



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

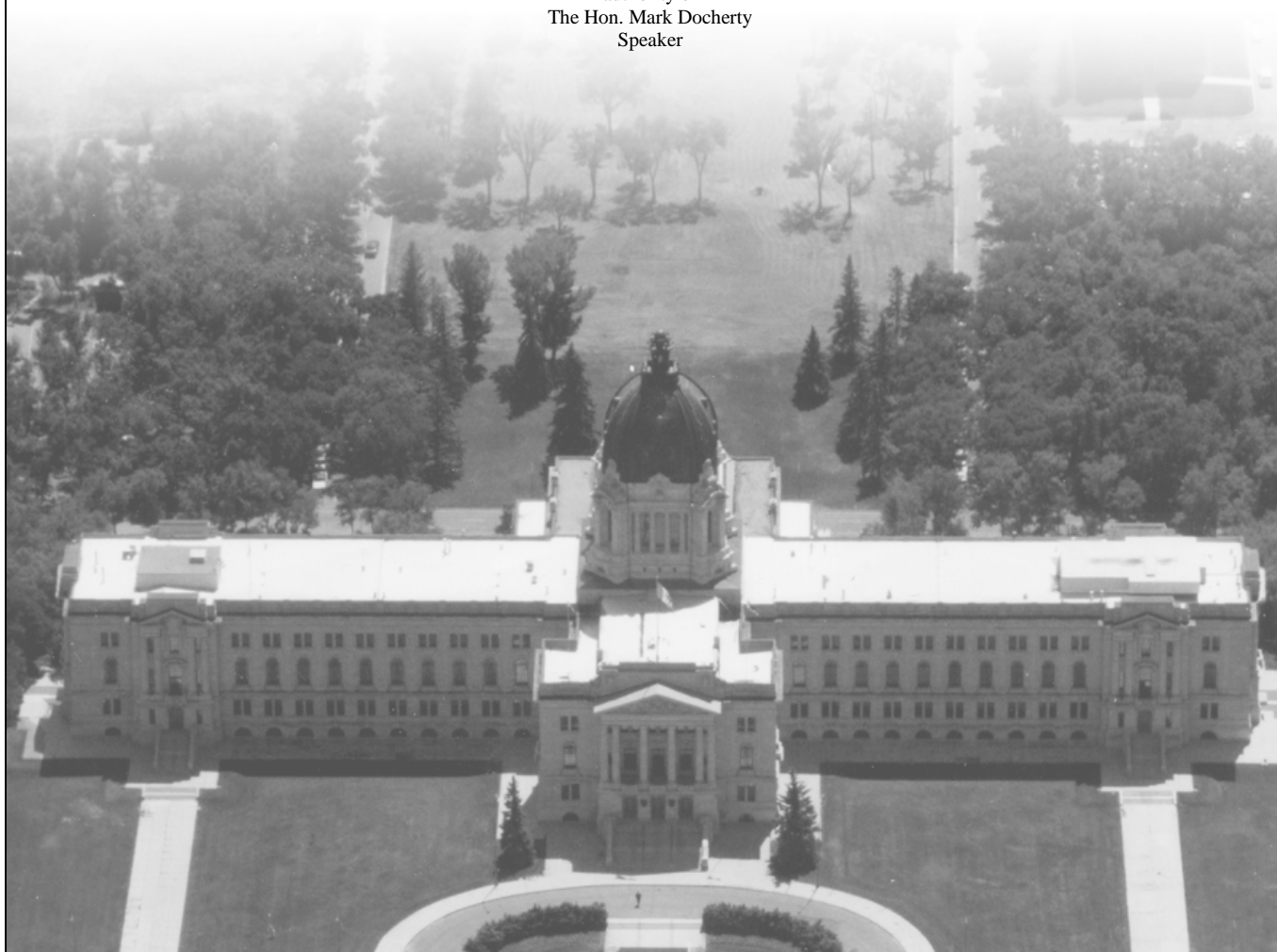
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 28th Legislature

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Vacant — Regina Northeast

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Vacant — 1

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I have a group in the Speaker's gallery with us today. I'd like all members to recognize a group from the Open Door Society, Regina Open Door Society. This is the INVOLVE group, and INVOLVE is Integrating Newcomers with Volunteer Opportunities to add Leadership Value Through Education.

I've had the opportunity the past number of probably five years to go and spend time with the graduates of this program, and it's amazing. The stories of resilience and gratitude for being here is immense. And it's a good reminder for all of us that were born here, just how important it is, number one, to be in Saskatchewan, to be a full participant, to volunteer, to be a part of a community. And again we are so grateful and thankful that you've chosen Saskatchewan. Thanks for the value that you're going to add to this province. And as we've always said, "from many peoples, strength."

With us today in this program is Arfrina Disha — give us a wave; thanks — Frank Ma, Shameem Ferdous, Alberto Ortiz, and Mussarat Parveen. Again I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with you in welcoming the group from INVOLVE here today, in my capacity as Minister Responsible for Immigration. We very much appreciate the relationship that we have with the Regina Open Door Society and with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. These folks do just wonderful, wonderful work, day in and day out, working with newcomers to our province to make sure that they have the tools to be successful here in Saskatchewan. And they have made an incredible contribution. They just really, really have. And I want to thank you on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan for the work that you do with INVOLVE.

I want to, in a more broad context, thank the Regina Open Door Society for the work that they do. We have had 100,000 newcomers from outside of Canada arrive on our shores and this province over the course of the last decade. And it's an unprecedented and I think really an untold story to some degree, the contribution that's being made and the volume of newcomers here. So I want to thank you, welcome you, and encourage you to continue the great work that you've been doing. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with yourself and the minister opposite in welcoming our group from the INVOLVE program at the Open Door Society to the

Legislative Assembly today.

As critic for immigration, I want to welcome you on behalf of the official opposition. I hope you enjoy the proceedings today and enjoy watching question period. It's so promising to see this level of engagement with civic process and interest in what's happening at the legislature. So I want to welcome you and ask my colleagues to join with me in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce several guests that I have in your gallery this morning. They are — if they could just give me a little wave — Matt Patton and Darienne Page. They're both from the ride-share company Lyft. Along with them is Dan Moulton. He's from Crestview Strategy. It is my pleasure to introduce them, and it was my pleasure along with the Minister of Government Relations this morning to meet with them.

And you know, impaired driving is a major thing in our province and a factor that we've been working on for a long time. And these folks have some great ideas that can assist us with that battle against impaired driving. And we look forward to them coming to our fair province and providing ride-share services throughout the province, not just in Regina and Saskatoon, but throughout the province.

So I'd like all members to join me in welcoming them to our Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, in the west gallery, a group of 30 grade 8 students from M.C. Knoll in Yorkton, about a block from my house. I think there's also a group of grade 7's in town this day as well, and maybe I'll be meeting with them a little bit later.

With them, their teachers, Jason Trost and Jessica Cannon along with educational assistant Jonathon Muir, and also with them a fellow I know very well as a chaperone, Kirk Weinmaster. Although knowing Kirk, I'm not sure if he's chaperoning the kids or the kids are chaperoning him today.

And I know for a fact that off of Facebook that Pat Rawlick, the bus driver, was driving them again today. He never comes in the Assembly, but I want to acknowledge bus driver Pat Rawlick as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it is my pleasure to stand in my seat today and

introduce my daughter, Miranda Morstad, who is seated in your gallery. Miranda is a grade 1 teacher in Saskatoon, and she is in town looking at wedding venues for this summer. So I'm very excited that we had the opportunity to do that last night. And this union will actually bring our families together as she is marrying Dave Forbes' nephew, Jon.

So, Miranda, I'd like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly and I'd like all members to help me welcome her.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to join with the member from Estevan to welcome Miranda to her legislature. We're really looking forward to the celebration this summer. It's a wonderful thing, marrying my nephew Jonathon and it . . . Well yes, I don't know if it's a slippery slope but I've got to say she's in the right profession — teachers, teaching in Saskatoon. You know, I'm actually on leave from Saskatoon Public and it's a wonderful school division.

So welcome to your legislature, Miranda, and we look forward to great things in the years ahead. Thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say a quick word of congratulations, and it's nice to see, you know . . . Sometimes in this building we talk about across the aisle. It's good to see that going down the aisle as well. But who knows where it'll all wind up.

But I just want to say a special word of buenos dias to my good friend, Alberto Ortiz. I had the pleasure of taking some classes with Alberto at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and I think I still probably have some notes that I need to return to Alberto that of course helped me pass that course. But it's really good to see Alberto here today at his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I could, I'd like to recognize four people in the west gallery. They are from the prayer group and they come here every Thursday and offer prayers for both sides. I notice they're behind that bench because they probably need it more. But, Mr. Speaker, they are from Moose Jaw. They are, sitting in the gallery, Agnes Slavin — if you'd give us a wave — and Dianne Green, along with Barb and Robert Brown that come up here from Moose Jaw. So I'd ask everybody to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the Assembly, I would like to introduce my nephew who unexpectedly showed up here today. Seated in the west gallery, Brad Wiszniak. He's here to observe what goes on in the Assembly. So I would ask everyone to welcome him.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Okay, right on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, and even those outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties; and that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics.

And we know that over the past 10 years, the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations and, of that, 2.87 million coming from companies outside Saskatchewan. You know, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve their politics. It should belong to them. And we know that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar-Sask Valley.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Spiritwood, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Rabbit Lake, Shell Lake, and Mildred. I do so present.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today and present a petition for a second bridge for Prince Albert. The undersigned residents that signed this petition want to bring the following points to your attention: that the Diefenbaker bridge in Prince Albert is the primary link that

connects the southern part of the province to the North; and that 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 local 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 in 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.

The individuals who signed this petition come from the city of Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for critical workplace supports for survivors of intimate partner violence. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the dubious distinction of having the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces, and we must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence. For many of them, Mr. Speaker, the violence will follow survivors to their workplace.

The signatories to this petition are calling for the government to provide five days of paid leave and up to 17 weeks of unpaid leave to be made available to workers who are survivors of domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. This is similar to what we're calling for in our private member's Bill No. 609. This is the fourth time we've presented this particular provision in a bill, and it's time for the government to step up, do the right thing, and pass that bill. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to pass legislation to ensure critical supports in the workplace, including reasonable accommodation and paid and unpaid leave for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today come from Regina and Swift Current. I do so present.

[10:15]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday

evening was a celebration of business excellence at the 17th annual Business Excellence Awards in Moose Jaw. I, along with the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, attended this prestigious event with over 120 nominations and 61 finalists in 13 categories.

Among the winners is JGL Livestock being awarded the Business Leader of the Year. The owners, Bill Jameson and Robin Gilroy, are very deserving of this award as they have shown outstanding growth in their industry and tremendous community support throughout the Moose Jaw area. Congratulations also to Cypress Paving on being recognized as the Business of the Year, as well as winning the Community Involvement Award.

Three new categories were added this year including #trending, recognizing businesses who excel in the use of social media; Moose Jaw and District Farmer Award, highlighting successes and efforts in promoting the agricultural industry; and the Newcomer Entrepreneur for businesses developed by new entrepreneurs in the community.

The Business Excellence Awards was a great success with a record crowd of over 400 people in attendance. Mr. Speaker, business is alive and well in Moose Jaw, and we continue to grow our population and create jobs and opportunity in our community. Thank you to the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event and promoting businesses in Moose Jaw. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the 2018 Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards nominees and winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Roots of Empathy Program

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, on March 8th I was invited to attend a grade 1 classroom at Gordon Denny Community School in Air Ronge. There I learned about a special program being taught by Crystal Peters called Roots of Empathy. Gordon Denny Community School is a leader in the empathy movement, which helps to develop more compassionate students and combat bullying. The program has grade 1 students connected with a nine-month-old baby, where they sing songs and play together.

Roots of Empathy is an international, evidence-based classroom program that has been shown to show reduction in levels of aggression among schoolchildren by building social and emotional skills and increasing empathy. The program is designed for children aged 5 to 13. In Canada the program is delivered in English and French, and reaches rural, urban, and remote communities, including indigenous communities. The program is also in New Zealand, the United States, Ireland, the UK [United Kingdom], Germany, Switzerland, and Costa Rica.

I ask all members to join me in thanking Gordon Denny Community School, the only school in the North pushing this new initiative and helping to develop more students with empathy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Swift Current Broncos in Western Hockey League Playoffs

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the Assembly today to talk about the last Saskatchewan team left standing in the Western Hockey League playoffs, my hometown Swift Current Broncos.

Mr. Speaker, it's not been an easy road. In the first round of the playoffs, the Broncos faced off against the Regina Pats, who took them to seven games. And then in the second round of the playoffs, it was the team with the best regular season record in the WHL [Western Hockey League], the Moose Jaw Warriors, and that also went the limit for the Broncos who had a convincing seventh-game victory there.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Broncos will face off, starting Friday night in Swift Current, against the Lethbridge Hurricanes — a team with whom they made a blockbuster trade earlier this winter.

Mr. Speaker, in my nearly 22 years of living in Swift Current, I can't recall a time where there's been this kind of excitement around the Broncos. There were people from all around the area taking in the games. That's assuming they can find tickets, because it's a sellout every night, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Broncos are encouraging their fans to make some noise, to ring those cowbells at the hockey rink. And if there's one thing we can all use more of, it's more cowbell.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to head coach, Manny Vivieros, the entire coaching staff, the front office staff, the team behind the scenes, and most of all the players who have created a momentum and a buzz not seen in a long time. Hats off to the entire Swift Current Broncos organization for the tremendous pride they have brought to Swift Current and indeed to southwest Saskatchewan. And there's still a long road to go. Go Broncos.

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

Hip Hop Hoop Dance Brings Cultures Together

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, Friday the 13th can be daunting for the suspicious, but it was a great day in Regina Douglas Park. That day, I attended a production of *Hip Hop Hoop Dance* at Balfour Collegiate. *Hip Hop Hoop Dance* ran as part of Globe Theatre's Shumiatcher Sandbox Series from March 29th to April 7th, and then hit the road on a 27-schools-in-20-days tour across the province.

World champion hoop dancer Terrance Littlelent collaborates with interdisciplinary artist Chancz Perry to produce a cross-cultural fusion of First Nations hoop dance and North American hip hop. Both engaging performers share an historical, educational, and inspirational outlook of the two dance genres.

As CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] noted:

Their collaborative Hip Hop Hoop Dance tells a story, exploring the topic of reconciliation through the art of movement. It's a sharing of cultures, both between the

dancers and with the audience.

As Chancz said in an interview:

... [with both of them] being people of colour, they had both experienced aspects of colonialization and assimilation.

Perry said they quickly recognized the similarities between their respective cultures' art forms, traditions and beliefs.

He said:

We thought, we should celebrate this and build a piece that would recognize not only the celebration of similarities between cultures, but to celebrate the differences that are so unique.

The Globe Theatre demonstrates its commitment to reconciliation, and giving back to young people in Saskatchewan with initiatives like these. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Terrance, Chancz, and the entire creative and production team for the show *Hip Hop Hoop Dance*.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Rural Municipality of Wilton Receives Safe Employer Award

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise in the Assembly today and acknowledge the RM [rural municipality] of Wilton No. 472 for winning the 2018 Safe Employer Award through WorkSafe Saskatchewan.

Founded in 2007, this award honours an employer who shows leadership in health and safety beyond the requirements of the industry and legislation. The RM has become a provincial leader in promoting and protecting its employees, the public, and the environment. They achieve this by proactively measuring its safety management system through multiple levels of assessment, inspections, and training. Employees are also engaged in this process through safety incentive programs, biannual safety recognition events, and monthly safety meetings.

Mr. Speaker, it's innovative practices such as these that have resulted in the RM winning the award this year and placing in the top three in 2017. I want to acknowledge two individuals specifically: Dale Tremble, the OH & S [occupational health and safety] manager for the RM; and Darren Elder, the chief administration officer. Both Dale and Darren have played an instrumental role in making the RM a safe place to work.

Mr. Speaker, WorkSafe Saskatchewan's Mission: Zero initiative launched in 2008 with the goal of achieving zero injuries, zero fatalities, and zero suffering in the workplace. Thanks to safety leaders like the RM of Wilton, 88 per cent of employees have reached Mission: Zero. On behalf of this Assembly, I want to congratulate the RM on receiving the Safe Employer Award. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Assiniboia Athlete Named to Canadian All-Star Football Team

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to rise today in the Assembly to acknowledge the success of a very young constituent of mine. Derek Beaubien is a grade 10 student at Assiniboia Composite High School, and despite being only 15 years old, Derek is an accomplished football player. Derek was recently chosen to represent Canada in the Under 16 International Bowl as a member of the West All-Star team. The competition will be held next January at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Mr. Speaker, the International Bowl features a series of team activities, practices, scrimmages, and games showcasing the top players from United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. Derek will be competing against the best that the world has to offer in his age group, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's not surprising that Saskatchewan is well represented at this event, especially along the offensive line, where Derek is one in a long line of successful Saskatchewan players. The Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport can attest to our province's success in this area.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire Assembly, I want to congratulate Derek for making Team Canada and wish him and the entire team the best at the International Bowl. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Sask Valley.

The Legacy of Gordon Kurbis

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to acknowledge a beloved man from the town of Biggar. Gordon Kurbis, a local farmer and active member of his community, recently passed away. As a final gesture towards the community and the province he held dear, he chose to donate substantial sums to multiple organizations across Saskatchewan. Last week his family met with these various organizations to help carry out his last wishes.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon's donations included \$25,000 to the Redeemer Lutheran Church, \$50,000 to the Biggar Hospital, and \$50,000 to the health centre long-term care. Gordon also donated \$50,000 to the Royal University Hospital, and after learning about the Humboldt Broncos tragedy, the family designated money specifically to the trauma unit.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon is a true example of the dedication to community and others that exist in this province. Even at the end of his own life he was thinking of what he can do for others. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kurbis family at this assuredly difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire Assembly, I would like to thank Gordon Kurbis and his family for the generous donations to the organizations that were near and dear to him. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Irrigation Project Approval Process

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Premier today: is it standard practice for the Water Security Agency to grant project approval to projects that have been found to already be in violation of environmental protection orders?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition went out to the rotunda yesterday and he made some false allegations with respect to an irrigation application that was approved through some type of a backdoor process or something of that nature, Mr. Speaker, and this simply is just not true.

And it's an insult, quite frankly, to the process and to the officials that are working, the professional public service who manage the irrigation approval process here in the province through Water Security Agency, through the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, these officials told me at the time and they assured me again yesterday that Mr. Boyd's application was handled in exactly the same way as anyone else's would be, Mr. Speaker. They felt no pressure whatsoever from my office or any political office, Mr. Speaker.

And the fact of the matter that Mr. Boyd was investigated; he was charged; he pled guilty, Mr. Speaker, and he was fined with one of the largest fines under the environmental habitat protection laws proves, I think, to the people of the province that they can be assured that he was treated in exactly the same manner as anyone else would be through this approval process, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Premier, as we're talking about being treated exactly the same: is it standard practice for deputy ministers to take an active role in moving forward an irrigation permit?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as minister of Environment, I met with people across this province on different water projects that we had, whether it was with municipalities or corporations that were looking to access water, whether it was with . . . And I met with the president of Water Security Agency quite often, Mr. Speaker, as well as all levels of the Water Security Agency, ranging right to the local regional office, Mr. Speaker.

But we met with municipalities. We met with corporations. We met with individuals that had come together with watershed groups, Mr. Speaker, on larger drainage projects in the province, including I looked at plans in and around the Quill lakes, Mr. Speaker. I met with individuals on water conveyance projects, Mr. Speaker, to move fresh water around this province as well. So it is not out of the ordinary for all levels within the

Water Security Agency, right to the minister, Mr. Speaker, to meet with people across this province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we've obtained an email from June 5th from a director at the Water Security Agency to the agency's president and CEO [chief executive officer] and cc'd to their general counsel. The email reads in part, and I'll quote:

Just an FYI on the Bill Boyd irrigation project we've been working on. We're in a position to issue our approvals based on modifications to the plans previously submitted. On Friday the Ministry of Agriculture asked us to hold off on issuing until they discussed the project with the Ministry of the Environment, as it was learned that WHPA-designated lands adjacent to Mr. Boyd's property had been broken in contravention of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the permit that the Ministry of Agriculture asked to be held off on was issued two months later, with full knowledge of the violations with which Bill Boyd was later charged and for which he was convicted.

Mr. Speaker, what role did the then minister of the Environment play in addressing the Ministry of Agriculture's concerns in ensuring Mr. Boyd's permits were issued?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — The pump site was intended to be constructed on private land, but the boundary of the land was incorrectly surveyed due to the surveyor using a deflection from the survey pin of 90 degrees rather than 93 degrees. Construction of the pump site and supply line began before the error was discovered. A special lease was issued to cover the pump site and the supply line. This lease was subject to the Crown lessee agreeing to surrendering the land, including the special lease.

That cultivation was discovered on June 6th, '17. And special leases are issued in circumstances where land use or land acquisition does not fit within normal day-to-day operations of the Ministry of Agriculture lands branch, and to date 148 such special leases have been issued.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was for the Premier, asking him what role did he as minister of the Environment play in addressing the Ministry of Agriculture's concerns in ensuring that Mr. Boyd's permits went ahead. And I think that's particularly germane as we consider the other questions that have not yet been answered. Is it standard practice to grant approval for projects that have already been found to be in violation of environmental protection orders? And is it standard practice for the deputy ministers of multiple agencies to get involved in a single permit?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, what has happened here is not unusual, Mr. Speaker, and I would add that all members of this House are always . . . disclose their, all of their conflicts of interest, Mr. Speaker, to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. But when I was Environment minister, Mr. Speaker, I looked at plans, as I said, for all sorts of projects across this province — municipal projects, drainage projects, water conveyance projects, and yes, irrigation projects from time to time.

However, in each of those projects the answer was always the same. Here's the process: through Water Security Agency, Minister of Agriculture, contact them for the permits to ensure that the project is constructed in the right way with appropriate permits, Mr. Speaker. I was never involved in any of these projects, Mr. Speaker, directly in the approval process. And I was not involved in the approval process in this case, Mr. Speaker. It's done by officials through different ministries, with no influence and no interference from elected officials, from elected members.

The Speaker: — Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — No involvement or influence from elected officials. The email from the director of licensing and water use continues, Mr. Speaker. And I'll just quote the email, if you'll allow me:

I've just heard that this afternoon there was an unscheduled meeting between the deputy ministers for the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment with Alanna Koch [who you'll remember as a recent runner-up in the Sask Party leadership and former deputy minister to the Premier] and the Associate Deputy Minister of Agriculture also in attendance.

Operational staff from the ministries of Agriculture and Environment are to attend the site tomorrow and inspect, to get the most up-to-date info on what has to be done and will be reporting back to their deputies before taking further action.

Mr. Boyd was contacted and may be attending the meeting as well. We've been asked to continue to hold off on issuing any approvals for the time being and will do so.

This email raises a number of questions, Mr. Speaker, but we'll start with one. Is this the sort of high-level treatment a deputy minister of the premier, deputy ministers from multiple ministries, any other person can expect when they apply for an irrigation permit with this Sask Party government?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I've also been made aware of an email that was sent to the Leader of the Opposition and cc'd to the Minister of Environment here this morning from Susan Ross, the president and CEO of the Water Security Agency, a letter, and it went to address some comments that were made in the rotunda yesterday, Mr. Speaker. And I quote these comments by the Leader of the Opposition:

If a colleague comes to you and says off the side of a desk, in a hallway conversation, can we just roll ahead with this?

I think that that is the moment, that's a red flag for any minister to say that, you know what? I appreciate your question and this really needs to go through the proper channels.

And I can assure the people of the province of Saskatchewan, this did go through the proper channels, Mr. Speaker, as he was referred to the appropriate agencies like anyone else, Mr. Speaker, as is quoted by the emails from the members opposite.

And in the email that was sent by Ms. Ross this morning, Mr. Speaker, to the Leader of the Opposition, it says this:

I note that in the legislature and in the media you state that Mr. Boyd was treated differently and used back channels to advance his application for a water rights licence. This is not the case.

The Speaker: — Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, in that same conversation in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, in that same rotunda, the Premier said yesterday that he had had conversations with Mr. Boyd, or indicated that he may have had conversations with Mr. Boyd about this project. So I would like to know: did that hallway conversation happen? Did you discuss this project with Mr. Boyd? When did that happen, and what did you tell him?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I said it and it's true. I did have a conversation with Mr. Boyd. I had multiple conversations with individuals in the watershed and the Quill lakes area, Mr. Speaker, with those downstream. I had multiple conversations with a number of different people across this province over drainage permits, Mr. Speaker, and I looked at their plans as well. I had conversations with members of the . . . people in the potash industry, Mr. Speaker, and I looked at their plans.

I had a number of conversations, as minister of this file, with municipalities, Mr. Speaker, and advocates for moving fresh water across this province, Mr. Speaker, to increase irrigation opportunities. And I looked at those plans, Mr. Speaker. And the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, is as the president of the Water Security Agency says, as I am saying, Mr. Speaker, this application was referred to the Water Security Agency and the other ministries in the same way that each of those other conversations that I had.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people of this province can be reassured that that's the case. And when the rules weren't followed, Mr. Speaker, this case, this individual was investigated like anyone else in the province. He was charged, Mr. Speaker, because he was out of compliance. He pled guilty, Mr. Speaker, had one of the largest fines under our environmental laws here in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, I think this proves to the people of the province of Saskatchewan that no matter who you are, Mr. Speaker, you will be treated in an identical fashion in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we still haven't heard whether that conversation took place and what that conversation was like. And when you think about a minister, a member like Mr. Boyd who'd been involved in the land deals around the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], Mr. Speaker, who had been found later to be in conflict of interest because of his involvement in an immigration scheme, Mr. Speaker, when you talk about a member like Mr. Boyd, that raises extra red flags. But we have a situation here where the project had already been found to be in violation, already been indicated to have broken the law, Mr. Speaker, and the permit was applied afterwards.

So, Mr. Speaker, what were the Premier's reasons for signing off on a permit that he'd been asked by the Minister of Agriculture to hold off on just two months previously?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I don't sign off on permits, Mr. Speaker. That is not what a minister does. That is why we have the Water Security Agency and all of the qualified public servants that we have in that agency, Mr. Speaker. And they do a great job.

Mr. Speaker, I have stated, I have stated, Mr. Speaker, that this application process was handled in the identical fashion that any application process would be across the province, Mr. Speaker. It was referred to the officials in ministries and in the Water Security Agency, Mr. Speaker. When Mr. Boyd did not follow the process, he was, as I said, he was charged, Mr. Speaker. He pled guilty. He was assessed with one of the larger fines under our environmental policy here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

The president of the Water Security Agency has assured the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, through email, that this is in fact the case. Mr. Boyd was treated in exactly the same fashion that any of the other people, that I or the president of the Water Security Agency or any other ministry official across government would have been treated in, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know exactly what the Leader of the Opposition is insinuating.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a . . . I hear about doing politics differently, and that's exactly what we need to do. We need to have accountability and we need to make sure that ministers and members are treated in a special way — that we are not first in line, but we're last.

And, Mr. Speaker, what this indicates, what this suggests is that there has been special treatment to approve a project that had already been found to be illegal, and that this happened on the Premier's watch. And not only did it happen, it happened bringing in deputy ministers, bringing in deputy ministers, a deputy minister of the premier, of Agriculture, of Environment. How, Mr. Speaker, is this Premier going to tell the people of Saskatchewan that that's the normal process, that that's the way every person in this province would be treated?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of things that I would point out. Mr. Speaker,

a water rights licence is one step in a process, in an irrigation process application, but it's not the final approval. You have to be able to show, and the Water Security Agency has to be able to grant that there is enough water for your project, but that's one step in the process.

Mr. Speaker, as the president of the Water Security Agency points out in the letter to the Leader of the Opposition:

The water rights licence and approval to operate water diversion works issued to Mr. Boyd under the Act was for the use of water in the operation of his irrigation works as they existed. These approvals are under different legislation than the charges that were subsequently laid. The expectation of the staff involved in water rights licensing and approval to operate a water diversion at the time was that Mr. Boyd would comply with the immediate EPO for shoreline remediation and the project would continue.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, of the 11 applications last year that were reviewed by the Water Security Agency, the average day from application to approval was 78 days. For Mr. Boyd it was nearly 100 days, Mr. Speaker, so clearly it shows that Mr. Boyd wasn't treated any differently.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we hear the minister trying to say that there's a wall between these processes. But in the message, we heard the Water Security Agency saying that they had been asked to hold off on issuing until they discussed the project, as it was learned the WHPA [*The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*] designated lands adjacent to Mr. Boyd's property had been broken in contravention of *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. Obviously this is a significant concern that WSA [Water Security Agency] does pay attention to.

If you want people in this province, if the Premier wants people in this province to believe that this was done in the same way it had been done for any other citizen in Saskatchewan, well I think we have a whole lot of explaining to do. Mr. Speaker, we would like to hear from the Premier: how did this compare to how a regular person would have their process approached? Would they have all of these deputy ministers, all of this process involved?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, as the president points out in the letter, Mr. Boyd inquired about the steps to obtain a water rights licence and was referred to the water rights licensing division as we do with any other client. He was provided with information and application forms. The WSA officials are professional public servants and acted appropriately throughout this case. I am confident that Water Security Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment officials acted in accordance and took the appropriate actions in bringing forward this file that ultimately ended up in enforcement actions against Mr. Boyd. He was treated the same way every other citizen would have been had he or she taken the same actions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as has been pointed out on numerous occasions, there is a process to follow. Mr. Boyd was in contact with officials on that process, Mr. Speaker. He applied for a water rights licence, Mr. Speaker. That is a part of the irrigation process, Mr. Speaker, and obviously he was not in compliance with the entire process. He was investigated, charged, and was found guilty, Mr. Speaker, and has been levied by the courts one of the largest fines to an individual in respect to a matter like this.

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

Global Transportation Hub and Government Transparency

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, Bill Boyd, the DNA of the Sask Party, was found to have a conflict of interest when he went to China and pretended to be a minister after he was no longer in cabinet, all to get funding for the irrigation scheme that is at the heart of this matter. He committed crimes in relation to this irrigation scheme and has been found guilty and has been fined, Mr. Speaker.

Now we've been here before. We've stood in this Assembly and continually asked the members of the cabinet about their decisions when they voted to flip land at the GTH. But we still don't have the answers from any of those questions. The entire cabinet, in fact the entire Sask Party wears that, Mr. Speaker. When will they finally come forward with what they know about what went down at the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has been a member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan. She knows full well that we will not comment on something that's before the courts or under active investigation. Mr. Speaker, we don't control that process. We don't control the timeline of that process, and she knows it full well, Mr. Speaker. She sits in her desk and she chirps about it just below what the microphones might pick up.

[10:45]

But, Mr. Speaker, what she's talking about is an invitation that we would in some way meddle or interfere with a court process. And, Mr. Speaker, to that member and to the citizens of this province, I would say that that is something that is not going to happen under our watch. That process will go ahead in the ordinary and usual fashion, and we will stay absolutely and completely hands off of that process. If she wishes to wade in, Mr. Speaker, that's between her and whatever else she decides to do, but not from this side of the House.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Saskatoon Bypass Project

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in question period, I had a little bit of déjà vu. When I asked the Highways minister about the Saskatoon bypass, the minister called it the same thing. Not only was the minister a

little uneasy answering the questions, his colleague from Martensville seemed to correct him on the language, maybe to call it a freeway. A former minister herself, she knows full well the financial and political implications of mismanaging a billion dollar bypass and how that type of thing can land a member in the backbenches pretty quick. She knows and the minister knows we don't need history repeating itself. Even in the early stages, land acquisition, cost, and design seem an awful lot like the Regina bypass.

Can the minister commit today that as the project moves forward, the contract will be going to Saskatchewan world-class companies and not an overseas conglomerate?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon expressway, whatever we want to call it, is only in the planning stages, Mr. Speaker. We have targeted or focused the area on where it's going to be. We're only in the planning stages, Mr. Speaker. It hasn't even gone to anywhere near to the design stage. This project is 5 years, 10 years out, Mr. Speaker. We have at least narrowed the window on where the expressway or freeway, whatever we want to call it, will be, Mr. Speaker. But it's a long ways down the road, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I just can't seem to get a clear answer from the minister on the issue. Yesterday he called it a Saskatoon bypass and today it's a freeway. But Saskatchewan taxpayers know there's nothing free about the Sask Party megaprojects. And let me be crystal clear: the auditor said early consultations on the Regina bypass that took place provided business owners and municipalities a good indication of where the route would go. She said this insight could have led to land speculation and skyrocketing costs.

And again, there's a detailed road to riches map on the Saskatoon bypass project that's easily accessible for anyone wanting to make a buck. How can the public be assured that the Saskatchewan Party government isn't going to repeat the same mistakes on the Saskatoon bypass as they did with the Regina bypass? And what specific measures are being taken today to make sure this doesn't happen again?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of the Regina bypass. There is nothing . . . That is a great project. The biggest thing that's going for that project, Mr. Speaker, is safety. And I want to quote the member opposite for what he said about the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker:

. . . it should be stated right at the [very] front, Mr. Speaker, that one of the things that's really important to this side of the Assembly is that it is important that people

out there understand when it comes to the Regina bypass, the NDP are in full support of having the bypass built, Mr. Speaker . . .

That's quoted in the Economy Committee, April 29th, 2014, Mr. Speaker.

And it should also be noted, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the Regina bypass being built, Mr. Speaker, this is from Randy Schultz, White City fire chief, Mr. Speaker, on October 30th, 2017:

Before the construction, I couldn't tell you how many accident scenes we were on where we were using jaws of life. Now I can't tell you the last time we used . . . [the] jaws [of life].

Mr. Speaker, it's about safety, and that's what we're here for, Mr. Speaker.

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

Coverage for Taxi Drivers Injured at Work

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, people across our province were shocked by the attack against Muhammad Umar, a taxi driver here in Regina. He was stabbed in the throat, chest, and stomach after a violent attack last Friday morning. Unfortunately this isn't the first time a taxi driver has been attacked on the job and seriously injured in our province.

Taxi drivers in Saskatchewan aren't covered under workers' compensation, and their workplace injuries aren't covered under SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] either. No one in our province should have to go without supports when they get hurt on the job. Will the Sask Party commit to changes today to help taxi drivers who are injured at work?

The Speaker: — Recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we naturally have very much, a lot of sympathy, on behalf of all members, to anybody that's hurt on the job either through violence or through any other . . . [inaudible] . . . It's something that we all should take seriously and consider carefully, and I appreciate the member raising the issue.

I asked for this information from the WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] earlier. What can happen is that a taxi driver can regard her- or himself as being self-employed and can apply for and receive workers' compensation coverage. If they don't and they're regarded as an individual or separate contractor, they would not receive the coverage. If in fact they work for somebody else, where they're under a situation where they are under a contract of employment, then they would be covered.

So there appears to be some situations where they would be covered, some situations where they aren't covered. In our province the workers' compensation scheme does not automatically cover employers. It's directed to . . . [inaudible] . . . and help with employees.

I've asked the Workers' Compensation Board and our officials to look at it and see whether there's something that is there. But what I would urge all people to do if they're in a situation . . . [inaudible] . . . is obtain the coverage. It's very low cost and it does provide them some protection as self-employed workers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 125 — *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved that Bill No. 125, *The Saskatchewan Value-added Agriculture Incentive Act* be introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this be read again? I recognize the Minister of Trade.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answer to question 224.

The Speaker: — Tabled 224.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Support for Construction of Trans Mountain Pipeline

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What a great birthday gift the Deputy Whip placed upon me today, to have this opportunity. And I do take that quite seriously, as this is an opportunity, an opportunity in which I am very pleased to have the ability and the opportunity to put forward a motion, a motion regarding the federal Trudeau government's unwillingness to act on the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.

This project has obviously captured much media coverage, Mr. Speaker. This fact is both surprising, and yet it shouldn't be. The absolute dysfunction and continued hypocrisy of the BC

[British Columbia] provincial and the federal Liberal governments of late is not really surprising anymore, Mr. Speaker, yet it continues to be extremely disappointing. The underachievement bar of the Trudeau Liberals somehow continues to be lowered.

Mr. Speaker, the Trans Mountain system idea was conceived in 1951, constructed and began operation in 1953. Similar to many other pipelines across the nation, including this province, this system and systems like it have operated and maintained safely and efficiently for decades. This project, and others of its kind, would bring Western Canadian oil production to tidewater markets, expanding markets that will pay fair price for our products, rather than discounted prices that our producers have been basically forced to take with our oil predominantly going south to the US [United States], Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to read an article that I ran across last evening, and I'd like to share that message. And it's from a Seattle, Washington resident, Mr. Speaker, that put a letter in a Lower Mainland BC newspaper. And it reads as follows, and I quote. The caption is:

Thank-you B.C. for the oil discount

. . . thanks to the citizens of B.C. who seem once again to have blocked . . . [another] oil pipeline to the coast. Those of us living south of the border will continue to enjoy importing your oil at substantial discounts while exporting our oil from gulf ports at world-market prices. Your gift to us, around \$100 million per day Canadian, is greatly appreciated. We marvel at your generosity while doubting your sanity. All of this will have zero impact on the global climate, of course.

That's from Adam Lloyd of Seattle.

It goes to show that it's quite obvious to people on both sides of the border, Mr. Speaker, that BC is out of line, and BC knows they're out of line. Everyone in Canada knows that BC is out of their jurisdiction, but the federal government just doesn't seem to want to take the necessary steps.

Scotiabank actually estimated that the current discounts on oil products, at the current levels if sustained, cost the industry \$15.6 billion a year. Our government estimates that Saskatchewan producers lose 2.6 billion of this total annually. And that would equate to approximately 210 million in lost royalty revenue for this current budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline is an expansion project. The system already exists. It's not a brand new system. Those opposed to it are acting like it's a brand new megaproject by an unreliable operator with an unproven track record in the industry. This couldn't be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. Kinder Morgan has thousands of kilometres of operating pipeline throughout North America. The Trans Mountain system has been in operation for 65 years.

I'd like to present a few more facts on Kinder Morgan and its system, Mr. Speaker. Kinder Morgan, as I stated, is a pipeline transmission company based in the US that operates systems in Canada, including Saskatchewan. The Trans Mountain system is an 1150-kilometre system that has safely carried crude and

refined oil products to BC ports since 1953. Currently the Trans Mountain system delivers approximately 300,000 barrels of crude and refined oil per day. The proposed expansion project would carry an additional 590,000-plus barrels per day of diluted bitumen from the oil sands, tripling the overall daily capacity to nearly 900,000 barrels.

Mr. Speaker, this project has been rigorously reviewed and accepted by all applicable levels of government, both federal and provincial. The debate on this should be over. We shouldn't be talking whether this pipeline should be built, it's when.

The obstruction of this project by the BC or Green Party or the coalition of the same really isn't surprising. It's probably surprising to them how successful it's been, but it's not surprising that they're not in favour of it. They've admitted they're out of their jurisdiction, but surprisingly — or not so surprisingly — the unwillingness of the Trudeau Liberals to move forward is the big picture.

[11:00]

It's now starting to become even more apparent that there is perhaps a systematic attack being launched on the entire energy industry. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Trudeau Liberals are openly embarrassed by our oil and gas industry. Instead of being proud champions for our clean, safe, and global-leading industry, Mr. Speaker, he is ashamed of it. And even though the demand for that energy is as strong as ever, he continues to take that stance.

The Trudeau Liberals are openly ashamed, as I said, of our industry, Mr. Speaker. Ashamed of an industry that operates under the highest environmental standards in the world, yet has to compete with foreign oil that has very low standards. He is ashamed of an industry that contributes to the GDP [gross domestic product] of every Western province, including 15 per cent to this province's GDP. He is ashamed of an industry that sustains thousands of jobs across Western Canada.

He has plenty of reasons to be ashamed, Mr. Speaker. Ashamed that Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline is not already under way. Ashamed that the Energy East pipeline was scrapped because of the federal policies that are unfair and discriminatory to our own producers and transporters, Mr. Speaker. Ashamed of the forced implementation on carbon pricing across the nation. Ashamed of himself and his government's save-the-world policies by crushing our most vital industries.

Mr. Speaker, there are industry and economic leaders far more knowledgeable than I that are speaking out. I would like to read an excerpt from a letter that was sent to the Prime Minister's office a week ago today, I believe, April 12th letter to our Prime Minister and cc'd to Premiers Notley and Horgan, urging them to meet and resolve this issue. We now know that that meeting took place with essentially no result. I will read one or two small paragraphs from that correspondence, and I quote:

It's deeply concerning that a project that has gone through rigorous review, including four years of consultation and numerous federal and provincial conditions is now in this situation after being given a green light to proceed. This

threatens to provoke a crisis of confidence in Canada's regulatory processes with far-reaching implications which go well beyond this project. It threatens to send a message to investors that Canada cannot be trusted. It puts billions of dollars of government revenue at risk — billions that pay for things that Canadians need, from teachers to MRI machines to affordable housing and further investments in protecting the environment.

Many small and medium-sized business owners, construction workers, people who support their families in manufacturing, and indigenous Nations are now unfairly caught in the crossfire as a result of the uncertainty surrounding this project's future and, collaterally, our county's growing uncertain investment climate.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't just another letter written by big business or self-serving entities that you may think are just related to the oil patch. Mr. Speaker, this correspondence is signed by 75 members across the nation, from Vancouver to Halifax. Twenty-five signatures on this correspondence are from BC entities alone. So the people of BC are not totally onside with their own provincial government's policy on this. We have chambers of commerce, hotel and lodging associations, real estate associations, trucking, pipeline construction, mining, heavy equipment associations, Mr. Speaker, mayors, reeves, taxpayers, independent business, the CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business], Canadian Taxpayers Federation — the list goes on and on.

Anyone that thinks this project only affects companies like Kinder Morgan and pipeline companies or the oil industry is delusional, Mr. Speaker. Projects like this affect this whole country, whether we want to believe it or not.

Mr. Speaker, some folks, and some folks maybe even sitting on the other side of the House and maybe even the Leader of the Opposition, I believe, has openly stated that that the action taken on this side of the House by our Premier is, he's trying to "get into the story," openly criticizing, accusing our Premier and this government of using this issue as a political posturing opportunity. Defending our people and our industries, I don't think, is playing politics, Mr. Speaker. It's simply doing the right thing.

To quote the Premier, "We are doing what it takes." Doing what it takes to make BC know they are out of line. Doing what it takes to push the federal government to get this project under way. Doing what it takes including necessary legislation that would allow us to legally turn off the taps similar to what Alberta is doing. This isn't playing politics. It's taking action — taking action, taking a stand, Mr. Speaker.

Instead of getting on board, the opposition continues to be the same old NDP [New Democratic Party] which chooses to get in the way. Playing politics to me, Mr. Speaker, is taking action like supporting something as ridiculous as the Leap Manifesto. I spent some time on that website last night. I was aware of their basic ideology but was quite blown away to actually read parts of it. Quite disturbing actually.

I don't have any confirmation, but I've been told that some members opposite support it. I understand that with the federal

NDP leader, some of the policies created federally are in favour of some of the Leap principles but, Mr. Speaker, that document itself is not proper. It is an attack on the industry of oil and gas in general, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know how anybody can honestly support that and say they're in favour of the industries that lead this province, Mr. Speaker.

How am I doing for time? Well I am going to skip forward. I missed a lot of great opportunities, but I think that the message is out there that the same old NDP does not promote what we're doing on this side and that's fine. I hoped they would consider this motion, supporting it, and I would like to put forward that motion now.

Mr. Speaker, that I would like to put forward the motion:

That this Assembly calls upon the federal government to act immediately to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline; and

That this Assembly rejects the actions by the Government of British Columbia to stop an energy project that is of national interest.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Kindersley has moved:

That this Assembly calls upon the federal government to act immediately to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline; and

That this Assembly rejects the actions by the Government of British Columbia to stop an energy project that is of national interest.

Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I want to point out at the start that this project . . . and certainly the intent that the opposition has as it relates to the pipeline. Mr. Speaker, there's no question that the Trans Mountain pipeline is a very critical and crucial part of our economy here in Saskatchewan, as we do want to get our product to tidewaters, Mr. Speaker. So whether it is grain, whether it is potash, or whether it is oil and gas, Mr. Speaker, from our perspective we know how crucial the link is that the Trans Mountain pipeline offers to the people of Saskatchewan, to the Western economy, Mr. Speaker, and to our Canadian economy as a whole.

So I want to make it very crystal clear to the member from Kindersley and to the current government, the Saskatchewan Party government, that the NDP do support the motion that's moving forward, in the sense of making sure that we all are on the same page when it comes to protecting jobs here in the province of Saskatchewan. Our number one concern, Mr. Speaker, has always been and will always be that crucial balance we talk about, is to ensure that the economy, we have a full employment economy and to create jobs, important jobs such as the Evraz operation where 1,100 jobs are at stake, Mr. Speaker. The balance that we talk about — and it's really important right across the country, that other provinces talk

about — is to ensure that we're not at the same time compromising our environmental standards. That balance must be achieved, but there's no question in our minds that the job issue is very, very important.

Mr. Speaker, what we need on this particular action plan is that this project has been approved. There's no question from our perspective. It has been approved and it has gone through a rigorous process.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, we need to see leadership on this particular file. It's a bit concerning to me, Mr. Speaker, when the member from Kindersley knows very well the importance of this particular file, the importance of the Trans Mountain pipeline, when he turns halfway through his speech and saying, how much more time do I have? Mr. Speaker, we need to afford much more time on this issue than ever before because this matter is really important and we cannot diminish the importance of this discussion, Mr. Speaker, by simply turning around and saying, how much more time do I have? And most of the time that they spoke about was the Leap Manifesto. That is not proper and that is not fair, Mr. Speaker.

What we have to do, Mr. Speaker, is we have to afford this as much time as we possibly can, as much time as we possibly can. And I would suggest that the Saskatchewan Party look at their own track record and their history, Mr. Speaker, because as much as they want to be critical, Mr. Speaker, we want to be pragmatic on this side of the House. We want to be supportive of this Trans Mountain pipeline and, Mr. Speaker, leadership is required on this matter all the single time.

And, Mr. Speaker, the reason why, the reason why the Sask Party lack credibility on this file, Mr. Speaker, is on a number of fronts. Number one, despite the fact that they've had record revenue and have been in power for 10 years, they have failed miserably to even lay one inch of pipeline to tidewater. They have not achieved nothing when it comes to the notion of trying to get the pipeline in place, Mr. Speaker. They have not laid one inch, one inch, one inch of pipeline in this province, Mr. Speaker. And not only that, Mr. Speaker, they have cut funding to climate change and green energy . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have also cut funding to climate change and green energy, Mr. Speaker. So you look at their history, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party history. They have not laid one inch of pipeline, Mr. Speaker. They have cut funding to climate change and green energy, Mr. Speaker. The balance that we talk about in the Assembly is so important to get the public of Saskatchewan to know two things. We're concerned about jobs. We want to make sure we get our product to market. That's essential to our economy, especially in an economy based in agriculture, Mr. Speaker. But the oil and gas and the potash industry are also vitally important.

So essential to our economy is to create jobs and to attract investment and to get our product to tidewater. That is an

essential part of what we're arguing here today, Mr. Speaker. But the corresponding responsibility of government is to also balance those against environmental standards. Well what happens is the Saskatchewan Party have not laid one inch of pipe. They have cut their funding to climate change and addressing the challenges around — or the opportunities associated with — green energy, Mr. Speaker.

So it's important for people to know that again, once again the Sask Party have not disappointed us. All they have done is play silly politics with this matter when it's vitally important that we provide leadership on this front to make sure that we protect the jobs, Mr. Speaker, to make sure we get our product to market, Mr. Speaker, and to point out that we need that Trans Mountain pipeline, Mr. Speaker. It is so important to Western Canada. It is so important, Mr. Speaker, to the province of Saskatchewan, and it is important to all of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

[11:15]

We heard about the polling numbers in which the Canadian people want to see this investment, Mr. Speaker. And as we increase capacity in our pipeline system, it really allows more use of the rail system and the other transportation avenues to move potash and to move our grains, Mr. Speaker.

So on this side of the Assembly, the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party are very clear. The Trans Mountain pipeline is something that we support. We see it has gone through a rigorous process. It was approved. We want to see it happen, Mr. Speaker, because it's vitally important to our economy, vitally important to us, and vitally important to the people of Saskatchewan.

So you have to take the time, and you can't simply diminish the argument. You can't simply diminish the argument around the importance of oil and gas development in our province to talking about the NDP and the Leap Manifesto. That is not fair, Mr. Speaker. It is not fair to the people of Saskatchewan. It is not proper to give justice to this argument in this Assembly. You have to be pragmatic. You've got to be responsible and you have to provide leadership.

So yes, federal Liberals need to provide leadership on this front, but the Saskatchewan Party also got to do their work, because I'll go back to my point, Mr. Speaker, that they have failed to lay one inch of pipe, Mr. Speaker. They have failed to lay one inch of pipe, Mr. Speaker. And secondly is they have compromised a very meaningful balance to the people of Saskatchewan when they do not have, Mr. Speaker, a climate change action plan, and when they cut funding and refuse to embrace the opportunities of green energy.

That, Mr. Speaker, is an injustice to the whole effort that we're trying to achieve today, and this is why it's important that we clarify from our seat the importance of oil and gas development here in the province of Saskatchewan. We want the Saskatchewan Party to be responsible. We want the Saskatchewan Party to co-operate with the opposition on this front. And we want to see action on that pipeline, Mr. Speaker. I'll say it again. I'll say it again, that we must consult with the people all the time, Mr. Speaker, on matters of this importance. And I point out that industry people need to be consulted. And

we've had those consultations; we will continue to have those consultations.

And the second point I'd also raise, Mr. Speaker, I was a bit disappointed with the Premier when he pointed out that they aren't going to consult the First Nations in Aboriginal, indigenous communities in the province of Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's going to take all of our efforts. Our motto in the province is "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker. And the First Nations and Métis people and all indigenous people throughout this land can offer valuable partnerships in trying to achieve some of the objectives attached to the Trans Mountain pipeline, Mr. Speaker. They understand the importance.

So the indigenous people of Saskatchewan should be engaged. They should have that consultation avenue afforded to them, Mr. Speaker, because they can invest in this opportunity. They can provide a labour force in this opportunity. They can provide incredible insights on environmental protection, Mr. Speaker. They can give us great knowledge. They can give us great opportunity to strengthen our position as it comes to getting our product to market, Mr. Speaker.

First Nations and Métis and indigenous people of Saskatchewan can offer an incredible value and can be great allies in this fight. And yet here once again, we see no consultation on the First Nations and the indigenous people of Saskatchewan as expressed by the Premier.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you look at the history of this, there's no question: we support the project. It's gone through a rigorous process. It's been approved. And we say it's time to get it built so we can get our product to market and we can save those jobs, jobs, jobs here in the province of Saskatchewan. Our people deserve that work, but we must do our homework and we must be responsible in this position. So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important we continue some of that work.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this debate for the people of my constituency. It's a very important issue facing our nation and our province today.

Mr. Speaker, I've told many people in the past that your best friends are the ones who will tell you what you need to hear and not what you want to hear. It's easy for those who don't love you so much to flatter you, but the truth can hurt at times. And we all have blind spots, Mr. Speaker, that keep us from seeing our obvious mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell a story that will allow me to draw something out. My son, the day before his 15th birthday, phoned myself and asked if he could bring his dirt bike in from the country. He wanted to go out with his friends. And so I said, you go ahead and do that. So the next day I heard a story that my son had jumped a hill in our community. And in my community we don't have a lot of hills. It's fairly flat so we have to build ours, and we built this one right beside the football field at the high school. And my son chose to jump that hill during the season opener for the Comets, Mr. Speaker.

And so I wasn't alarmed at first, but the next day I found out that he was actually planning this, so I was a fair bit upset with my son. And I remember that day, maybe being a little more upset than I ought to have been, I took my son into the police station and I had him apologize, and I told the police that they should fine him.

And so my good friend, at that point he phoned me. And I didn't answer; I was quite upset. So then he texted me. And so when I read that text, Mr. Speaker, what I read was, Todd, I think you're more concerned about your own reputation than you are about your own son. And those words were true, Mr. Speaker. I didn't want to hear them but he was a good friend and he spoke them to me.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to challenge the leader of our opposition and I would like to say to him that he needs to consider not being tempted to being concerned about his own reputation. Because our reputations are something very important to us, Mr. Speaker. There is always a temptation to stand for our own reputation rather than for those people that we love. And I think the people of this province are the ones that we need to consider in this whole pipeline issue — put aside our own political lines and stand together.

It's likely, Mr. Speaker, if you were to ask the Prime Minister or the Premier of British Columbia, who is the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Melfort? They would likely say, I have no clue who the MLA for Melfort is. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? I'm well known with the Star City Elks club, you know, from my constituency. But I'm not sure if Premier Horgan has heard of me.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Leader of the Opposition, because I know that they respect him and I would like him to stand for our province in a time when he can stand and make a difference. And I know that he can. I'm sure that he's being pulled in many different directions, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to remind him of what he already knows, that leaders show their character and their worth in the difficult times, in the times when things might be unpopular and even cost them personally.

You know, we lost \$210 million worth of royalties in 2017. You know, Mr. Speaker, my constituency in my hometown, we would like to get a CT [computerized tomography] scanner. We're in line for that CT scanner. It's been promised for us in the past. We've got some roads that we would like to be resurfaced. We've got some schools that we increased the PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal] to 15 per cent. But there's always more money to be spent on schools. You know, Mr. Speaker, since 2007 the population has increased by over 100,000 people in this province and we've added, Mr. Speaker, 4,300 nurses, 750 doctors, 40 schools, 25 major renovations. But you know, we have these expenses incurred, Mr. Speaker, because our population is growing. And we have a plan. We need to support the economy. And I'm sure that the members opposite have constituency needs as well. And I would like to say that that \$210 million that we lost in 2017 could be supported. We could get that back with the support of the leader across the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Our farmers in my constituency, you know, this pipeline means

more to them than some of us might realize. In 2013-2014 it cost us \$6.5 billion in Western Canada in lost revenue because of the logjam at the railcars. We couldn't get railcars to take our grain to market. And so we're plugging up our railcars, our train lines, where we could have a pipeline opened to take that oil safely to sea.

We need to be able to stand for our farmers in my part of the world, Mr. Speaker, because those are the ones who put millions of dollars into the ground every spring. And at the end of the season, they take that grain and they expect that they can get it to market. But, Mr. Speaker, you know, a lineup is a fairly difficult thing. Some of us stand at a buffet, we're worried about the lineup; others at the washroom during a Rider game. But you know, for a farmer to stand and wait for the trains to get open so that he can sell his grain to pay his bills, so that he can spend his money in his local economy, that is a very important thing.

And so I want to see the members across the floor work together with the current government. You know, we all saw displayed before our eyes, you know, that during the hockey season, during the football season, basketball season, whatever it might be, when the puck is dropped, when the ball is chipped off, after the opening kickoff, you know, we fight with one another in Western Canada, Mr. Speaker. But when the game's over and when the season's done and crisis hits, we stand together. We stand unified. And I would like to ask the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, to join the leader of this province.

You know, I don't think he's that bad of a guy, our Premier, Mr. Speaker. On the very first day in office he came to Melfort. And it was interesting. Why would you come to Melfort? It's on his way home. But anyway, it was great of him to do it. He supported my campaign which, you know, I got in so I have to thank him for that. But then he went with me to some doors, and then we went to a Mustangs game. And you know, I just had to say that he didn't embarrass me, Mr. Speaker.

And so I think that that would be a great opportunity, for the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier of our province to get together and show what can happen in times of crisis. Because I believe that there is a crisis, Mr. Speaker — \$210 million sitting on the table that could be spent in all of our constituencies. And yet because of the logjam, because of the holdback, whatever's going on in British Columbia . . . Lord, I just don't understand what they're thinking. I don't understand why our Prime Minister wouldn't stand up for the people of Saskatchewan and push that project through. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that Saskatchewan may fight after the puck is dropped, but when the season's over we need to stand together for the good of the whole.

And you know, I think that he has more opportunity to influence in this case than most of us. And I was there when I watched him read a passage. He selected a passage of scripture, Micah 6:8. And I really appreciated that, Mr. Speaker, when he read that because that is one of the most important portions of scripture. And it says, he's shown thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. And you know, in this case I think the just thing to do, the merciful thing to do,

would be to stand with our Premier and fight.

You know, I was thinking I could call it a man-bites-dog story, but I didn't know how either of the two of them would take it. But you know, in the media, to see the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition standing together, I think that's the kind of thing that we've been talking about, doing politics differently, standing together when the province needs us. Even though we've had our differences in the past, I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to stand with his Premier and make a difference for our province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this debate. And I do want to wish the member from Kindersley a happy birthday. I hope this isn't a . . . I think this is a good way to spend your birthday, debating this important issue, and I think it's a fitting one.

[11:30]

And I want to say that the motion that he's brought forward is very interesting, and as I look and read through it, it seems one that we can get behind. And so the member from Melfort should realize that there's nothing at all in this motion that we haven't said or agreed to. And it's been in the media that in fact our Speaker has been very clear when we say, "call upon the federal government to act immediately to ensure the construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline." We've been very clear about that. We've been very clear that it's a federal responsibility, and it's their job to make sure this pipeline gets built. This is very important. This is what this motion says. And it also says the ". . . Assembly rejects the actions of the Government of British Columbia to stop an energy project that is of national interest." And clearly this one is of national interest and one that we need to all get behind, and we've been very clear about this.

I think it's very important that we just reflect on a moment and that, you know, this has gone through the regulatory process. Very important that we understand that the work has been done by the National Energy Board and in fact, from what I understand, that it started some back in 2014. So this hasn't been rushed through. There are some — and I'll talk about this in a moment — 157 stipulations that have to be met. But a lot of them happen along the way as they're doing the expansion. And of course it's like any kind of expansion. There's inspections along the way to make sure that it's all done to the letter, the application, and that the variances aren't extreme.

And so we're very supportive, and this is not anything unusual. And I think that we have to be very careful at this time. And we see the members . . . You know, this is a difficult thing because we want to make sure that the pipeline gets built and gets going right away. We understand there are timelines, pressures that happen, but we can't be outsmarted by Prime Minister Trudeau and the kind of things we've seen unfortunately from this government already where they seem to be locked into their ideology and in fact refuse to make movement when we know it's in the national interest or the provincial interest that we move forward.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I've got to say that it's been a long tradition on this side of the House, and everyone I think in the House understands how important the resource sector is to Saskatchewan's economy and how important it is that we get our exports to market. It's something that's important to our economy here, and when we can make that happen in a way that's both environmentally sustainable and economically viable and also meets the social needs . . . And we're thinking about if we are to eliminate poverty throughout the world and that people have a similar kind of standard of living, it's important that we make some movements on this.

So this is very, very important and we need to take the time to get behind this but make sure there are no unintended consequences, that we don't act recklessly, that our actions are purposeful and well thought out and strategic, and that we get the message clearly to the federal government: step up to the plate; make sure that the work gets done.

The one example — and I know that my colleague from Fairview, the critic for jobs, will talk more about this — and one particularly . . . And I'm surprised that the government side hasn't talked about this yet, and maybe they will in their next group, is talk about Evraz here in Regina and how important those jobs are to Evraz, and how that if this delay continues, that there will be layoffs, and what that means for the facility here, but more importantly for the people who work here.

And so this is a story that came out just about two months ago, February 2018, and the headline was, "Evraz North America says its Regina facility could face layoffs if the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion in B.C. is halted." And we need to make sure it continues. "Evraz was awarded the contract to build 275,000 tons of pipe in May last year," and of course they employ some 1,400 people, and what that will mean to the people here in the city of Regina.

So this is a multi-faceted concern that we have, whether it's the pipe, whether it's the oil, whether it's the work for the pipefitters, the people who work on the pipeline directly. And I think it's very important that we take this seriously but we put the pressure on the place where it is most likely to have some effect, and that is at the federal level.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you saw the polls that came out yesterday from Angus Reid Institute. And it was very interesting because this was a major poll and the release was dated April 18th, 2018 that gives a little bit more insight into what people across Canada are thinking. And of course the most interesting one now, we understand, is and I'll read the headline from CBC that was posted yesterday morning, "More British Columbians now support the Trans Mountain pipeline project . . . Nationally, 2 in 3 Canadians say B.C. is wrong . . . to stop the pipeline from moving forward."

So that's interesting to see how people are coming together across this. They're understanding the impact in Canada is huge. It's particularly important in British Columbia and Alberta, but we can't stand by because as an exporting province, we want to make sure that product gets to ports in Canada, that we have some control over that. And so that's very, very important.

I want to say that . . . I'll read actually from the polling itself done by Angus Reid Institute, Canada's non-profit foundation committed to independent research. And they went through a very thorough polling process both within Canada and, as I said, specifically in British Columbia. And some of the key findings are that two in three Canadians, 64 per cent, now say the BC government is wrong to block the pipeline, and that's a 9-percentage-point increase since February.

So that's pretty critical. And asked who's doing a good job in this conflict, what were people thinking about the leadership here in this crisis. Asked which leaders in the conflict are doing a good job or a bad job, just over 4 in 10 Canadians say Rachel Notley is doing a good job — 42 per cent. But, Mr. Speaker, fewer said this of the Prime Minister — 36 per cent — and then again Premier Horgan was at 31 per cent.

So we can see that really we need to put the pressure on Prime Minister Trudeau to get to work and do the job that he's supposed to do.

And so they talk about the events of the past weeks have arguably done more to focus national attention on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline than in the last two years. And so they want to see Justin Trudeau reassert the federal government's jurisdiction on the file. And that's very, very important.

So a very interesting report that we have from Angus Reid Institute on what's really happening in Canada, what people are feeling about this. They're saying you have to step up to the plate. This is what this motion says before us, so we can get behind that. And we say, hey, that is exactly how we called it, what our leader called it, and said it's a federal issue, that we have a national interest to make sure this pipeline, when it has met the National Energy Board's criteria — it's met its criteria — and well it has 157 stipulations to meet along the way. This morning when I was reading that, I think it's like a building certificate you get. You get it along the way so you can't say this is how I'm going to redo my basement, and it's all done. That's not how it works. It gets inspected along the way to make sure it's meeting the environmental standards, the economic standards, and social standards along the way.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're going to look forward to a lot of questions on this because it might be just, hey, I agree. Wouldn't that be interesting? Seventy-five minutes and it was, hey, I agree, you know. No, I know they probably want to throw other things in there. We're seeing they're throwing everything, including the kitchen sink, in. We'll see how that plays out in questions. But, Mr. Speaker, I think we all have to say this pipeline is in the provincial interest, whether it's Evraz, whether it's the oil sector. We think this is an important debate to have today. Thank you so much.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Trans Mountain pipeline is a very important topic since many jobs are related to this gas and oil industries, direct or indirect. Mr. Speaker, when we go outside these days, we need to zip up our fleece, grab our rain jackets and boots, all of which are made out of oil and gas. From sunglasses to flip-flops, running shoes

to umbrellas, pantyhose, shoe polishes, oil and gas products keep us protected, active, and stylish. Some world-famous brand names rely on oil and gas to deliver their unique benefits. For example, you can keep dry with Gore-Tex, stop a bullet with Kevlar, and stay connected with Velcro — all made with petroleum.

It is estimated that currently more than 6,000 products are made from oil and gas. Clothing is just one part of our life in which oil and gas play a part. In fact, there are literally thousands of products made from oil and gas, many of which you probably use every day. Things like fuel, cleaners, tools, plastics, sports equipment, safety gear, medicine, electronics, cosmetics, construction material, home furniture, and many more, Mr. Speaker.

By stopping Trans Mountain pipeline is actually an act to putting the country in crisis, affecting the whole chain of businesses around the country, and threatening thousands of jobs in Saskatchewan and in the country. Evraz has indicated that there could be layoffs at Regina plant if the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is halted. These are the jobs that employ real people. Those livelihoods and businesses are being threatened with obstructionist attacks on the fed-approved pipeline.

The members opposite have spoken about jobs a lot in recent months, but they do not seem to be grasping the incredible job losses that would come without supporting our energy industry. It is truly puzzling, Mr. Speaker. It is just a few people are talking of our economy into hostage, and totally unaware of economical consequences which result in a job loss, and shorten the food on the dining table.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan 33,430 jobs were created from oil and gas industries. And 533,000 total direct and indirect job-related in Canada, Mr. Speaker, individuals working in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

And faster wages growth connected to the industry's economic growth, even if they were not employed in energy sectors. Those people with a high school education working in Saskatchewan and in Alberta experience faster wage growth than those working with university degrees, resulting in the reduction of wage inequality.

Mr. Speaker, Canadian oil imports surged to their highest level in four years in 2016. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries barrels sailed into eastern Canadian refineries. The National Energy Board released data showing Canada imported 759,000 barrel of oil per day in 2016, which is the highest level of oil import received by country since 2012.

Mr. Speaker, NDP opposing Kinder Morgan pipeline, and having no problem when we import \$7 billion oil from other countries. They're threatening our economy, our growth, and our employment. Imports also come from Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Nigeria, and United Arab Emirates.

Algeria in particular sent 113 per cent more oil to Canada between 2015 and 2016, boosting shipment from an average of 39,000 barrels per day in 2015 to 84,000 barrels per day last year, as American supply ship their barrels elsewhere. Nigerian

oil imports also rose 80 per cent year over year; 73,700 barrels per day in 2016.

Similarly, Saudi Arabia has increased oil shipments to Canada from 73,000 barrels per day in 2014 to 84,000 barrels per day in 2015, and close to 87,000 barrels per day in 2016.

[11:45]

It seems crazy to me that people in BC who support the environment would prefer to buy their oil from Algeria and Saudi Arabia, countries not only with significantly worse environmental practice than Saskatchewan, but with abysmal human rights record.

Mr. Speaker, our government estimates that the lack of pipeline connection to tidewater costs Saskatchewan \$210 million in royalties in 2017, and the cost of Saskatchewan producers is \$2.6 billion.

According to Scotiabank, pipeline approval delays have imposed clear demonstrable and sustainable economic cost on the Canadian economy. If maintained at current level, the discount on the Western Canadian oil would shave 15.6 billion in revenue annually from the sector. Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely not wise that we import oil from other countries and leave Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector behind, at 15 per cent contribution in our GDP.

In 2017, Saskatchewan is number two in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and number seven in the world for the best investment climate for oil and gas according to the Fraser Institute. The value of the province's total oil production for 2017 significantly increased over the value of 2016, rising from 6.9 billion to \$9.2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, Trans Mountain pipeline is currently being blocked by John Horgan and the BC NDP. This has resulted in disputes between the Alberta and BC government, and Alberta has stated that they will go as far as shutting off the valves completely cutting off BC from its oil. And our Premier has stated that if this should happen, Saskatchewan will stand with Alberta, that when BC fuel tanks dry, Saskatchewan will not fill them up.

Then, Mr. Speaker, when asked then what about their thoughts, they say it is the federal matter; it is not our matter. Mr. Speaker, 64 per cent of Canadians agree with the statement that BC government is wrong to oppose the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. Unfortunately the members opposite seem to make up the minority who think BC is right. It shows that the members opposite are out of touch with not only the people of this province but with the majority of the people in this country, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is a news release from the Canadian energy board that:

Canada has a strong refining industry but processes only a fraction of its own crude oil production, according to the National Energy Board . . .

The refinery overview states that only 30 per cent of Canadian crude oil is processed by Canadian refineries.

This is mainly due to the size of Canada's refining industry compared to the resource size, the location of its refineries and the lack of cross-country pipeline connectivity.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly support our energy sector and that's why I will be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to enter into the debate on this motion today, although I have to say that I don't really think we're having much of a debate because I've read the text of the motion and we are in agreement with the text of the motion, Mr. Speaker. So I think there has been some miscommunication about what this whole debate is about.

But I'm happy to weigh in and provide some of my thoughts, Mr. Speaker, particularly in light of some of the rhetoric that we've heard from the other side in this debate or in this discussion. So I'm happy to weigh in and provide some of my thoughts.

So I will say that if we're looking at the text of the motion, Mr. Speaker, we are on the same page as the members opposite. This is a project that we support. It's a national project. It needs to go forward in order to serve the best interests of Saskatchewan people. We have been clear on that. Our leader has been clear on that statement.

This has been a position we have held for years on this side of the House so it's a little bit puzzling to me that the members opposite are coming in and stating that we are opposed to it for some reason. I'm wondering where they get their research from or what they're referring to because we are certainly in favour of this project going forward.

So we support the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline. It has been through an extensive process, which some of the other members have talked about, for National Energy Board approval. It meets the triple bottom-line standards so we know that it's going to be good for people and the planet as well as our economy, Mr. Speaker.

This is a process that was in place. People thought it was going forward, and now we have a gridlock, Mr. Speaker. So we have been in favour of this. We continue to stand in favour of this and I will expand a little bit about what some of those reasons are, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of the National Energy Board approval, some background on what happened there, Mr. Speaker. On December 16th, 2013 Trans Mountain filed a facilities application for the project with its regulator, the National Energy Board. On November 29th, 2016 the government of Canada granted approval for the project. In addition, on May 19th, 2016, following a 29-month review, National Energy Board concluded that the project is in the Canadian public interest and recommended the federal Governor in Council approve the expansion. These approvals will allow the project to proceed with the 157 conditions that my colleague from Saskatoon Centre identified.

There's been extensive consultation that's taken place in this process, Mr. Speaker, and this is one of the other reasons why we are supportive. For almost five years there were consultations with thousands of individuals through 159 open houses, workshops along with the pipeline and marine corridors, and more than 1,700 meetings between project team members and stakeholder groups. So we've seen extensive consultation take place in this project, Mr. Speaker.

This pipeline has tremendous importance to people across this country and also significant importance to people across the province, Mr. Speaker. The economic benefits are quite large.

The Conference Board of Canada has talked about some of the employment and fiscal benefits in a news release on January 6th, 2016. It goes, "benefits . . . to the Canadian economy extend well beyond the construction and operations of the pipeline." It estimates:

. . . three new impacts associated with the project . . . would generate 678,000 person-years of employment and \$18.5 billion in revenues for federal and provincial governments over the first 20 years of operations. That works out to an average of almost \$1 billion in economic activity and nearly 34,000 jobs annually for 20 years.

Also, according to the National Energy Board, "Benefits of the Project," this is a summary of their overall recommendations on the expansion project, Mr. Speaker:

increased access to diverse markets for Canadian oil; thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of long-term jobs directly related to the Project across Canada; the development of capacity of local and Indigenous individuals, communities and businesses; considerable benefit from direct spending on pipeline materials in Canada; and considerable government revenues from the Project.

And it goes on and on. And I've got some other sources here, but I don't have that much time, Mr. Speaker. So there are benefits to the project.

Some of the benefits that I think we need to spend some time talking about, Mr. Speaker, are the benefits to workers right here in Saskatchewan, right here in Regina, in particular at Evraz and that's the steelworkers, Mr. Speaker. And some of my colleagues have alluded to the fact that Evraz has an extensive contract here. We're talking about 75 per cent of the steel for this project being an Evraz contract.

My colleagues and I, a few of them, had an opportunity to meet with the steelworkers USW [United Steelworkers] 5890 earlier this year to talk about the implications of this project for them. We very well understood the implications, and I'll share a couple of them. We know that this is over a year of work at full tilt for them, Mr. Speaker.

We're also talking about 1,100 jobs that we could see lost. And I have an article here from the *Regina Leader-Post* on February 8th that says, "Evraz says layoffs likely in Regina if Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is halted." So I'll just read a couple of pieces of that article, Mr. Speaker:

Workers in Regina started building pipeline for the expansion in October . . . production is to continue until May 2019. [So it's about a year and a half of production, Mr. Speaker.] Evraz was awarded the contract to build 275,000 tons of pipe in May last year. Evraz employs approximately 1,400 people throughout its Regina plant . . .

Asked Thursday if jobs at the Regina plant would be affected were the project to be stopped, Evraz spokesman Christian Messmacher said in an email there would be "significant layoffs." He said production capacity could change based on what orders the plant receives from the company heading Trans Mountain, Kinder Morgan.

And I've got some other sources here, Mr. Speaker, but the main point here is we are concerned about jobs. We are concerned about these good-paying steelworker jobs that are in our province. Evraz has low carbon emissions. You know, they use some recycled steel. It's quite something to learn about their processes, Mr. Speaker.

We want to be able to keep these jobs in the province. This is going to have a significant impact for us in Saskatchewan if it does not go forward. So we need to protect these jobs. We stand with Saskatchewan producers. We know that our economy is resource based and the expansion of this pipeline is important to Saskatchewan.

What we are missing at this point in time is leadership from the federal government, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister's job is to keep provinces moving in the same direction and that has not happened right now. And as my colleague from Saskatoon Centre identified, people are not happy with how Prime Minister Trudeau is dealing with this. He identified the most recent Angus Reid survey that talked about the leadership that we're seeing at the federal level, or the lack thereof.

And this is an important piece, Mr. Speaker, but I think it's also important to look a bit at what the Sask Party's record has been on this file. And the Sask Party has failed to address climate change and is clinging to this idea that they need to gain credibility on this file because they've lost their credibility on the environment. It makes them harder to move forward. They've failed to lay an inch of pipeline to tidewater over 10 years. They've cut funding for climate change and green energy, Mr. Speaker, and they have no plan to reduce greenhouse gases.

So the members opposite have a role to play in this as well, Mr. Speaker. We're looking for leadership at the federal level. We continue to be united in calling on the Prime Minister to act and to be able to move this pipeline forward, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The time for 65 minutes of debate is over. Now it's time for 10 minutes of questions. I recognize the . . . Questions, questions . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well it's usually them, but I recognize Saskatoon University.

Mr. Olason: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on May 3rd, 2012, the member from Athabasca as well as others from that side of the House voted against a motion to support Keystone XL

pipeline. Move forward to today, Mr. Speaker, and the member from Athabasca said he and the NDP wholeheartedly support pipelines. My question is for the member from Athabasca: how can you possibly convince the people of Saskatchewan you support pipelines, considering you don't seem to know yourself?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we voted against, Mr. Speaker, at the time was the fact that the Sask Party had record revenues and then they had record tax increases and now we have record debt, Mr. Speaker.

[12:00]

And the point I was making at the time, Mr. Speaker, is that despite the fact that we had an industry that was thriving in the province of Saskatchewan, all that debt, all those tax increases hurt industry right across the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I go back to my earlier point. How many inches of pipeline did they build when they had record revenue and record tax increases? Not one inch, Mr. Speaker. So we don't take any lessons from him as to how to build the economy of Saskatchewan and the entire Sask Party caucus.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes you have to really wonder about where they get their research done. I've noticed a real decline in the quality of research over there and the consistency.

Now I want to ask this question here. In June of 2016, the Sask Party put forward a debate on important pipelines, but failed to include Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline. To the member from Regina Pasqua: why did the members opposite not include Kinder Morgan in this debate, and why did they not support this pipeline from the very beginning? Why?

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a member from the other side, a few members agree with the Leap Manifesto and a few people, a few members agree that Kinder Morgan should go ahead. The members who agree with Kinder Morgan should go ahead, I hope they will not go out and change their minds as the Leader of the Opposition did that other day, Mr. Speaker. Thanks.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our leader has been front and centre on this file since day one, and the federal NDP leader has categorically stated his opposition to the Kinder Morgan project. I wonder if the member from Saskatoon Centre could share with us any specific correspondence and/or discussions that his leader has had with the federal leader or the leader of the BC NDP in supporting this file. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member of Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — You know, Mr. Speaker, this is really an odd question coming from that side when that exact side over there with their federal . . . When they had a prime minister, Harper couldn't get anything done, couldn't get a thing done. So what are they . . . This is interesting. You really shouldn't live in glass houses. So this is really odd, the pot calling the kettle black. Very odd, very odd indeed. So, Mr. Speaker, the question remains, after all these years, after all this money this government has had, they haven't been able to deliver one inch of pipeline to salt water, Mr. Speaker. Why?

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A segue, my question to the member from Kindersley: as pointed out by my very learned friend from Saskatoon Centre, the question I have for you . . . Just give me the information. I want to ask the member from Kindersley, how many inches of pipeline to tidewater have been built under the Sask Party government's watch? Can you give me an answer?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the member from Athabasca for the biggest softball I've ever seen in my life. Mr. Speaker, and to the member: we don't build pipelines in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, for NEB [National Energy Board] projects. We do not have any authority to approve NEB projects in this province.

And I'm as new, I'm as green as grass, and the member from Athabasca's been here a lot longer than I, Mr. Speaker, so he should probably be able to know some of this information better than I. But the NEB controls pipelines across our provincial borders, Mr. Speaker, and it is not a mandate of this House to handle those matters. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've seen over the past few months incredibly weak leadership from the Leader of the Opposition. When it comes to the federal carbon tax, wave the white flag. Yesterday in his scrum on the issue of pipeline debates, he said it's a federal issue and the province shouldn't take any action. Well, Mr. Speaker, he's got an opportunity to show leadership. We know that he received a substantial contribution from John Horgan and the BC NDP, so obviously he's got a relationship with them.

Could the member for Saskatoon Fairview confirm to this House that indeed her leader has actually shown some leadership, phoned his counterpart in BC, and defended Saskatchewan's interests?

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the member opposite for the question. I think our Leader of the Opposition has shown tremendous leadership on this file. He has been, in a word that the members across like to use a lot with their previous premier, "unequivocal" in his support for Kinder Morgan, and I've been proud of that. So I think that

there is no question on this, Mr. Speaker. And I think that the members opposite can do a little bit more research, read through *Hansard*, pay attention to the scrums, and they will have a better idea of what our position is on this file.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the issue of credibility and weak leadership, we have a lot of questions for the government over there, and the leadership.

And so to the member from Melfort, I have this question. What are they going to do to improve their credibility on files like this when they have such weak leadership? We see cuts to the climate change branch, some 18 per cent. We see dropping the ball on the \$62 million in green infrastructure. They're getting simply outsmarted by Trudeau. What are they going to do to up their game over there?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member of Saskatoon Centre. But you know, when I see what's going on here with the pipeline today, Mr. Speaker, it's our Premier who is showing great leadership in going to speak with the Prime Minister. And he seems to be the one leading the charge when it should be the Prime Minister of our country, as it's under their jurisdiction. And I appreciate the fact that I've heard from the other side that they are onside, and I look forward to them supporting our Premier as he pursues moving the pipeline forwards. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join in this conversation and debate today. And, Mr. Speaker, I've heard a lot of fairy tales coming from that side of the House, especially from the member for Athabasca. And when he talks about not building an inch of pipeline, and how they know how to be stewards of the economy, it makes me laugh, Mr. Speaker. They had 16 years to try and work with people of this province to build an economy, and they failed each and every time. People left this province in droves because they drove them out because there was no economic opportunity for people, for businesses, for entrepreneurs.

So to the member from Athabasca — who I do understand he's been here for a long, long time — but if in fact it does come to pass that there has been some pipelines built, and I know he added on "to tidewater" just in his last question . . . But, Mr. Speaker, if he does not believe there's been any pipelines built, will he go to Evraz and tell those employees, you've built no pipelines? Will he go to Evraz and tell those people, you don't need your jobs?

So to the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker: will he admit that there's hard-working people at Evraz that have built pipelines and contributed to this economy?

The Speaker: — Recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, if the member from Regina

Walsh Acres wants a lesson as to what we did when we were in government, it took us 15 of the 16 years we were in government cleaning up the last Tory mess. Let's not forget, let's not forget your history. And the member from Regina Walsh Acres, you only got two more days before your federal nomination and then you're out of here. We will stay here and continue fighting for Evraz and the people of Saskatchewan as long as we're sitting here.

The Speaker: — Time for a 75-minute debate thankfully is over.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 606

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 606 — *The Election (Fairness and Accountability) Amendment Act, 2017*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm really honoured to be able to rise and speak to this bill. I think it's one of the most fundamental bills that has been brought forward in this Assembly, probably since I got elected, because this deals with the essence of democracy, and that is fairness, Mr. Speaker.

Big money has crept into the Saskatchewan political donation lexicon in many ways. And I think it's a real problem for fairness in democracy and that people are very, very concerned about the attitude of this government when it comes to big money.

I just want to start off by talking about a Mainstreet poll that was conducted in 2016 because I think this is a bit of a shock for this government. And obviously this government doesn't really care what the people of Saskatchewan think and they just keep doing what they want to do. And the problem is that a vast majority of people in Saskatchewan actually reject what this government is doing when it comes to using out-of-province donations, and this government has turned a blind eye. They have become tone-deaf when it comes to what people think in Canada, and particularly here in Saskatchewan, about their actions collecting out-of-province donations.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, members opposite are saying they can't hear me but that doesn't make sense because they must be hearing me. But obviously they choose to ignore the people of Saskatchewan and what people of Saskatchewan care about when they continue to stubbornly go ahead with the out-of-date laws we have when it comes to campaign donations.

Since 2006 we know the Sask Party has received funding from registered charities, cities, towns, and municipalities, universities, local school boards, regional health authorities, and

Crown corporations. You have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, how that can be seen as acceptable. They also have accepted, and this is the real kicker, Mr. Speaker, over \$3 million from out-of-province donors. Two million alone came from corporate donors in Alberta. So you have to ask yourself, what do those corporate donors expect in return? And how does that serve the people of Saskatchewan when they are collecting money from corporate donors in Alberta? How is that serving the public interest of people here in this province?

And, Mr. Speaker, when you talk about influence and you talk about . . . If they weren't so concerned about it, Mr. Speaker, maybe they should just pass the law. This is a very simple bill, and it sounds like they actually support it.

Now this bill, I just want to go through some of the numbers. Seventy per cent of people believe in Saskatchewan . . . This is people from every one of their ridings. Seventy per cent of people in Saskatchewan think that we should not be allowed to collect out-of-province money. That's 70 per cent. Only 10 per cent of your voters believe that you should be doing what you're doing, only 10 per cent.

And we're certainly onside with this bill, Mr. Speaker. So if this government had any courage at all, if they had any breath of courage, they would support this bill and they would have passed it already years ago. I hope that many of you are talking to your 70 per cent of your electorate who are telling you that this is a wrong bill. This bill is . . . This is the right bill. The actions of this government are wrong.

Other questions that have been asked about registered charities and government-funded organizations, should they be allowed to donate to our political parties? Eighty per cent of Saskatchewan people are saying no. And what's most embarrassing about the actions of this government and makes Saskatchewan people look bad is that we're the only province who does this, Mr. Speaker. We're the only province in Canada. It makes us look unbelievable. It makes us look . . . the wild west really. And I think that's what it's been called by people. For example, CBC did a report that said the province has a reputation as being the wild west when it comes to campaign finance laws. Mr. Speaker, is that how we want our province to be viewed by the rest of Canada, the wild west? It's embarrassing. It's embarrassing and it's a disgrace to what democracy means, where everybody's vote should have the same amount of influence, Mr. Speaker. But when we're taking \$2 million from corporate donors in Alberta, I think that really sort of colours what the individual feels about how their vote matters, or not, Mr. Speaker.

Even during their leadership campaign, Mr. Speaker, a number of their leaders took donations from different corporations. Alanna Koch had 29 corporations who donated to her campaign. The Premier had 27 companies contributing to his campaign. And I think the member from Willowgrove raised the most money overall. Thirty per cent of his \$165,000 in donations came from five companies that donated \$10,000 each to his campaign. Even the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker, he got . . . Nearly 20 per cent of his donations came from one company, Redhead Equipment. And the next company that gave him a lot of money was Regina-based Pow City Mechanical. They gave him \$10,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm having a little bit of difficulty even hearing myself with the member from Martensville and the member from Indian Head and Walsh Acres offering their commentary. They certainly would have the opportunity to discuss this bill at some point if they wanted to step up to the plate.

[12:15]

Perhaps we could find out what they think about Saskatchewan people being incredibly disappointed in this province's lax wild west campaign contribution laws. Mr. Speaker, they're not listening to the people they represent, and that is shameful. If they're not going to listen to the people they represent, then who are they listening to? Well I think we know, Mr. Speaker, when we see the amount of corporate donations that come in from outside of the province.

Now I have a suggestion for the members opposite. If they don't like the particular bill that my colleague has tabled and they don't like the way it's worded, why don't we look at what some other provinces are doing?

In British Columbia, if you look at their *Election Act*, you will see first of all a definition of who can contribute. And that definition says this, Mr. Speaker:

"eligible individual" means an individual who is, or was immediately before the date of the individual's death,

(a) a resident of British Columbia, and

(b) a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident as defined in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* . . .

Only individuals, only individuals can contribute in British Columbia. So take that back to your caucus meetings, folks.

Section 186 of the British Columbia Act says:

A person must not make a political contribution unless the person is an eligible individual.

So that's a choice. BC legislation. What does the Alberta legislation . . . If you don't like David . . . or the member from Saskatoon Centre's wording . . . Apologies to my colleague. If you don't like the wording suggested in Bill 606, what about Alberta? Maybe that would be more acceptable to the members opposite. That is called the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act* and it says in section 16(1):

Only a person ordinarily resident in Alberta may make a contribution to a registered party, registered constituency association, registered nomination contestant, registered leadership contestant or registered candidate.

Alberta has gone further. They've actually got a limit on contributions and that's section 17(1). You might want to consider that:

Contributions by a person ordinarily resident in Alberta shall not exceed in any year \$4000 . . .

And it goes on to say under what conditions.

Now if BC, Alberta, and the Saskatchewan bill aren't good enough for members opposite, how about the Manitoba bill, Mr. Speaker? Let's have a look at that one. Section 33 says:

Only an individual normally resident in Manitoba may make a contribution. A person or organization other than an individual normally resident in Manitoba must not make a contribution.

And section 34 tells us that there are limits and it's a \$5,000 annual contribution limit. So that's where Manitoba's gone.

Now if Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC aren't good enough for these members opposite, what about Ontario? Let's have a look at Ontario. Contributions, section 16(1):

Contributions to parties, constituency associations, nomination contestants, candidates and leadership contestants registered under this Act may be made only by persons individually.

Mr. Speaker, so there's another choice for members opposite to consider maybe that 80 per cent of people of Saskatchewan would like them to take action on.

Okay. If they don't like BC, they don't like Alberta, they don't like Saskatchewan's proposal here on the floor, they don't like Manitoba's choice, they don't like Ontario's choice, well maybe we should look at Quebec, Mr. Speaker. What does the Quebec law say about contributions for political campaigns? This says:

The contributor must sign . . . a declaration stating that his contribution is made out of his own property, voluntarily, without compensation or consideration and that it cannot be reimbursed in any way. In addition, the name of the employer of the contributor is now required on the contribution receipt.

Now that goes a little further than what's being tabled here I think, but you could show where the people of Quebec take this very seriously, Mr. Speaker, and they listen to what the people they represent would like to have them do.

This prohibition in Quebec, who is allowed to make donations:

Legal persons [such as] (companies, unions, etc.) are strictly forbidden from making contributions.

And when an offence is committed with respect to those provisions, you can be fined from \$5,000 up to \$20,000 and you would also suffer some loss of rights.

So this is a very, very punitive law, and I'm sure members opposite are going to, you know, go home and think about this and take a look at some of the election laws that are in place across Canada. Because I'm sure they really care about what their members and what their electorate wants them to do and represent the will of the people, because that's what they were elected to do, Mr. Speaker.

In Quebec the total amount that any individual can contribute, Mr. Speaker, is \$100. Now I'm not thinking that this bill is going that far. It's not saying you can only contribute \$100. So I think, you know, we're kind of settling into the middle of the pack here when it comes to the bill that's on the table today, the bill that we're debating. So I don't think members opposite would be interested maybe in going as far as Quebec, but you know, it is something that they may want to take a look at if they truly want to represent the people that elected them.

Nova Scotia . . . Why don't we keep going further east, Mr. Speaker? What's happening in Nova Scotia? We're talking about section 236 of the *Elections Act*, and there it says:

An individual resident in the province may make a contribution to one or more . . . parties . . .

And there is a total in subsection (3), a cap of \$5,000.

So that's where Nova Scotia's at — individuals only, and certainly not out-of-province. They have to be living in the province and they can't spend more than 5,000. That sounds very similar I think to the bill that's on the table here today. So the citizens of Nova Scotia and the Government of Nova Scotia has heard the people and they've taken that action.

Newfoundland is part of the wild west, Mr. Speaker. Currently they're the only other province in Canada that allows donations by corporations and trade unions. So that's the one outlier other than Canada.

And of course we can look at the federal law as well. The federal doesn't have . . . I don't think they have a cap on donations. But there is a prohibition, and here is what it says: section 363(1) of *Canada Elections Act*. And it says:

No person or entity other than an individual who is a Canadian citizen or is a permanent resident as defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* shall make a contribution to a registered party, a registered association, a nomination contestant, a candidate or a leadership contestant.

And if you will recall, Mr. Speaker, that is the same clause that we find in the BC legislation.

So I think this is something that I'm hoping backbenchers will have the courage to bring up to their cabinet. And so, you know, it's time for us to move forward into the 21st century, Mr. Speaker. It's time for our government to show some leadership here, and it's time for our government to listen, truly listen, to what the people of Saskatchewan want.

And what concerns me more than anything, Mr. Speaker, is the appearance of influence. Whether or not there's been much said by the former premier that, you know, we have to represent the people that do business here too. That's not the goal of democracy at this point in time. It's one person, one vote. And that's a cherished value that I think this nation, the western world, and anywhere where democracy is the chosen form of government, where there's one person, one vote. That sort of distorts, Mr. Speaker, what that concept of one person, one vote is.

And when you think about . . . I think about people that don't even want to vote, Mr. Speaker, because they don't feel like they're being counted. And when they see news stories like CBC reporting \$2 million coming from corporations in Alberta . . . Those corporations can't even donate money in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, but they're allowed to donate outside of Alberta. How can that possibly be right?

And we know that the former premier, Brad Wall, was taking a top-up from his party, that the corporate donations to the party were being used to fund his own salary, Mr. Speaker. That is something I think the people of Saskatchewan, and obviously the results of the poll, tell us, that it's overwhelmingly unpopular with the people that elect these people, Mr. Speaker, the people who have elected all of us. And when it's that unpopular, Mr. Speaker, you would think that the backbenchers would start talking to the cabinet members, that they would say, come on you guys, we need to have a fair and democratic system of voting here. We're way behind the eight ball when it comes to the entire country except, of course, Newfoundland.

And, Mr. Speaker, that they would actually encourage their cabinet to have the courage to take a look at Bill 606 perhaps, perhaps the Alberta bill, maybe the BC bill, and the Manitoba bill. How about the Ontario bill? Maybe the Quebec bill, although I think that goes a little far, maybe even for this side of the House. The Nova Scotia bill, how about those, Mr. Speaker? They're simple clauses and all they say is you have to be an individual resident in the jurisdiction that you're voting in. Mr. Speaker, this isn't rocket science, and I think it goes to credibility. I think it goes to credibility of the people that are making the decisions affecting all of us, Mr. Speaker.

And again, I think of people who have trouble getting to the polls. I think of people who feel disenfranchised. And when they see these kinds of stories you can understand why voter turnouts are becoming quite low in this province. And I think that's something else that we need to be alarmed about when we want true representation by one person, one vote.

I think these kinds of voter turnouts signify . . . and are alarming and should encourage the government of the day to say, we need to take this seriously. We need to understand why 80 per cent of the people that live in this province do not like our campaign donation laws, why 80 percent of the people of this province do not like the fact that \$2 million came from Alberta alone to support the coffers of this government, Mr. Speaker. Three million dollars in total outside the province came to fill the coffers of this government, who continues to put information out publicly about myself, for example, that is incorrect, and they choose to deliberately do that, Mr. Speaker.

Even the member opposite said today something that's deliberately incorrect, and they don't get called on it, Mr. Speaker. They don't get called on it. And the member from Regina said something about me that is incorrect, and he should apologize for it. The previous premier used to say it frequently, as did Bill Boyd, and they were not correct when it came to that comment, Mr. Speaker, so . . .

An Hon. Member: — Point of order.

The Speaker: — What's your point of order?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Three times the member opposite accused members of this side of making incorrect statements in the House, deliberately making incorrect statements. I would ask that she withdraw that and apologize.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I will tell you . . . I will withdraw and apologize, but I'll tell you what they are saying about me.

The Speaker: — [Inaudible] . . . the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I was paying close attention to the member's speech. Her words that she was using were well within the definition of parliamentary language. I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, to review the record.

The Speaker: — I'll review the record and report back. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — I think it's incredibly interesting how touchy these folk are, but when they say that I supported the Leap Manifesto, I never did. And I want to put that on the record here today. I have never, ever supported Leap Manifesto, but there are many, many individuals across the way who like to say that I did.

Now if I can't use that word that the House Leader was so offended by, I'm not sure what words are available that is parliamentary. But I can tell you that several of these members, and I can show you *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker, where they state that I supported the Leap Manifesto. I didn't. So I would like to know why people like saying things that are not correct.

What can I say, Mr. Speaker? What can I say? But those guys get away with it all the time and I'm tired of it. So it's time for them to apologize for saying things about me that I never said. And I think that's fully within the parliamentary rules, Mr. Speaker. Every one of them who has said that publicly should be apologizing to me. But do you think they'll have the courage to do that? I think . . .

The Speaker: — Yes, let's move on with the motion. And I will review. I will review. But move on to the motion, please.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that you review every one of the members opposite who have said those things about me as part of your review. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this government is not serving the people of Saskatchewan by refusing to pass this bill. This government should have the courage to reflect the will of the people of Saskatchewan and to have fair election contribution laws. Bill 606 is such a law, and if they're so offended by the fact that it's a private member's law, maybe they could look at some of our neighbours across this fine country and have a look at what other people in Canada are doing, because this law is important right now for them to have credibility, and for them to properly represent the people that have elected them. And we need to move forward on this, Mr. Speaker.

[12:30]

So at this point . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Union donations, they get all hung up on that. If this member opposite would actually read the bill, she would see that union donations are included. So why is she so het up about that, Mr. Speaker? Why is she so excited about union donations when they're in the bloody bill? Excuse me, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — That's definitely unparliamentary. I'd ask the member to withdraw.

Ms. Sproule: — I absolutely withdraw and apologize for that comment, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately, members opposite haven't even read the bill because they don't realize that union contributions are included as ones that should be banned, Mr. Speaker. So their indignance and their huffing and puffing about union donations means they don't even take the time to read the bill, Mr. Speaker. And that is a shame and it's a disgrace and it's something that these members opposite need to remember who they're representing.

And so, Mr. Speaker, if they don't have the courage to pass this bill, then they should at least have the courage to pass some form of contribution bill that brings us in line with the rest of Canada, because right now we look bad, Mr. Speaker. That's the end of my comments. I'm going to adjourn the debate on this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that this House do now adjourn for the day.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that the Assembly be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:32.]

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