budgets they left, they left by their own admission, huge amounts in the rainy day fund, by their own claim. So they . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well here he's continuing on, Mr. Speaker. They had a choice. He sat in the cabinet. They sat on \$700 million plus in their last budgets. And they only had \$500,000 for families with kids with autism, Mr. Speaker.

We have worked hard to make a change in that. We've worked hard to commit to \$7.9 million in this budget. Is that enough? No. We'll hear that later today. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we heard in subsequent campaigns, we need to do more around individualized funding. And that promise will be kept. That

promise will be kept this year. It'll be a \$2.9 million investment for individualized funding. And we've also highlighted, for that member and for all the families who need more support, that this is going to be a continuing effort on the part of members on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, as it has been since the moment we've had the honour to serve.

Have we been able to do as much as we would want in these 10 years? No, Mr. Speaker, but 500,000 under members opposite versus \$8 million today and another 2.9 coming next year — Mr. Speaker, these are steps in the right direction with our admission that more needs to be done.

[14:15]

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

### Control of Drainage Projects

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, despite it being a major part of their so-called resilience strategy, the Sask Party is refusing to take real action to address illegal drainage. Today we have a group of citizens who live downstream from the Quill lakes joining us. For years they have been raising concerns about flooding and drainage that are also causing problems downstream.

Mr. Speaker, they've been speaking out about this issue of flooding for years, and still unapproved drainage ditches haven't been closed in the Quill lakes area. In fact they are increasing despite a provincial moratorium. When will the minister finally move from words and paperwork to actual on-the-ground action and finally, instead of ignoring the problem, implement a strategy to stop illegal drainage in the Quill lakes and across Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would say that this government has taken action, frankly, where little action had taken place on drainage for about 30 years, Mr. Speaker. So there were regulations that were passed in 2015. New legislation was adopted by this legislature this past spring, really the first meaningful action in about three decades on this file, Mr. Speaker. This has resulted for instance in the largest drainage approval in the province's history, the Dry Lake project. This included 73 landowners and 18,000 acres, Mr. Speaker. Under the former system, the number of permits, the number of processes that would have had to take place wouldn't have even allowed this type of project to go forward.

With respect to drainage in the Quill lakes, Mr. Speaker, this is something that the ministry, the Water Security Agency is working on. It's not just a matter of closing one or two legs of drainage. We need to take a network approach, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we're doing as a government.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows darn well that

the Saskatchewan Party's so-called solution for this flooding problem doesn't stop illegal drainage. In fact it's causing more problems than it's solving.

Mr. Speaker, people living downstream are concerned about the government's plans to divert salinized water into Last Mountain Lake. They're worried about the impacts on the water, on the shoreline, on the wildlife, on the fish, and their own properties. They want to know why the Sask Party is plowing ahead with this project without completing an environmental impact assessment of the project.

Mr. Speaker, the minister refuses to enforce his own laws and take real steps to combat illegal drainage in the Quill lakes, so will he at very least complete an environmental impact assessment before plowing ahead with this project?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we are not plowing ahead. The member opposite, in a previous question several weeks ago, said that we gave the green light, Mr. Speaker. There has not been a project been approved by the Government of Saskatchewan. We are not the proponent of any projects, Mr. Speaker. There is a proponent; we are awaiting their project, the full project to come forward before making a determination. What has been determined though is that it does not meet a project under the . . . As a ministerial assessment, as a development, it doesn't reach the standard of a development.

But the member knows that that doesn't mean that there wouldn't be conditions attached if a project was approved. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of projects that are significant projects that go forward that don't require environmental assessments, Mr. Speaker, but they still do require conditions.

There are two former Environment ministers across the way. They would know about projects that go forward without environmental assessments including, in 1997, nine gas wells were drilled in the Great Sandhills without an environmental assessment, Mr. Speaker. But that doesn't mean that they're done without ensuring that there are conditions and that the environment is protected. We can protect the environment; it doesn't always need an environmental assessment to do so.

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

#### **Provision of Health Services to Rural Communities**

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's cuts to health care are being felt more and more, and in many cases some of the hardest hit are those who live in rural Saskatchewan. Essential services like rural health centres are being forced to claw back hours and services or shut down altogether.

Mr. Speaker, there's a group of people from Ituna and the surrounding area here with us today because they want the Sask Party to reverse the cuts that have cost them lab services in their community. The reduced lab hours have made it harder for people in long-term care and community living to access health

services, and even more people are now having to travel to get access to basic care. Of course that's an even bigger problem now that the Sask Party has shut down and is selling off STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company].

Mr. Speaker, will the minister consider the harmful impact of these cuts, listen to community members, and reverse the cuts to lab services in Ituna?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member pointed out, lab services in Ituna were reduced from five days a week down to three days a week, based purely on utilization, Mr. Speaker. In '15-16 the numbers of utilization at that facility were 215, so less than one per day, Mr. Speaker. There's been no change to the diagnostic services available. And as we've always committed to, if the utilization rates do increase, we're open to adding some days and some hours to that facility, Mr. Speaker. As is often the case, the opposition will portray a situation where there's a possible closure of facility, Mr. Speaker. We're committed to Ituna Pioneer not closing.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — That's why they're here, Mr. Speaker. They have very real concerns about losing their lab tech and their physician. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time the community has tried to save . . . or tried to have their voice heard. Community members, health workers, patients, the mayor, and members of town council have all expressed concerns, but have felt ignored by their local Sask Party MLA and the minister. They want the cuts that are threatening their town to be reversed, but they say this government just isn't listening.

Mr. Speaker, this is about more than just lab services. If there isn't consistent access to blood work, X-ray, and other testing, Ituna and other communities could lose their lab technologist or even their doctor. Mr. Speaker, how will the minister ensure that the people of this community have proper access to the medical treatment and services they need?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, as I committed to earlier that . . . This decision is based purely on utilization rates, and less than one visit to the lab per day, 215 in 2015-16, Mr. Speaker, warrants a slight reduction in the facility hours and days, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, we're committed to, fully committed to increasing the days and the hours of service if the utilization does increase, Mr. Speaker.

But the member touched, I think, on STC earlier as well. I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that moving of products around the province by STC was only happening for about nine months for the most part. This government actually trying to invigorate STC, was directing health regions to utilize STC for moving products around instead of using couriers like they did previously, Mr. Speaker. So after nine months, those services

are back in the hands of couriers and for the most part happening very efficiently.

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

### Government Meetings With Municipalities

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, annual advocacy days between SUMA and the Saskatchewan government have been a long-standing tradition in this province. This process allows representatives from across the province to come together and present their shared and unique concerns to members of cabinet.

In a year where the Sask Party raised the PST [provincial sales tax], cut grants-in-lieu, and dropped a number of costs onto the backs of municipalities, Mr. Speaker, this is a time when cabinet should stand and face the music. Instead, the Sask Party cancelled the meetings. They gave little warning and reason.

Mr. Speaker, municipalities have a lot of questions for this government. So will the Sask Party commit to rescheduling these cancelled meetings and listen to the concerns of the leaders in the Saskatchewan cities and municipalities?

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

**Hon. Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. I would say that I was unaware of the meeting being cancelled. We are committed to our municipalities in the province, and we will be in contact with them to reschedule.

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

### Taxation of Properties in Provincial Parks

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for committing to that. And I hope to hear that he continues to commit to that because municipalities have serious concerns and they want to know that their voices are being heard by their government. The Sask Party's cuts have left many municipalities searching for ways to make ends meet without cutting vital services.

Mr. Speaker, some municipalities surrounding provincial parks are under additional pressure. There are more and more permanent park residents, but the province is actually doing less and less to help the municipalities near many of these parks who are serving these homes while the province keeps the tax revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the people who live in the parks use municipal services but pay only park lease fees and not municipal taxes. Mr. Speaker, does the minister not agree that the fees these homeowners are paying should go to the level of government that is actually providing them services?

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, as the member mentioned, there are cabins within provincial parks that don't currently pay education property tax. That's part of being in the park, part of the legislation, Mr. Speaker.

I will certainly look at that as we go forward, that situation where people outside of municipalities, in cabins, do pay for those, those municipal . . . pay municipalities for services. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we'll continue to look at that through the . . . We'll look at that as the budget process unfolds, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

### Changes to Federal Employment Insurance Legislation

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last federal budget brought forward changes to the employment insurance which would allow new parents to continue to receive benefits for up to 18 months after the birth of a child. These changes come at no cost to the businesses employing the parents in the province, but the amount provided does not change. But the crucial time available to the parents does. Mr. Speaker.

These changes, while not perfect, allow for more flexibility for the working families that might choose to use them. But they can't go forward in Saskatchewan until this government amends the employment Act. Mr. Speaker, the federal program began earlier this week. Will this government follow the governments of Ontario and Alberta and commit to making the changes necessary to accommodate hard-working families here in the province of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. During the last year we've added a number of leaves to allow for people that are dealing with a seriously ill child, a seriously ill family member. And as a general practice, Mr. Speaker, we have looked to create leaves that dovetail with the federal government when there is changes to the employment insurance legislation. We are aware that there has recently been changes made to some of the family benefits, and the ministry officials are looking at that and will be undertaking consultation on that as well as some other issues in the near future.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### **Bill No. 116 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017***

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce and consider all stages of Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*, immediately.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* 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. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* be now introduced and read the 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:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General may proceed to move second reading of the bill. I recognize the minister.

## SECOND READINGS

### **Bill No. 116 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I will be moving, at the end of my remarks, second reading of *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*.

This bill provides survivors of interpersonal violence with 10 days of unpaid leave to access services or to relocate. Mr. Speaker, in February of this year, Stats Canada released a report that shows Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of police-reported interpersonal violence across Canada. As government and other agencies work towards long-term solutions, we know that victims need immediate supports to escape dangerous situations.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, the ministries of Justice, Social Services, and Labour Relations and Workplace Safety have engaged in consultation to determine what supports are needed. As a result, one of the changes we are introducing is a job-protected leave.

To be eligible, an employee, employee's child, or a person for whom an employee is the caregiver must be the victim of interpersonal violence and the employee requires time off work to — a number of things, Mr. Speaker — seek medical attention; obtain services from a victim services organization; obtain psychological or other professional services; relocate, either temporarily or permanently; or to seek legal or law enforcement assistance and attend court appearances.

Mr. Speaker, to qualify for this leave, an employee must have worked for an employer for a minimum of 13 weeks. The employee will be required to provide evidence of the services

being provided if the employer requests it. This is consistent with other leaves. I would note, Mr. Speaker, that the 10 days of leave can be taken in shorter blocks with a few hours or a few days as needed. As a result, only the time away from work would be considered leave time. The amendment also requires employers to keep personal information confidential. This is part of a larger effort by government following our consultations.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that interpersonal violence is a heartbreaking problem for Saskatchewan families. We need to see a shift in attitudes and develop measures to identify and prevent abusive relationships to address this. Government will work with our partners in the communities to develop long-term solutions. As a first step, the province will be working with other jurisdictions to seek agreement from the federal government to extend employment insurance benefits for victims of interpersonal violence. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we must support the individuals who are impacted.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to first thank the minister for this bill, this piece of legislation, and I'd also like to thank caucus members on the government side. I know that there are advocates for this issue on both sides of the floor, so thank you so much for advocating for this.

As I've said many times in this House, Mr. Speaker, this is an incredibly important issue. Saskatchewan has the very dubious distinction of having the highest rates of intimate partner violence amongst provinces in Canada. And as I've also said before, we will not be capable of solving the entire problem, but as legislators we can and should feel obligated to do everything we can legislatively to address this issue and provide the supports that we can.

I'm very happy and proud that my caucus members recognize this as an issue and have supported making this issue as a priority, which has shown through the private member's bills that we have been tabling throughout the past year and a half or so. The provisions that are in the government's legislation were in our original private member's bill about a year ago, I think it was tabled. This is the third private member's bill that has contained these provisions. I'm very happy to see the government take this piece of my private member's bill, our private member's bill, and pass it into law. People need these supports — yesterday. So we are very grateful and we are very happy to see that this is happening.

There are pieces that are missing in this legislation though, that were in our private member's bill, and we are hearing those needed, and we are hearing that are needed directly from those who are on the front lines of addressing this crisis. The pieces that are missing, and I do want to make sure that they are in the

record, Mr. Speaker, are the bill doesn't include the five paid days that we have asked for, and that would have brought us in line up to what other provinces have been providing, Manitoba in particular. So it would catch us up, Mr. Speaker, with other jurisdictions, and this bill does not have that.

It also doesn't include the 17 weeks unpaid, Mr. Speaker. And I'm happy to hear the minister is advocating with the federal government to have that in place, but we would like to see a provincial commitment to do so, if the federal government will not step up to the plate.

It also doesn't include the duty to accommodate that we have been calling for a few times, or in our bill, which is also an important piece of the puzzle, and a fairly straightforward piece, I think, for us to be able to provide as legislators.

It also doesn't include . . . Mr. Speaker, the definition of "victim" fails to include those who are suffering from PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] as a result of their experience of domestic violence, Mr. Speaker, and we feel from what we've heard that it is important that that be included as well.

Despite saying all of that, Mr. Speaker, this is still a step forward. It's a small step forward but it's progress and we're very happy to see that. We're going to continue to advocate for these provisions and whatever provisions we hear are necessary because this is such an important issue for us to address, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on a day like today, December 6th, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, I call on all of us to continue to strive to do all we can to tackle gender-based violence. This is an important step for us but it's not by any means the end of the work that we should be doing in this House to address this issue, Mr. Speaker.

So in saying that, as I know is procedure, I will be withdrawing my bill, but please don't take that as an indication of us not advocating for these issues, both what we've already been advocating for and as needed, more if necessary, Mr. Speaker, in the future. So again, thank you to the minister. Thank you to the Sask Party caucus for bringing this forward, for allowing us all to work together to do what we can and to pass this with consent today so we can get these measures in place as soon as possible. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I designate that Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act*, be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills and that the bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

**The Speaker:** — The bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of the Whole.

**The Speaker:** — I will now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into Committee of the Whole on Bills.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

##### Bill No. 116 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*

**The Deputy Chair:** — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*. Clause 1, short title, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive agreed to.]

**The Deputy Chair:** — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*.

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

**The Deputy Chair:** — It has been moved that the committee report Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Carried.

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Deputy Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I call this Assembly back to order. I recognize the Deputy Chair of Committees.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 116 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 116, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Interpersonal Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the minister.

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

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to withdraw Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* from the order paper.

**The Speaker:** — The member has requested leave to withdraw Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* from the order paper. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The member may proceed to move her motion.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

### BILL WITHDRAWN

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 15(3), I move to withdraw Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* from the order paper.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved to withdraw Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* from the order paper. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Pursuant to rule 15(3), it is ordered that Bill No. 605, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2017* is withdrawn from the order paper.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS (continued)

#### Bill No. 608 — *The Residential Schools and Sixties Scoop Survivors Memorial Day Act*

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 608, *An Act to Recognize the Survivors of Residential Schools and Sixties Scoop* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Athabasca has moved first reading of Bill 608. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When will we read the bill the second time? I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

[14:45]

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its fourth report. I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Lloydminster has made the following motion:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Standing Committee on House Services

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its eighth report. I move:

That the eighth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre has made the following motion:

That the eighth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report it has considered certain supplementary estimates and to present its fifth report. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services now be concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Cannington has moved the following motion:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services now be concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 83 through 97.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 83 to 97. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers for questions 98 through 105.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 98 to 105.

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

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

### Support for a Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Plan

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members will know, earlier this week we unveiled our made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan entitled *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be, at the end of my remarks move a motion, but I want to begin by setting a bit of the stage of why we're where we're at today.

On March 3rd of 2016, upon the completion of meetings between the first ministers of Canada, there was a communiqué that was issued. And as a part of that communiqué in dealing with clean growth and climate change, it outlined four areas in which the provinces were going to work in collaboration to develop climate change strategies for the provinces and territories and for the nation. And as a part of that there were four working groups that were established: working groups on clean technology, innovation, and jobs; a second on carbon pricing mechanisms "adapted to each province's and territory's



specific circumstances;" a third working group on specific mitigation opportunities; and a fourth on adaptation and climate resilience.

So those four working groups were tasked to develop policy options around those four different groups. Ministers were going to then review and make recommendation to the first ministers in October of 2016, and those recommendations would form the development of a pan-Canadian framework. Instead what happened, Mr. Speaker, is on the beginning of October 2016, while environment ministers were meeting, I believe, in Montreal, the Prime Minister stood in his place in the House of Commons and announced that a carbon tax would be imposed on provinces that didn't have their own plan, Mr. Speaker. I think so far everybody is with me on this point. Nobody has left.

Mr. Speaker, so the entire national discussion so far has focused on these two options: a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system. The desired outcome is to get individuals to make low-carbon choices. However, Mr. Speaker, carbon taxes are at a rate being discussed by the federal government we know will not modify behaviour. Even their own documents, heavily redacted documents that I don't believe they have formally released, have indicated that the price that they're talking is far too low to actually modify individuals' behaviours. So raising them even higher might modify behaviour but it would have minimal impact on worldwide GHG [greenhouse gas] levels when compared to significant harm impact it would have on the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue and we would argue that the real problem with focusing on a carbon tax is the fact that it is proven to not actually reduce emissions. Moreover it puts our industries at a competitive disadvantage compared to other parts of the world. The proof can be seen just a couple of provinces away in British Columbia where they've had a carbon tax for a number of years and where their emissions have actually gone up, Mr. Speaker, and where the governments have acknowledged that the money is actually not going back to the people who are paying it, Mr. Speaker. It's not revenue neutral for their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we oppose the imposition of an economy-wide carbon tax for two simple reasons: it's an ineffective way of reducing carbon consumption, and the negative consequences of a carbon tax for Saskatchewan employment and the provincial economy would be significant. In industry, firms will reduce emissions until it is simply cheaper to pay a tax, at which point a carbon tax is achieving zero emission reductions.

The carbon tax does not provide emission certainty. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it begs the question: why didn't the federal government announce how much greenhouse gas emission reductions would be the result of the federal backstop? Either they don't know or the number isn't that great. But it comes at a great cost to our economy.

A cap-and-trade system does increase emissions, certainly, by giving a target for emissions. However we know, Mr. Speaker, that it does not work for a province with a trade-exposed economy like Saskatchewan. We don't believe that this is the right choice for Saskatchewan. And I believe that our strategy

that we released this week is innovative, it's broader and bolder than any other strategy in Canada, and it certainly looks at actually reducing emissions rather than simply putting a cost on carbon.

It's no secret that the province of Saskatchewan relies on emission-intensive, trade-exposed industries as a major pillar of our economy. Our commodities rely heavily on free and open competitive trade. So a carbon tax at \$50 per tonne by 2022, which the federal government's own documents indicate, won't actually change behaviour, but it would impact our economy in this province by \$2 billion a year. In agriculture, and industries such as oil and gas, mining and manufacturing, a carbon tax will create a less competitive industry as we compete in a global market. Being forced to absorb the cost will make these industries less competitive than other areas of the world.

Our made-in-Saskatchewan climate change strategy sets a focus, sets forward a different path, a path that focuses not on penalizing industry but one that works with industries to make positive changes that result in real reduction in carbon emissions. We know that industries, roads, buildings, vehicles, and daily needs such as electricity are being and will be affected by climate change. A responsible climate change strategy needs to protect our industries, keep our buildings and roads operating efficiently, and keep the lights on in our homes and to keep heat on in our homes, in our places of work, especially on days like today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'll give you one case in point for industry that would be affected by these wrong-headed approaches. As a country, we export 30 million tonnes of coal: 24 per cent of that is to Japan, 20 per cent is to South Korea, 16 per cent of that is to China, and 3 per cent is to the United States. Mr. Speaker, most of that coal exporting is going on by the provinces of mainly British Columbia and Alberta. And most of that, or a portion of that, is for coking coal and some is for thermal coal for electricity.

So, Mr. Speaker, while we are putting in place regulations that the federal government have indicated they want to see an end to the use of coal, we will still continue to export, in this case 30 million tonnes of coal per year, to countries that are using it to do what? One of two things: create electricity, and they're not cleaning it up, and certainly that's where technology has to come into place; but also for coking coal. So we know that there is pipelines, for example, being produced, steel products being produced in places like China that are using blast-furnace technology which produces 80 per cent more greenhouse gas emissions than arc furnace steel production that's used at Evraz, for example, here in the city of Regina. And 55 per cent more energy is expended in producing that steel.

So as a country we are continuing to export coal to places that will continue to use it for electricity and to make steel to make pipeline and that do it in a way that is much more detrimental to the environment, Mr. Speaker. And so we need to not put our industry, particularly Evraz here in the city of Regina, at a competitive disadvantage. And I think that's a story we need to continue to tell the federal government.

We are world leaders in providing fuel, food, and fertilizer to a growing world population. And this is something that we don't

take for granted. We've said many times, we're 10 per cent of Canada's 1.6 per cent global emissions. So our strategy recognizes that we need to be ready and resilient to the effects of climate change. Resilience is a stronger indicator of effective climate action rather than simply measuring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. And this is something that the Vancouver declaration clearly stated.

Our strategy needs to be innovative and flexible, again what the Vancouver declaration clearly stated. These standards will include multiple options for facilities, Mr. Speaker. I've said it before in the House — 250 000 tonnes per year and over; flexible options for those heavy emitters; a provincial technology fund; engaging in market mechanisms such as internationally transferred mitigation outcomes, so that we can get value for what we actually provide for the world in terms of the ability to sequester carbon, for our ability to continue to produce uranium, which then allows the world to burn less coal and use more nuclear power.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan already has a great story to tell when it comes to taking action on climate change. With technology and innovation, we are already halfway to our goal of moving to 50 per cent renewable power by 2030. That's 25 per cent of our electrical generation through renewable resources. To put that number in perspective, Alberta's target is only 30 per cent. Through investment in research and crop varieties at the Crop Development Centre and the Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], we are encouraging our agricultural producers to continue innovating when it comes to seeding.

[15:00]

Agriculture carbon intensity has been reduced just by the increase in yield from genetics, agronomy, fertility, and zero till. And we know that zero till drills are manufactured here in Saskatchewan and exported around the world where they help to reduce emissions in Russia, Kazakhstan, all throughout Europe, and the United States. In fact agriculture emissions are approximately 12.7 million tonnes. Mr. Speaker, from zero or minimum till agricultural practices, we sequester, and we're working to firm these numbers up, but the latest number was 11.9 million tonnes.

And this is an incredible story. In 1990 our soils actually emitted 600 000 tonnes of carbon. And today because of zero and minimal till, we sequester nearly 12 million tonnes on ag land.

Pulse crops have helped to offset 2 million tonnes. This means that agriculture is essentially carbon neutral, and this doesn't even include our grasslands that store millions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> — 17 million acres of grasslands in this province. And recent studies show that grassland under intensive grazing management sequester 11 tonnes of carbon per acre annually. This is over 187 million tonnes of carbon that is sequestered annually.

Our beef producers have reduced their GHG footprint by 15 per cent from 1981 to 2011 through technology and management practices. So our farmers and our ranchers are doing their part, and the federal government want to tax them for their efforts.

Agricultural producers in Saskatchewan are feeding the world, and they're doing so in a growing, sustainable manner. Saskatchewan companies export enough uranium to offset 350 million tonnes of emissions. We've enhanced and utilized technology that allows us to clean up transition fuel sources such as coal. And keep in mind, again, 30 million tonnes of coal are being exported by this country and half of that is going to thermal electrical production, Mr. Speaker, in countries that are not using clean coal technology yet.

This new strategy builds on the positive story Saskatchewan has already told. We believe this strategy meets the needs, meets the desired outcomes of actually reducing emissions and should negate the need for a federal backstop.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the member from Nutana asked if we checked with the federal government on our plan. Well, Mr. Speaker, no, we didn't. Until they are prepared to back away from an either-or proposition and remember what the Vancouver declaration actually declared, I'm just not sure at this point what the point is. So no, we did not check our plan with the federal government. This is our plan, Mr. Speaker.

But here's a sample of who we did check with. Jessica Theriault, the director of environmental affairs for Mosaic, had this to say:

Mosaic is supportive of a made-in-Saskatchewan planned attack on climate change. What the province is proposing is an all-encompassing approach to ensuring the sustainability of our communities.

Or John Hopkins — we checked with him — the CEO [chief executive officer] of Regina & District Chamber of Commerce:

We are supportive of the government's strategy which balances the need to keep our economy growing, reward sound stewardship practices, encourages stronger GHG mitigation processes, and positions us to adapt, innovate, and thrive in a low-carbon economy.

Or Todd Lewis, president of APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan], who said, and I quote:

Our members strongly believe that agriculture is key to providing solutions to managing carbon emissions. We also strongly reject the imposition of a carbon tax on our sector because it will only raise our costs without tackling the urgent problem of climate change.

Or Pam Schwann, president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, who said, and I quote:

Ensuring the mining sector remains globally competitive is vitally important to Saskatchewan, particularly in this period of low commodity prices. We need to be mindful that, as we work to reduce GHG emissions, mining investments and jobs are not to be exported to other international jurisdiction that don't have the robust environment and safety regulatory framework that exists in Saskatchewan and Canada.

And finally Andrew Dahlin, senior VP [vice-president] of

Husky, who had this to say, and I quote:

This framework strikes the right balance to drive improved emissions performance while ensuring Saskatchewan continues to compete for investment. Saskatchewan is core to Husky's operation and is a primary area for new investment over our five-year plan.

And I think we heard a member's statement from the member from Meadow Lake just, I think yesterday or two days ago, about the increased investment in his constituency.

So the member said, "So before rolling out this new plan, why not check with the feds to make sure that it will protect Saskatchewan people from having a carbon tax imposed on us?"

Mr. Speaker, let me make this very clear. On this side of the House we don't work for Prime Minister Trudeau. We work for the people of Saskatchewan. And we did check with the people of Saskatchewan. They have made it very clear that they do not want a carbon tax. No to a carbon tax. No to cap and trade. But yes to a made-in-Saskatchewan approach that speaks to resilience, that regulates industry, that reduces emissions, and that values our ag land, our grasslands, and our forestry, and that allows us to continue to grow as a province.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have mentioned on many occasions that we need a made-in-Saskatchewan approach. This is exactly what this does — a made-in-Saskatchewan approach that takes a more fulsome conversation to lead us to real results in reducing carbon emissions. And I believe that it's important for the members opposite to answer today where they stand on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, they can talk about the past all they want — what has been done, what has not been done perhaps. Fair enough. But here's where we are at today. Do they support a made-in-Saskatchewan plan? Will they stand with companies like Mosaic, with the chamber of commerce, with our agricultural groups across Saskatchewan? Or do they reject this plan and agree with the federal government that a carbon tax is okay?

I believe that it's important for Saskatchewan to have a solid stance from this entire Assembly, to stand together and support our made-in-Saskatchewan plan, and show the federal government that this is what is best for Saskatchewan, that this is what will work for Saskatchewan, and that this is what will have real results for the people of Saskatchewan while protecting our economy. So I would urge the members opposite to join with us and support this.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this Assembly support the made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan, entitled *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*; and

That this Assembly affirms that the strategy recognizes the importance of our resource-based economy, will reduce emissions, and help Saskatchewan communities mitigate and adapt to climate change.

I so move.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of the Environment has moved the following motion:

That this Assembly support the made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan, titled *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*; and

That this Assembly affirms that the strategy recognizes the importance of our resource-based economy, will reduce emissions, and help Saskatchewan communities mitigate and adapt to climate change.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to be able to rise in the House today to speak to this particular motion that the Minister of the Environment has brought forward. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, I know he's calling for solidarity. I think we have an amendment that would be much preferable and would call on solidarity indeed with the Assembly. So I'll just read the amendment out now and then speak to it a little bit before I table it with the Clerks.

But I think what we really need is a much more robust motion here today. So I'm just going to share with members opposite what the suggested amendment would be. And I think they will very quickly realize that it's a much stronger motion and one that they would be happy to support. So the motion, we're going to suggest the following:

That all words in the motion after Assembly be struck out and replaced with the following:

Recognizes that we all borrow our future from our grandchildren;

That this Assembly recognizes the importance of strengthening a diverse energy sector while reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

That any plan supported by this Assembly must include targets, clear supports for Saskatchewan families, producers, and businesses, and assurances that Saskatchewan will be protected from a federally-imposed carbon tax, and further;

That this Assembly show leadership in reducing carbon emissions and gain credibility for our province when it comes to protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we grow our food on.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is, I think, a much preferred wording for the motion that we're discussing here today and I think it's one that members opposite will be very happy to support, and we're calling on them to support this amendment.

I just want to start with making a few comments about . . . global comments, so to speak, Mr. Speaker. And this is about the issue that's facing the entire planet at this point in time when it comes to greenhouse gas and global warming. I'm just

going to share with the Assembly a few comments from the Union of Concerned Scientists and describe the situation that we're actually talking about here today: global warming impacts. Now they're saying here, the consequences of climate change are already here and:

Global warming is already having significant and costly effects on our communities, our health, and our climate. Unless we take immediate action to reduce global warming emissions, these impacts will continue to intensify, grow ever more costly and damaging, and increasingly affect the entire planet — including you, your community, and your family.

So the first thing they identify is one of the . . . already impacts that are here is rising seas and increased coastal flooding. Now that isn't an issue that's affecting Saskatchewan directly, but it certainly is affecting people in our country and of course in our planet. So that's something that's happening already.

Longer and more damaging wildfire seasons. And, Mr. Speaker, we've clearly seen that here in our province. And of course this is not just in the forested areas, but we also have wildfires in our Prairies. And those are expensive. They're costly. And those are direct impacts that are now connected to global warming.

More destructive hurricanes. We see more frequent and intense heat waves, Mr. Speaker. You know, those could have a direct impact on agriculture here in Saskatchewan. And drought is certainly impacting all different parts of the world.

They talk about widespread forest death in the Rocky Mountains. Now we've seen the serious impact of tree-killing insects and wildfires and stress from heat and drought. Anyone who's driven in interior BC [British Columbia] in the last few years knows how significant the damages and how that is threatening our forests.

Now we also see there's costly and growing health impacts. So even on human health, climate change has significant implications: increased air pollution, more intense allergy seasons, insect-borne diseases. And for example, Mr. Speaker, we have Lyme disease here in Saskatchewan when we know that years ago that would never even have been considered. In fact my colleague from Meewasin told us last night that in medical school they were told it could never happen in Saskatchewan. But a short few years later we know that it is happening, and it's affected families here in our communities.

As we all know, global warming will cause an increase in extreme weather events. And certainly the extreme events that we've seen across the world, we've seen mostly the ones reported in North America, but there are those across the world: heavier precipitation and flooding; more severe drought; increased pressure on groundwater supplies, and I think that's being borne out here in Saskatchewan; growing risks to our electricity supply; melting ice, and we see a lot about that in the news, Mr. Speaker; disruptions to food supplies; destructions to coral reefs; plant and animal range shifts; and the potential for abrupt climate change.

And that's one of the last things they talk about: "Scientists

know that the earth's climate has changed abruptly in the past. Even though it is unlikely to occur in the near future, global warming may increase the risk of such events."

And then they talk about the ocean circulation pattern, which would be catastrophic. So that's sort of the global . . . some of the highlights, or lowlights I guess, of what will happen if we don't stop global warming and greenhouse gas emissions.

I just want to share now with the Assembly just a few comments about greenhouse gas emissions. According to the international panel on climate change, and this comes from the Environment Canada website:

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, human-driven releases of GHG emissions disrupt the natural processes occurring in the atmosphere and are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of the observed warming that has occurred since the mid-20th century. Globally, almost 80% of GHG emissions from human sources come from the burning of fossil fuels and industrial processes. Specific activities include: driving vehicles, electricity production, heating and cooling of buildings, operation of appliances and equipment, production and transportation of goods, and provision of services and transportation for communities. In 2015, about 26% of Canada's total GHG emissions came from the oil and gas sector, 24% from transportation, 11% from electricity generation and 12% from buildings.

And one other statistic:

Global GHG emissions grew approximately 51% between 1990 and 2012 with the bulk of the growth occurring in developing countries.

What are some of the key impacts of greenhouse gas emissions? Environmental impacts, I've talked about a few of those already. Human health impacts, I've also talked about a few of those. There are also serious economic impacts to greenhouse gas and global warming:

Agriculture, forestry, and tourism and recreation . . . [will] be affected by changing weather patterns.

Human health impacts are expected to place additional economic stress on health and social support systems.

Damage to infrastructure (e.g., roads and bridges) caused by extreme weather events, thawing permafrost and rising sea levels is expected to increase . . .

And, Mr. Speaker, you don't have to look very far to see that damage to our infrastructure if you look at the flooding in the Quill lakes area, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

"Ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." That's what we're really talking about here today is our global obligation as citizens of the planet to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. "Addressing climate change requires action from everyone across all nations." This is an international commitment, Mr.

Speaker. “Governments, businesses and individuals need to take significant steps to reduce emissions . . .” And I’ve said repeatedly, Mr. Speaker, that is the goal, is to reduce emissions.

Now we’ve talked about this before, but the Conference Board of Canada spoke about, produced a report card last year in April of 2016. And how are we performing on our GHG emissions? Well, Mr. Speaker, not very well. One of the statistics they provided in terms of our rank relative to international peers, Saskatchewan got a D grade. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta, and Saskatchewan are the lowest ranking provinces in terms of a grade on GHG emissions. And we’re among the worst ranked of all the countries that were surveyed. So that’s not a good place to be, Mr. Speaker.

Then they go on to compare us in Canada: “The emissions of most of Canada’s provinces fall within 10-20 tonnes of carbon dioxide [emitted] per capita.” And Quebec is top-ranked: “On the opposite side of the spectrum are Alberta and Saskatchewan with emission rates of nearly 70 tonnes of carbon dioxide [emitted] per capita.” So we are emitting a large amount of greenhouse gases here in Saskatchewan. And it goes on to tell us that:

Most provincial and territorial emission rates were lower in 2013 than in 1990. The only exceptions were Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, both of which had much higher per capita GHG emissions . . .

So our record is not good at this point, Mr. Speaker. Much needs to be done, and there’s a lot of other things

So I just want to talk for a couple minutes now about the Paris Agreement that was signed in 2015. There are a number of agreements. On the first page of the agreement — and I think I won’t read them all, Mr. Speaker, because it’s quite a long list — but it says we recognize “. . . the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge.”

And it goes on to have a whole bunch of them, but acknowledging . . . Here’s an important one:

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

And there are several more very, very valuable statements of principle that are part of the Paris Agreement, Mr. Speaker. And I’ll talk to one clause here in a few minutes once I get into my further comments.

So the essential elements of the Paris Agreement brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change. So this is about combatting climate change, Mr. Speaker. It’s about reducing emissions, greenhouse gas emissions. There are nationally determined contributions.

They’re called NDCs. Canada has made a number of nationally determined contributions to the agreement, and we have agreed as a nation to put forward our best efforts through these nationally determined contributions and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. And this includes requirements of reporting on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.

And so I just want to share one commentary from the NewClimate Institute about what the Paris Agreement means for global climate change mitigation:

The language of the text regarding the purpose of the convention and the long term goal, has been a subject of . . . importance for Parties and observers in recent years, and was a major . . . point of the negotiations in Paris.

. . . Significantly, [I’m skipping down a little bit] the final text includes reference to both of these key elements. The Paris Agreement recognises the 1.5°C goal without formalising this as the main objective of the Convention. The text changed from limiting temperature increase to a maximum of 2 . . . [per cent Celsius], to: “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.” The Paris Agreement also became the first international climate agreement to refer to the need for net-zero emissions by stating: “. . . to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century.”

The combination of 2°C, 1.5°C and the aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to zero is a strong signal from the global community that will shift the benchmark against which countries and investors are expected to assess their development strategies and business plans.

So, Mr. Speaker, we know that investors and people who develop new businesses are looking carefully at this and that they’re looking forward to moving our economy into a post-climate change economy where we will see innovation and efforts being made to reduce emissions but also create jobs, Mr. Speaker.

There’s more I wanted to say on the Paris Agreement, Mr. Speaker, but I think the point is, is that as a member nation of the United Nations, as a member of the . . . a signatory to the Paris Agreement, we have an obligation as citizens of the world, as citizens of Canada, as citizens of Saskatchewan to do our part. We need to do our part, Mr. Speaker. And so what we see tabled recently by this government, I say is sadly lacking. It doesn’t meet the needs that we have agreed to and that this global climate change crisis is calling upon us to do.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1971 the influential environmental activist Wendell Berry published a book titled *The Unforeseen Wilderness: An Essay on Kentucky’s Red River Gorge*. Berry emphasized the desirability of preserving natural areas and adapting a long-range perspective about the environment. And here’s what he said:

We can learn about it . . . from exceptional people of our

own culture, and from other cultures less destructive than ours. I am speaking of the life of a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children; who has undertaken to cherish it and do it no damage, not because he is duty-bound, but because he loves the world and loves his children . . .

And, Mr. Speaker, I think about my brand new grandson who was born in September, and I'm thinking about how his generation will judge us in terms of whether we acted or not. And I'm worried, Mr. Speaker, that we will be roundly condemned by his generation for not doing what we needed to do. And that, I think, is the beginning place for any discussion on reducing greenhouse gas emissions here in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we're borrowing the land. We're borrowing the water. We're borrowing the air we breathe from our children and from future generations. And this is fundamental to the discussion we're having today. And this is why we must address climate change, why we must reduce greenhouse gas emission, and why Saskatchewan needs a plan, a real plan, Mr. Speaker.

And it was with bated breath we waited for the government to finally lay out their plan to address carbon pollution. And we all know that we as a province need to take steps forward to address climate change, and we have been calling on the Sask Party to do this for years.

Mr. Speaker, every other province has a plan to protect themselves from the federal government's carbon pricing scheme, but until now the Sask Party has refused to present a plan of their own. So it was good to hear the minister finally take to the microphone the other day. But what was really strange, Mr. Speaker, is that almost all of what we see in this plan is either very similar or exactly the same as the plan the Sask Party put out in 2009.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister used words like "broad" and "bold" and "innovative." That's not what we have. We have a rehash of what was tabled almost 10 years ago, Mr. Speaker, in 2009. And unfortunately they passed the legislation through the House but it was never, ever, ever implemented and passed into law.

Now it's well documented that we have been calling on the government to take that first step and implement their own green tech fund, and we're happy to see the green tech fund there in the new plan, Mr. Speaker. We'll be looking forward to the legislation when it comes in and ensure that it actually meets targets. Oh wait a minute — they don't have any targets anymore, Mr. Speaker. One of the things they had in 2009 was an actual target. Of course they reduced their target from their original proclamation when they came into government, but they actually had a target in 2009.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I've been critic for the Environment now for six years. I've been through a few Environment ministers and I've asked each one of them, I've asked each one of them whether or not they were going to meet that target. And we had the member from Willowgrove, the member from North Battleford, and a couple times the member from Weyburn, and a couple times the member from

Shellbrook, and they were all saying, yes of course we're going to meet those targets. We're going to meet that target. They reduced it to 20 per cent of, I think, 2006 levels by 2020.

Mr. Speaker, it hasn't been reduced at all. There's been absolutely no reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases that are being emitted. We're still the highest in Canada. So, Mr. Speaker, what was that all about? And why isn't there a target in this so-called plan?

Now if we would have implemented the green tech fund back then which we wanted to see, the Conference Board of Canada, the Conference Board of Canada said that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, the minister from Martensville, I think, is getting all excited again, Mr. Speaker. It's kind of funny when she gets wound up. She's so worried about what the members of the opposition did. She should be more worried about her own government, Mr. Speaker. She should be worried about their ability to enact the laws that they brought in nine years ago, or eight years ago, Mr. Speaker. She's certainly excited about it though. I can tell just by hearing her voice, Mr. Speaker, agitated I think, a little wound up.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, if that fund had been implemented, the Conference Board of Canada said it would have created 8,500 jobs — new, green, progressive, modern jobs. And even if the opposition voted against it . . . She seems to be so concerned about that. Why didn't she put it into law, Mr. Speaker? That's the big question. As she knows, it's kind of normal for opposition members to oppose, as is the role of opposition. But the role of government is to lead. The role of government is to lead, and somehow she thinks that because we may have opposed it, that she can't actually put it into law is one of the most ridiculous positions I've ever heard any minister of this government put forward on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

And so I don't know why she's so excited about it. But I do know why she's no longer the Environment minister, Mr. Speaker. It's because her cabinet didn't support her in that bill. She signed a memorandum of agreement with Jim Prentice in 2009 saying we're going to move forward with a carbon pricing scheme. But her cabinet turned her down. Her backbenchers turned her down. And now we have no commitment whatsoever from this government and this cabinet, Mr. Speaker.

That fund would have made the biggest polluters pay for the pollution they caused. I'm happy to see it's being reduced to 25 000 tonnes. That's definitely a positive aspect of the plan. But, Mr. Speaker, we know . . . And there actually are a couple of other things, I think, that are positive in that plan, and I do want to get that on the record, Mr. Speaker.

The intention to deal with the methane emissions is critical and important, and I applaud that in the plan, Mr. Speaker. That's an important point. Of course there's no deadlines and no actual targets, but we are happy to see the 40 to 45 per cent reduction. But we're not sure exactly when and how. So I think the minister has promised more of the plan as we go along, but right now we don't have enough to know whether it's going to be successful or not, Mr. Speaker.

The other thing I think that's really positive, and I think we've

been calling upon, is adopting national building standards and energy building standards. That's critical in a particular province like ours where I know that there are houses in Saskatchewan — two in Saskatoon that I've been inside, Mr. Speaker — that don't use any natural gas for heating or electricity. They have a heat exchange system, that there would be some electricity going into the heat exchanger, but they're not using natural gas or any fossil fuels beyond running the pump.

Mr. Speaker, that's an incredible technology, passive house. And I think the energy building standards are positive steps. And we look forward to those changes that will bring those types of technologies to the building of our houses and our office buildings and all the construction here in Saskatchewan — long overdue but glad to see it coming.

[15:30]

Now we were pretty clear in our response to this the other day, Mr. Speaker, but the plan lacks substance. It lacks detail. It lacks a strong commitment to lowering emissions. And this is basically just a plan to plan, which is why I think, Mr. Speaker, our amendment is much stronger than supporting this plan right now. Because it's not a plan; it's a plan to plan. And there's a big difference, Mr. Speaker.

Too much is left undefined. There's very little assurance. And I guess this is one of our biggest concerns: there's very little assurance that this plan will protect us from a federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. We might end up with two forms of taxation; we'll have this plan plus the federal carbon tax. And that's concerning to the taxpayers of Saskatchewan. Why would we double down on this? Why would we end up with a double taxation system because of their inability to come forward with one that's going to keep us protected from a federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker?

We've been clear all along. We don't want a federal carbon tax. We don't it imposed. We want a made-in-Saskatchewan solution, but we want a made-in-Saskatchewan solution that's going to actually hold the federal government off, Mr. Speaker. And that's the problem, Mr. Speaker. We don't know whether we're going to end up with double taxation here, and that's a concern. That's an absolute concern.

I think the best way to help out is to go back to the drawing board, accept our amendment which is a much better motion than the motion that's been tabled. And I think that's definitely what we need to do, is ask everyone to support the amendment which is much stronger and much better. Already the member from Meadow Lake is saying, it's not going to happen. I'm disappointed, Mr. Speaker. I'm disappointed. But we'll see what happens when the actual vote happens.

There's a lack of detail in the plan. And there's no or little evidence of successful action on climate change from this government. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, Premier Wall . . . oh, the Premier of this province, excuse me, set a target to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2020. Not only has this target not been achieved, but provincial emissions have actually gone up during the time he's been in office.

And we have to talk about the Go Green Fund. The \$60 million in the Go Green Fund spending that the plan references was all money set aside by Premier Lorne Calvert in 2007. He had originally committed 320 million, but when the Sask Party were elected, they renamed the fund and reduced it to 60 million.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said the other day, for years on this side of the House on this issue . . . on that side of the House, I'm sorry. On this issue, their rhetoric has been incredibly forceful, but their plan has been non-existent. And despite their fancy announcements and their bluster in the House, I'm not sure that a whole lot has changed.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to urge all members of the Assembly to not vote in favour of the motion which is weak. And the plan is not a plan; it's a plan to plan. Take the time today to think seriously about this. And I encourage you to support the motion that I propose right now, and I'm going to read it again into the record, Mr. Speaker. So I move the following amendment:

That all words in the motion after "Assembly" be struck out and replaced with the following:

Recognizes that we all borrow our future from our grandchildren;

That this Assembly recognizes the importance of strengthening a diverse energy sector while reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

That any plan supported by this Assembly must include targets; clear supports for Saskatchewan families, producers, and businesses; and assurances that Saskatchewan will be protected from a federally imposed carbon tax; and further,

That this Assembly show leadership in reducing carbon emissions and gain credibility for our province when it comes to protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we grow our food on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Saskatoon Nutana has forwarded a motion. We'll take the motion as read. All those in favour of the amended motion say yea.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Yea.

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed say nay.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Nay.

**The Speaker:** — I think the nays have it.

Now back to the main motion. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 15:35 until 15:37.]

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is:

That this Assembly support the made-in-Saskatchewan climate change plan, entitled *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*; and

That this Assembly affirms that the strategy recognizes the importance of our resource-based economy, will reduce emissions, and help Saskatchewan communities mitigate and adapt to climate change.

All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 42]

Wall	Heppner	Makowsky
Stewart	Reiter	Morgan
Harpauer	Duncan	Cox
Marit	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Docherty	Merriman	Doke
Bonk	Tell	Eyre
Brkich	Harrison	Ottenbreit
Ross	Weekes	Kirsch
Steinley	Nerlien	Carr
Lawrence	Wilson	Young
Michelson	Doherty	Lambert
Beaudry-Mellor	Moe	Wyant
Dennis	Kaeding	Steele
Fiaz	Cheveldayoff	Olauson

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 11]

Sarauer	Chartier	Belanger
Sproule	Forbes	Rancourt
Mowat	McCall	Beck
Meili	Wotherspoon	

**Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 42; those opposed, 11.

**The Speaker:** — With resilience, I declare the motion carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair.

#### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

##### Motions for Supply

**The Deputy Chair:** — I'd ask now for the Committee of

Finance to come to order. The business before the committee is a resolution. I call the minister to move her resolution.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move the following resolution:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2018, the sum of \$117,580,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Deputy Chair:** — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2018, the sum of \$117,580,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to the resolution, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Deputy Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to a resolution, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to a certain resolution, has instructed me to report the same, and to ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the resolution be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the resolution be now read the first and second time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.



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

[15:45]

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:46.]

## APPROPRIATION BILL

### Bill No. 117 — *The Appropriation Act, 2017 (No. 2)*

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that Bill No. 117, *The Appropriation Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved Bill No. 117 be now introduced and read the 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:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave, and pursuant to rule 32(1)(e) I request that Bill No. 117, *The Appropriation Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has asked for leave to move second and third reading on Bill 117. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that Bill No. 117, *The Appropriation Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 117 be now read a second and third time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Second and third reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you. And, Mr. Speaker, I move

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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