



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

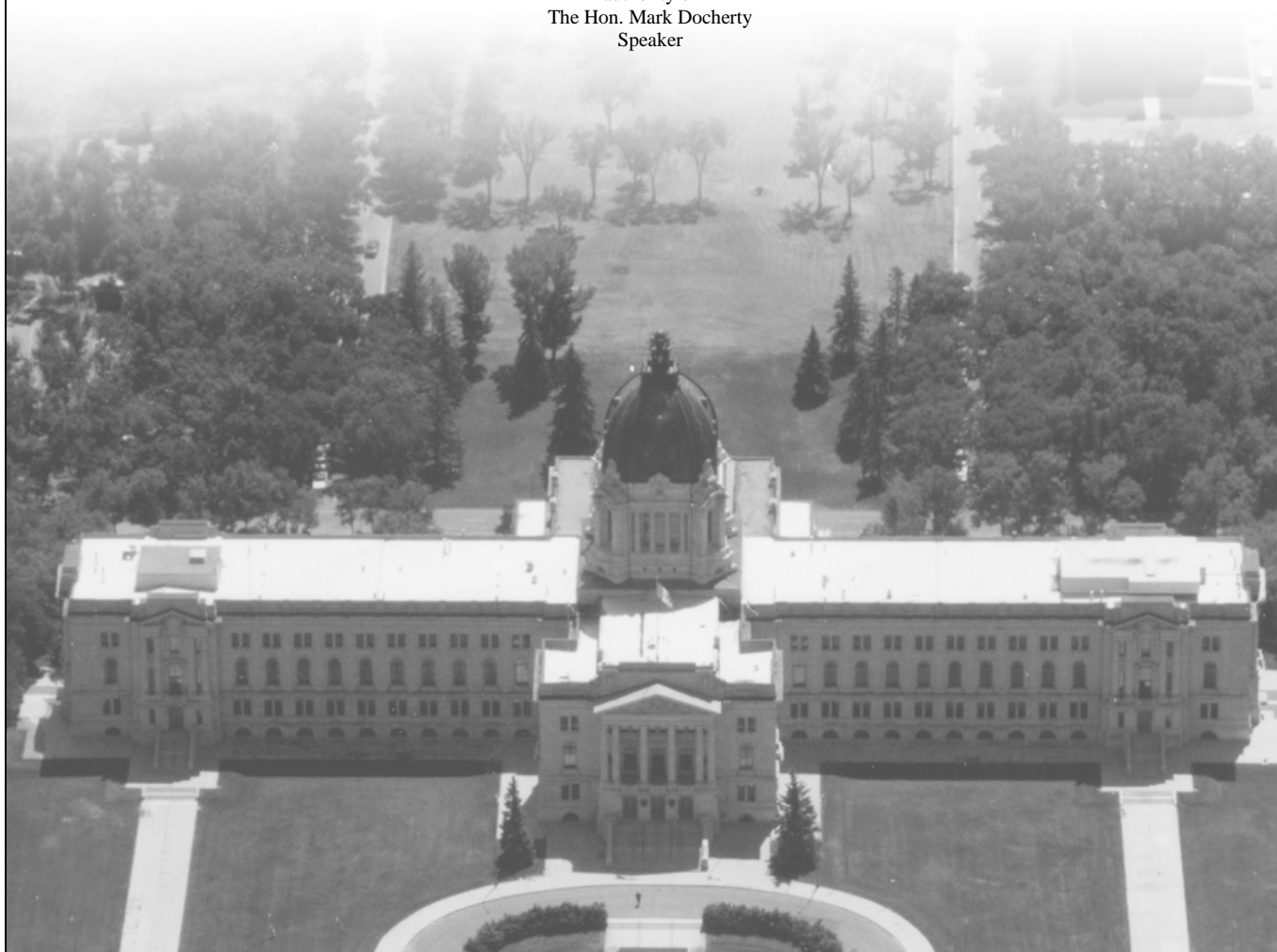
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



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

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Northeast

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members of the House for the time here this morning. And it brings me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to this legislature, a very special guest that is seated in your gallery. And with us today, Mr. Speaker, is Mrs. Abhilasha Joshi, the consul general of India in Vancouver, and Mr. Dinesh Mehta, the vice-consul of India.

Mr. Speaker, this is the consul general's first official visit to Saskatchewan, and we are pleased to welcome her to this great province. Consul Joshi is an experienced diplomat, Mr. Speaker, with more than 20 years of service, a distinguished career that includes postings in Portugal as well as in Brazil.

Mr. Speaker, the consul general has a busy agenda during her visit here. She's already met with the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister Responsible for Export and Trade, the Provincial Secretary, His Honour, and the Lieutenant Governor. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to meeting with the consul general later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan and India enjoy a very special relationship, a relationship that has many dimensions. The province of Saskatchewan is Canada's top exporter to India, shipping about \$1.1 billion worth of goods last year alone. Saskatchewan is India's largest supplier of lentils and peas, as well as a major source of potash. And since 2015, uranium mined in northern Saskatchewan has contributed to India's energy security and has helped India meet its climate change objectives.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to our trade ties, Saskatchewan and India have a well-established educational partnership. Currently there are 23 agreements in place between our province's post-secondary institutions and their counterparts in the nation of India. More than 1,000 students from India are currently studying in the province of Saskatchewan.

India has also made a major contribution to the remarkable population growth in our province over the past decade. We've welcomed more than 14,000 people from India since 2007 who currently make Saskatchewan home, and these newcomers have

enriched and strengthened our province beyond measure.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan and India have a thriving commercial partnership that stretches back decades, but more than that, we are good friends. Our friendship is getting deeper by the day, and it's getting stronger each and every year. And today we are honoured that our good friend, Consul General Joshi, could visit our province, and we hope that she can return very soon. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this legislature to join me in welcoming these guests.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the Premier in saying welcome and namaskār to Mr. Mehta and Mrs. Joshi, and I guess a bem-vindo to Mrs. Joshi as well. Good to see you, and thank you very much for being here. And it's a wonderful thing to be able to have this visit and to be able to celebrate the existing partnerships, this Indo-Canadian connection and Indo-Saskatchewan connection that is becoming stronger by the year.

The Premier mentioned the important trade in lentils and chickpeas and in the mining sector as well and, of course, along with the economic connection, the growing cultural and community connection. I know members on this side, even in the past week, were at Hindu vegetarian suppers, iftar dinners, and Nagar Kirtan parades. So the way in which the Indo-Canadian community is contributing to the life of Saskatchewan is noticeable year after year, and I'd like to thank the members to join me in saying welcome and thank you for joining us today.

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

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce several people seated in your gallery. First of all, Mr. Carlo Triolo, general manager of United Group in Saskatoon; and Shondra Boire, operations manager of Comfort Cabs — thanks for standing — both of whom are members of the Saskatchewan Taxi Cab Association. I want to thank them for coming down here today.

And we look forward to continuing to work with the STCA [Saskatchewan Taxi Cab Association] to discuss possible ride share options for the province. I've met with STCA on a few occasions, as have some of my colleagues, and I want to thank them for their insight and for being part of the consultation process.

I encourage all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming Mr. Carlo and Ms. Boire to their Legislative Assembly, and for being here as part of the delegation today as we enter into committee on Bill No. 114. I'd like to thank them for their advocacy on behalf of their industry, and for their insight. And I would invite all members

to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a moment to introduce some honoured guests seated in your gallery this afternoon. They are victims services volunteer victim support workers. These are the volunteers who reach out with compassion when others are in crisis.

We recognize the volunteers today as we mark Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. We thank them every day for the work that they dedicate and the time that they spend in helping people across our province. Today our honoured guests are celebrating some milestones: 10, 20, and 25 years doing what they do.

With us today we have the 10-year recipients: Monica Pieczonka and Sheila Nicholson with Regina Victim Services, Marion MacDonald with Southeast Victim Services, Marie Hildebrandt and Gale Stonehouse with Battlefords Victim Services, Don Teniuk with Parkland Victim Services.

The 20-year recipients are Margaret Minski with Battlefords Victim Services, Anita Klocho with Parkland Victim Services, Doug Haroldson with Southwest Victim Services.

And finally the 25-year recipient is Gerry Pepler, who is a board member with Parkland Victim Services.

There are currently 220 volunteer victim support workers whose selfless work makes Saskatchewan a better place to live and to be. In 2017-2018 volunteer victim support workers gave over 10,300 hours of their time to help 11,821 victims of crime and tragedy.

I was honoured to have lunch and meet with our guests today and am grateful for the work that they do for us every day. So I would ask today, Mr. Speaker, that we join with me in welcoming all of these people to the legislature but, more importantly, to thank them for the work that they do without compensation. And it makes our province a truly great place to be.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these victim services volunteer victim support workers here in the legislature today. I'd like to thank them and all volunteer support workers for their selfless efforts in supporting victims through what is one of the most

traumatic times in their life.

Thank you so much for being here today, but also for all the work that you do. It's very important work, and we should remember to thank you and all volunteers, not just on special days like today, but every day, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce Bruce Bodine, who's here today on behalf of the Saskatchewan Mining Association and Saskatchewan Mining Week. Accompanying Bruce is Tyler Hopson, manager of public affairs with Mosaic.

Bruce is senior vice-president, potash for the Mosaic Company. He has contributed greatly to the Saskatchewan mining industry with his experience and professionalism. He began his career with Mosaic in 1999 as part of a predecessor company, holding leadership positions in engineering and plant management before taking on the role of vice-president, operations for Mosaic's Esterhazy and Colonsay potash production facilities. Bruce also serves as director for the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me today in welcoming Bruce and Tyler to their Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to join with the minister to welcome Bruce Bodine and Tyler Hopson to their Assembly. Of course I thank them for their leadership of a very important company and industry within our province, Mosaic potash. I thank Bruce for his leadership of the Saskatchewan Mining Association. I had the privilege to join with other members on both sides of the Assembly for their Mining Week launch here today, as well as a luncheon with a speech from the president of the Canadian Mining Association. Certainly mining is incredibly important to this province, and I thank these members and their organizations for their leadership within our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for a couple of introductions.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for a couple of introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — I should have said extended. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker.

To you and all the members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce some special guests in the west gallery today. Joining us are several representatives from the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, often known by its acronym, SACHM. It is a charitable organization committed to strengthening multiculturalism as well as celebrating and preserving the history, heritage, and contributions of Canadians of African ancestry. With us today are Vice-Chair Winnifred Rogers, Carol LaFayette-Boyd, Reggie Newkirk, Blair Dixon, Barry Rogers, Allen Ssemmanda, and Christine Lwanga. I believe I got all of them.

Our guests are here today to join me in recognizing a very unique book about a special man in Saskatchewan history. Dr. Alfred Schmitz Shadd was an early Saskatchewan pioneer who left his mark as a doctor, teacher, farmer, journalist, politician, and community member. He first came to what was Saskatchewan — or what was the North-West Territories, later became Saskatchewan — in 1896. He eventually got his doctor degree and set up a medical practice in the Melfort area, where he became an admired member of the community.

In celebration of Dr. Shadd's African ancestry, SACHM created a children's book as a legacy project to honour Saskatchewan's shared history and multicultural heritage. *Li'l Shadd: A Story of Ujima* gives young readers the opportunity to get to know one of the country's first African-Canadian pioneers. The book was written by Alix Lwanga, is beautifully illustrated by Miriam Körner from Air Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Dr. Alfred Shadd is an important chapter of Saskatchewan history and in particular that of the Melfort area. People of African descent are a part of the founding figures of this province. Dr. Shadd made important contributions to our development around the turn of the century and as Saskatchewan became a province.

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and the Government of Saskatchewan have purchased copies of the book, enough for every school in the province. Furthermore, thanks to the Ministry of Education, *Li'l Shadd* has been approved to be added to the curriculum for grades 1 to 5.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly, thanking them for their dedication and hard work, and saluting multiculturalism as one of our core values as a province today and into the future.

And part two here, Mr. Speaker. Also in the west gallery, I'd like to introduce to all the members Mr. Jim Burnett, who is soon to retire from Sask Sport and Saskatchewan Lotteries after a 42-year career, including 36 years as the general manager. Jim is joined by his wife today, Kelly; his son Gord and his daughter Samantha; and two grandsons, Hunter and Jett, are here today. Thanks for being here.

Jim began his career with Sask Sport as a marketing representative in 1976. Back then his job involved going door to door, visiting convenience stores and confectionaries to set them up as lottery retailers. He retired from general manager in 2016 and has been working part-time with the corporation up until now.

[13:45]

He was quite an athlete in his younger days, I understand. He was inducted into the U of R [University of Regina] Hall of Fame in 2003 as an athlete. With more than three and a half decades under Jim's leadership, Sask Sport has grown to be the recognized gold standard for amateur sport governance across the country.

Jim was appointed to the board of governors of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation in 1984, and has served our province and the thousands of beneficiaries of the lottery system on this board since that day, including five terms as Chair of the board. Jim was also appointed as Saskatchewan representative to the Board of the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation in 1987.

Jim is one of the major reasons, Mr. Speaker, our province has an enviable lottery-funded system for sport, culture, and recreation. As many members know, Saskatchewan lotteries is the main fundraiser for more than 12,000 sport, culture, and recreation groups that provide quality activities across our province. Volunteers remain the focus of the system and Jim has been instrumental in supporting the work of this vast network. Under Jim's leadership, Sask Sport has benefited amateur sport across the province and has been a fantastic steward of the Lotteries Trust Fund. Throughout his career, Jim ensured Sask Sport stayed true to its vision, never wavering from the belief that sport is for everyone and it does make a difference in people's lives.

Thank you, Jim, for your amazing commitment to our province. I ask all members to help me congratulate Jim on a wonderful career and his enjoyable time in his retirement. Thank you for your service.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming these two very important delegations to their Legislative Assembly. Certainly as a province who has the motto "from many peoples, strength" and who takes no small amount of pride in volunteerism, the way that people pitch in to make this province even better, Mr. Speaker, these two delegations are exemplars of that very tendency.

Certainly with the Saskatchewan African-Canadian museum and the launch of *Li'l Shadd* and helping that story of Dr. Shadd to ring out throughout our schools and throughout our communities that it might be better known, is a wonderful initiative and certainly speaks to those values that we've touched on at the top there, Mr. Speaker. And certainly that that delegation is here with people like Carol LaFayette-Boyd and Reggie Newkirk and folks that have done so much for our province, it makes very good sense that they are here today to mark that introduction.

And then as well, in terms of Jim Burnett, 42 years, Mr. Speaker — five terms with the Lottery Corporation, 42 years with Sask Sport. What a contribution that has been made by this individual to the province's well-being, to the sporting life that

is so important in so many ways, Mr. Speaker. So we're very glad that he is here today to have that marked out. We're very glad to see that he's brought his family to witness this and that we might show him something of the appreciation that is there right across this province for the contribution that has been made by this individual.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to join with the minister on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming these two very important delegations to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sitting in the west gallery are 10 grade 12 students, history class number 30. They're accompanied by their teacher Victoria Danyluk and chaperone Sarah Chamberlain-Brown. I'm looking forward to meeting with you after session and I hope today we make a little bit of history for you. So to you and through you, I'd like to welcome them here to their legislature. Thank you for coming.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly I'd like to introduce 30 grade 6 and 7 students from Pilot Butte School that are seated in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with them at about 10:30. They had some great questions. We tried to field as many of them as we possibly could. We ran . . .

An Hon. Member: — Ice cream.

Mr. McMorris: — Well, we gave them juice boxes. That should do.

Mr. Speaker, we ran out of time actually. They had so many questions but it was very enjoyable. I want to mention their teacher Gina Bradshaw which is no stranger in this House. She's brought many a class, not necessarily Pilot Butte, but other schools to the legislature. She also attended the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy], teachers' institute on parliamentary democracy, and that's such a great program. Also accompanying her is teacher's aid Marcia Sawchuk. Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to you and through you, I would also like to follow the member on introducing our daughter Gina Bradshaw to this legislature. Gina is quite the girl. She has wanted to be a schoolteacher right from when she was in grade 9, and lo and behold, she is. And I have to tell you a little bit, she really has the gift of the gab, but when she talks, she actually makes sense, far different than some of the other people in her family. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I would like all members of this legislature to welcome Gina to her legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to restore the Saskatchewan rental housing supplement. These citizens wish to bring to your attention that the Sask Party cut to the rental housing supplement shows more of the same from the Sask Party, whose cuts continually hurt the most vulnerable in Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately restore the Saskatchewan rental housing supplement, which was cut in the 2018-2019 budget.

This particular petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — 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 Lloydminster, Paradise Hill, and St. Walburg. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise yet again today to present a petition calling for critical workplace supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the very dubious distinction of having the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all the provinces in this country, and we know that we should do so much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, for many of those who experience domestic violence, that violence will follow them to their workplace, which is why the signatories to this petition are calling for five days of paid leave; seventeen weeks of unpaid leave should be made available to workers who are survivors of domestic violence; and that critical workplace supports made available to survivors of domestic violence should also be made available to workers living with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] as a result of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is what those who are on the front lines of this crisis are calling for. PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan] and the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] of Regina are two such examples of organizations who see the benefit to ensuring that those who are fleeing situations of domestic violence are able to be able to maintain their employment while they transition to a more safer home environment.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, we saw a report tabled last week by this government. One of the recommendations in that government talked about ensuring supports for survivors of domestic violence in the workplace, ensuring that workplaces understand the importance of being able to recognize and support those who are experiencing domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, this is what we called for in a private member's bill, Bill No. 609, the fourth time we've put forward these provisions in the last two years, Mr. Speaker. It's time for this government to step up, do the right thing, and pass those provisions for these survivors.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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 to survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from White City and Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Saskatchewan Mining Week

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize Saskatchewan Mining Week. Mining Week, which is organized by the Saskatchewan Mining Association, features events and activities throughout the province, showcasing various aspects of the mining sector. Sustaining Success is this year's theme.

Mr. Speaker, our mining industry employs over 30,000 people, directly and indirectly in the province, and produced 6.6 billion in mineral sales in 2017. The industry is one of the largest private-sector employers of indigenous people and is a major customer of indigenous-owned businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we are working to keep our mining industry competitive by introducing the mineral development strategy. The mineral development strategy is designed to encourage the mining industry to conduct more exploration in Saskatchewan and specifically to take advantage of significant, unrealized base metals potential in Creighton and Denare Beach. Global competitiveness is extremely important and is vital to ensuring our mining industry remains the best in the world which, in turn, contributes to the quality of life we have in the province.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Assembly, I'd like to thank the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the mining

companies operating in the province and the workers that make this, our industry, a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Fire Fighters Union Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Saskatoon Firefighters Union, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 80. Although today is the official anniversary of Local 80's affiliation with the IAFF [International Association of Fire Fighters], this past Saturday I had the pleasure to attend the celebration organized by our firefighters at TCU Place along with members from Saskatoon Centre, Churchill-Wildwood, University, and Westview.

Local 80 was the second affiliated firefighters union in Canada, and for a hundred years they've been fighting for workers' rights and safety and contributing much to Saskatoon by way of their community involvement. The men who worked at the fire hall in 1918 had unregulated working hours and conditions, inadequate personal safety equipment, and were basically living at the fire hall. That voice isn't entirely there yet, Mr. Speaker. In the early days, the firefighters even required permission to go home to spend time with their families, but by working together they've been able to secure safer working conditions on everything from respirators to mental health supports.

But there is still a strong need for their local to fight for the rights of their members who keep us all safe. And I know that the men and women of IAFF Local 80 will continue for the next hundred years to advance workers' rights, fight for fairness, and keep up their commitment to community.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating IAFF Local 80 on a hundred years of excellence and in thanking all firefighters for the difficult job they do. Thank you.

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

Fewer Impaired Driving Deaths in Saskatchewan

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday my colleague, the member from Prince Albert Carlton, announced that there were 40 per cent fewer deaths involving drugs or alcohol on Saskatchewan roads in 2017. The numbers indicate that there were 39 deaths last year, and while this is certainly an improvement, impaired driving remains a concern in this province and a focus of this government. One death due to impaired driving is still one death too many.

SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has done a phenomenal job of increasing awareness of the problem with their People Shouldn't Disappear campaign. This has been one of their most powerful campaigns to date. It features families, friends, and those who have lost their lives because of impaired driving. We just cannot imagine the pain of the families who have lost someone to impaired driving, but through their pain they're trying to make a difference.

We would also like to thank MADD [Mothers Against Drunk

Driving] Canada for their continuous support in the fight to end impaired driving. Patricia Hynes-Coates, president of MADD Canada, stated that “The significant decline in impaired driving deaths in Saskatchewan is a powerful illustration of the impact of strong laws and effective, ongoing awareness efforts.” We agree and that is why we will continue with our work.

Thank you again to the families, SGI, and MADD Canada for helping to change the culture of impaired driving in Saskatchewan.

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

Prince Albert Fine Arts Festival

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 16th I was pleased to attend the Prince Albert Grand Council 27th annual Fine Arts Festival held at Senator Allen Bird Memorial Centre in Prince Albert and was honoured to be one of the people invited to take part in the grand entry.

The Fine Arts Festival is an exciting event with participants from all the Prince Albert Grand Council schools across northern Saskatchewan. The number of participants and chaperones is over 1,800 and it grows every year. The competitions include drama, oratory, music, and dance in different age categories. There are powwow exhibitions, a trade show, and each day of the event brings an early morning pipe ceremony.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent opportunity for First Nations students to take part in the fine arts, which helps them develop the confidence and knowledge to pursue other goals. Our children have so much talent and creativity, and it is all on display at this fine arts festival.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the participants of the Prince Albert Grand Council 27th annual Fine Arts Festival, their families and chaperones, and to commend the Prince Albert Grand Council for sponsoring and hosting this event every year. Thank you.

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

Nagar Kirtan in Saskatoon

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I, along with the Minister of Education and the member from Saskatoon University, had the pleasure to participate in the Sikh Day parade in Saskatoon. This event, also called Nagar Kirtan, was held as part of the Vaisakhi religious celebration, and there was an open invitation to the entire city to come and enjoy the festivities.

Thousands of people came out to participate in the colourful festivities, which included free food, turban wrapping, and traditional demonstrations, among other activities. A number of other dignitaries were also in attendance, including Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Tom

Molloy; Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark; and federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Amarjeet Sohi.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007, 108,000 newcomers have arrived in Saskatchewan, a 480 per cent increase since the 10-year period prior. A large portion of these new arrivals, 14,738 people came from India.

Mr. Speaker, diversity is and will continue to be crucial to our province's future, and opportunities to celebrate it are always important. These events make our communities a more harmonious and interesting place to live and grow together. I ask all members to join in this Assembly in congratulating the Sikh Society on this wonderful community celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation Fundraiser

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon I had the opportunity to bring greetings on behalf of our government to the City Hospital Foundation fundraiser with special guest Mr. Wendel Clark. The event was held at Preston Park Retirement Residence in my constituency of Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

I always enjoy an opportunity to reconnect with the friends I've made at Preston Park I and II. It's important for us to acknowledge and appreciate the lifetime of work our seniors, such as the wonderful men and women at Preston Park, have done to make this province such a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honour to welcome Wendel Clark back home to Saskatchewan as well. Wendel has had an impressive NHL [National Hockey League] career, and he has shown his commitment to this province through his ongoing efforts to give back. This event was no exception, Mr. Speaker. Wendel took the time to share some of his hockey experiences and participate in a lively question and answer session. The large crowd enjoyed watching Wendel take shots on goal, all to raise funds for Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Wendel Clark for taking the time to attend this event and visit with Preston Park residents and guests. And I would also like to thank everyone who attended for their support and for the funds raised for the City Hospital Foundation. Thank you.

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

100th Memorial Cup

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 100th Mastercard Memorial Cup has officially come to a close. Last night the QMJHL [Quebec Major Junior Hockey League] champions Acadie-Bathurst Titan took on our home team, the Regina Pats, to a sold-out crowd at the Brandt Centre. After three periods of fast-paced hockey action, the Titan were victorious, earning the right to raise the Memorial Cup for the 100th time. Mr. Speaker, the final score was 3-0 for

the Titan.

This event was about more than just hockey, Mr. Speaker. Dedicated volunteers were recognized, Canadian history and our military was celebrated, and past hockey legends were honoured. Throughout the weekend, there were well over 70 Pats alumni in attendance, including fan favourites like Ed Staniowski and Jordan Eberle. Mr. Speaker, before the last game, hockey legend Freddie Sasakamoose, the first treaty-status First Nations player to lace up the skates in the NHL [National Hockey League] was honoured. The Regina Pats were also honoured to bring their goalie, Jacob Wassermann, to a game, who was a member of the Humboldt Broncos team and was involved in that fatal bus crash.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Pats captain Sam Steel on being awarded the Stafford Smythe Memorial Trophy as the most valuable player, leading the tournament in scoring with 13 points. Sam has been an incredible leader and a role model for so many young players here in Saskatchewan, and we wish him the best in his career as he continues on to the NHL.

I'd now ask all members to please join me in congratulating the 100th Mastercard Memorial Cup host committee, the Regina Pats staff and players, the CHL [Canadian Hockey League], and all the dedicated volunteers for putting on this historic event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Suicide Prevention for First Nations People

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Alberta today, Premier Notley is doing the right thing and apologizing for the Alberta government's role in the Sixties Scoop. Here in Saskatchewan on Thursday, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations released their Saskatchewan First Nations suicide prevention strategy. They opened that document with a quote from a research participant in La Ronge, that reads: "We've become experts in dealing with crises. Now we have to become experts in preventing crises from happening."

First Nations leadership are experts in the needs of their communities, and I want to thank the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] for their care, attention, and work that went into creating a document that really addresses the unique needs of First Nations communities when it comes to preventing suicide. The stated goal of the strategy is to achieve equality of health outcomes between First Nations and non-First People, and to lower the death by suicide of First Nations people to that of non-First People in the province.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, this is a laudable goal and something that both sides of the House can agree on as a much-needed priority. So my question today is, will this government join us in full support of this strategy and commit today to providing the funding and support necessary for FSIN to implement this strategy in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the apology today, that'll be forthcoming from our understanding from the province of Alberta to those Sixties Scoop survivors, Mr. Speaker. We commend the province of Alberta and we, in this province, have also committed to apologizing, Mr. Speaker, and we've been engaging with survivors and leadership, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that that apology is fulsome, Mr. Speaker, and is an apology that is worked on with all sides of the table, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to that apology forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the First Nation or the FSIN suicide prevention strategy, Mr. Speaker, first and foremost our hearts go out to anyone in this province, any family in this province, Mr. Speaker, that has lost a loved one, has lost a member of their community, Mr. Speaker, or in any way has been affected by suicide, Mr. Speaker. Our government also appreciates the effort and the conversation and the goals that are being put forward and the strategy that is being put forward by FSIN, Mr. Speaker, and our ministries: the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Services, Mr. Speaker.

We'll be reaching out. We'll be working with the FSIN where our targets and our strategies align, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be working very closely where the opportunity presents itself, Mr. Speaker, with the FSIN and with other organizations across the province of Saskatchewan as well.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, this strategy was created in response to the lack of action from both the federal and provincial governments in response to the suicide crises. Despite continuously high rates of suicide in indigenous communities, this government has failed to prioritize the development of a suicide prevention strategy.

The FSIN identified in their report a need for better leadership at the provincial level. This government has continued to underserve First Nations and Métis communities, ignore the high rates of suicide, underfund programs that provide mental health supports for Métis and First Nations people, and continues to fail to address the ongoing history of systemic racism that really deserves the attention that is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take ownership over this ongoing crisis and show real leadership in preventing suicide in Saskatchewan. However, the FSIN strategy also noted that Saskatchewan has no provincial suicide prevention strategy and apparently no plans to develop one.

Will this government take the lead from the FSIN, finally take the alarming rates of suicide in Saskatchewan seriously, acknowledge the work to be done, and commit today to the adoption, expansion, and implementation of such a strategy for the entire province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, we will work closely with the FSIN and other organizations across the province, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that

the strategies that we put in place, Mr. Speaker, in our communities, whether they be Aboriginal communities or not, Mr. Speaker, are consistent across the province of Saskatchewan.

We'll be looking, as I said, from ministries within the Government of Saskatchewan at the FSIN's recommendations, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be looking to align any opportunities that we have, Mr. Speaker, with the recommendations that have been put forward by the FSIN, Mr. Speaker, with those ongoing efforts to help reduce the risk of suicide, Mr. Speaker, in communities across the province of Saskatchewan.

We'll continue to work with all of the partners in our province, Mr. Speaker, including the FSIN, to ensure that we can help address, Mr. Speaker, in an increased fashion, the mental health needs of all Saskatchewan residents, Mr. Speaker, in all communities.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need immediate action on this problem. One more death by suicide in this province is too many. And that action starts with a commitment today to a prevention strategy for the province, and committing to sharing clearly the data that exists.

In May, the Minister of Health tabled statistics showing 1,432 deaths by suicide in Saskatchewan between 2005 and 2016, with 265 of those being First Nations people. However, the Office of the Chief Coroner counted 110 more suicides than reported from the ministry and 40 per cent higher First Nations deaths by suicide. FSIN also noted that there appears to be very little available data on the rates and patterns of suicide attempts by indigenous people in Saskatchewan, and ask that the Ministry of Health commit to recording and sharing detailed data of suicide and suicide attempts in the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, can this government explain the discrepancies between the minister's numbers and those of the Chief Coroner's office? Will this government commit to providing the necessary resources to the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Saskatchewan First Nations suicide prevention secretariat to fill the data gaps and work towards equity on health outcomes between First Nations people and non-First Peoples in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, to the specific question from the Leader of the Opposition, we'll look into the discrepancies that he may be outlining between ministry numbers and the coroner's numbers, Mr. Speaker. But I must point out that there has been a lot of action taken by this government over the last number of years when it comes to suicide, northern suicide, and in fact mental health supports and suicide supports for people throughout the province suffering from the loss to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we know it's a terrible loss when anybody loses their life before their time, specifically somebody in youth, Mr. Speaker. But we do know that although it's not a stopgap, a

significant initiative, but 811 is something that is very useful when it comes to someone that's feeling suicidal or having mental health struggles for a first point of contact, Mr. Speaker.

And as I've talked about in the House previously we do fund the Saskatchewan Health Authority to provide mental health supports throughout the province, whether it's through psychotherapists, whether it's through psychiatrists, whether it's through mental health first aid or other different supports, Mr. Speaker. And as we've committed to as well, with the report from the Children's Advocate looking through and looking at delivering mental health supports in schools, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue this work and support the people in this province.

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

Government Response to Opioid Crisis

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Suicide prevention strategies around the country and around the world have shown significant impact on decreasing the number of people who attempt or complete suicide. It's something that's much needed in this province and needed for action to move forward on today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to acknowledge Marie Agioritis who's here today with us in the west gallery. Marie and her family suffered an unimaginable loss in 2015 when her young son died of an accidental fentanyl overdose. This tragedy is a story that is becoming all too common in our province. Yet this government has done almost nothing to address the issue.

They announced a provincial task force to address fentanyl and opioid deaths over a year ago, yet we've heard nothing further from this task force — no reports, no recommendations. Apparently there are no people whose families have been impacted by drug use on the committee, and the Minister of Health has said they'll continue to watch and react, instead of doing the work to get ahead of the crisis and prevent further deaths.

The government made no mention of the crisis in the 2018 budget. And while this side of the House certainly welcomes the expanded access to naloxone, the fact remains that this government continues to prove that it is reactive rather than proactive in this ongoing and increasing crisis.

So I ask, Mr. Speaker, does this government have a plan to address the rising number of overdoses from fentanyl and other opioids, or is it simply waiting for the next tragedy to strike before it will take any action?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my sympathy to Marie and to her family on their tragic loss.

Mr. Speaker, to the Leader of the Opposition's specific questions, obviously we take this issue very seriously. We've made a number of changes. We've made naloxone kits far

easier for people to access, including making them free for families or for people who think they may be in a situation where they're likely to witness an overdose, Mr. Speaker. We've just declassified naloxone to make it even more available, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to look at ways to prevent these tragedies.

The member opposite referenced the committee, the work that was done, Mr. Speaker. For full disclosure, he asked some questions of one of the committee members in estimates last week, Mr. Speaker, one of the Health staff members that co-chairs that committee. The committee's about improving communications between Health and Justice and other ministries that are dealing with this crisis, Mr. Speaker. They're continuing to expand their work. And on subsequent questions, Mr. Speaker, I'd be prepared to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A harm reduction approach decreases overdoses, prevents transmission of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] and hepatitis C, and connects people battling addictions to treatment. During the Sask Party leadership race, the Premier was asked by the *Leader-Post* whether . . . I'll quote the question: "Do you support needle exchange programs and/or safe injection sites for drug users?" He responded, "No. The province will continue to provide current services for people who are suffering with substance abuse."

Now this statement not only tells us that the Premier continues to conflate substance abuse with addiction — a potentially dangerous perspective that places blame on people suffering from trauma and underlying mental illness — but also that the Premier is not aware of the breadth of services already available for people with addictions in Saskatchewan where needle exchange programs are a part of the programs that exist. Nor does he appear to recognize the value of life-saving harm reduction programming in our province.

Now this government has continued to ignore the research and the evidence of the success of harm reduction in supporting people with addictions. So my question to the Premier: since he's taken this new role, has he done his homework on this file? And will he support a harm reduction approach, looking at all of the options to battle addictions and provide real and effective avenues to safe, compassionate treatment for people with addictions?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I'll ignore the sarcastic approach to a very serious conversation, Mr. Speaker, that needs to be had.

Mr. Speaker, on the opioid crisis, certainly as I mentioned we've taken an approach to make naloxone more available, Mr. Speaker. We continue to watch what Alberta and BC [British Columbia] are doing because unfortunately they've been far greater impacted than we have on this, Mr. Speaker. But even one death is too many, Mr. Speaker, so obviously we take this issue very seriously, and we do fund some harm reduction sites

as the member opposite knows.

Mr. Speaker, we're extremely concerned about this. We're going to watch for best practices in neighbouring provinces. The committee's going to continue to do their work to improve communications between the different ministries. Mr. Speaker, we're very concerned. We're going to continue with the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely serious topic and a serious question posed to the Premier. His words stated that he was opposed to needle exchange and opposed to safe injection sites, which to my mind really begs a very serious question: does he understand harm reduction? Does he understand its importance in decreasing HIV and hepatitis C transmission; its importance in preventing the overdoses that need to be addressed in this province; its importance in connecting people to the addictions treatments they need to get off drugs? Does he support harm reduction or is he against it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite knows safe injection sites . . . There's conflicting opinions on that, Mr. Speaker, but for harm reduction, Mr. Speaker, we very clearly are supportive of that. We've been funding harm reduction sites, Mr. Speaker, for some time now. We collect used needles and distribute clean needles, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite knows that. He's trying to take a very serious topic and drive a wedge on this, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I would just like to offer my sympathy to Marie and her family. If she'd like to meet after question period, Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Strategies to Address Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the *Domestic Violence Death Review Report* was released last week. The report made 19 recommendations that would help prevent domestic violence and support survivors.

Mr. Speaker, the report recommended that these reviews occur regularly like they do in other provinces. But the minister wouldn't provide a commitment to ensure this happens, just like the minister wouldn't commit funding to ensure the other recommendations were successfully implemented. They say they support this report and its recommendations but the Sask Party government has shown no commitment to act upon them. Will the minister commit today to ensure that reviews continue, and that the necessary dollars will be provided to implement the recommendations?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the question. With regard to reviewing on an ongoing basis, of course that's necessary and it's essential. This

was a report that was done by a large group of people who are otherwise engaged in very good work across the province. I don't want to see those people have to spend their time on an ongoing method of dealing with the statistics or the analysis that takes place. The groundwork that they have laid sets a path forward with regard to what we need to do with maintaining stats. And obviously that has to be done, should be done, by people within the ministry, perhaps reach out to some of these same people again.

So of course the answer is yes, we need to maintain and continue logging, cataloguing what we hope is a diminishing number of people that are affected by this.

With regard to the other issues that she raised with regard to our commitment to the report, we indicated our acceptance of all the recommendations in the report. Some of the recommendations deal with on-reserve things, require work with the federal government. We also have issues to work with across several ministries, and we will continue that work, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, we need more than words; we need action. Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence. But Saskatchewan also has the second-highest rates of sexual assaults. Those working in these areas will tell you that Saskatchewan needs both a sexual assault strategy and a domestic violence strategy. Mr. Speaker, both are necessary and both are needed.

Can the minister commit to both a sexual assault strategy and a comprehensive domestic violence strategy that includes the recommendations from the death review report?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Yes.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this spring the Premier walked back his promise to properly fund education. Some divisions have received cuts while others have received near or status quo funding. To remind everyone, the status quo includes that \$54 million cut from last year.

Mr. Speaker, many of the boards that received almost status quo budgets have significantly more students this year. With more students and essentially the same funding, it doesn't take a lot of math skills to figure out that these cuts will find their way to the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, in the last two years there are 2,700 more students across the province — 1,200 more students in Saskatoon divisions alone. Can the minister admit that, with thousands more students and nearly status quo funding, there will be further cuts to our children's classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll do nothing of the kind. Mr. Speaker, in this budget this year, our government has committed to an additional \$30 million in school funding, Mr. Speaker. That's the annualized funding of the seven and a half million dollars that our Premier announced in the rotunda of this very building, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to have conversations, Mr. Speaker, with school boards. I've already indicated, not only on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] and the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], that we'll look at the enrolment projections as we start having ongoing conversations, Mr. Speaker, with developing budgets. We're going to have those conversations. But this government is committed to making sure that we provide the proper funding to classrooms, Mr. Speaker, so that our children of this province can get the proper education. We're committed to that, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to do that.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, boards around this province are currently in the process of finalizing their budget submissions and it will be readily apparent very soon just how inadequate that partial backfill of those cuts really will be.

Last year school boards all across the province had huge cuts and shortfalls. And with barely above status quo funding from the Sask Party government, they will have shortfalls again this year. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan school divisions are looking at their books and many know that they don't have what they need to support the growing number of students. Student ratios will go up and more programs could be cut.

So has the minister heard from school boards about the shortfalls that they are facing and the cuts that they'll have to make to classrooms when kids go back to school this fall?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the member's a former school board trustee. And she would know, if she's talked to the Regina Public School Board, Mr. Speaker, that her former school board hired thirty-two and a half FTEs [full-time equivalent], based on the seven and a half million dollar in-year commitment that we made which annualized to \$30 million, Mr. Speaker. Other school divisions have hired FTEs as well in support of classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

As I say, we're going to continue to have those conversations, but I can tell you one thing we're not going to do, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to burden those children in the classroom with two and a half billion dollars worth of annual operating debt which had been proposed, Mr. Speaker, by the Leader of the Opposition, only to have it paid down, Mr. Speaker, by using a carbon tax.

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

Global Transportation Hub and Land Transactions

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The west Regina bypass agreement signed in March of 2014 contains some astonishing payments from the Ministry of Highways to the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] for borrow land or dirt, as well as the right-of-way for the actual west bypass.

Ironically or perhaps deliberately, the total deal adds up to the same price that the GTH paid to Anthony Marquart for the infamous east parcels, which was well above the appraised value. After four years of waiting to see if the dirt was good enough, the west Regina bypass agreement was cancelled in March of this year.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Highways displayed a shocking lack of knowledge about this multi-million-dollar dirt deal at the GTH. When asked if Highways knew before it went and purchased these borrow pits, the minister deflected and said, “You would have to ask the previous minister. I wouldn’t know the dates and details.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope he’s had a chance to swivel his chair around and ask the former minister, the member from Indian Head-Milestone, how they came up with this wonky deal. In order for the public to find out how that ill-conceived deal was structured, will he arrange to have the former minister appear before a committee for questioning?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we went on with this at some length last week about the fact that I’m not in the dirt business. And, Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to spend time in the dirt, I don’t object to where they want to spend their time.

Mr. Speaker, our goal with the Global Transportation Hub is to move it forward, to find some tenants that want to occupy the property, to finish the Regina bypass which will tie directly into it, to look at where we do with railway connections to it, and to look at employing even more people that will move into the Global Transportation Hub.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite know full well that there’s investigation under way. We have absolutely no control over what takes place with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], with the prosecutors in Manitoba. Those are things we ought not have any involvement in and, Mr. Speaker, we’re not going to. So if they want to go back and review . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member opposite said, what’s our point? Well the point is they’re asking questions about it and we’re saying, those are things we can’t answer.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice knows full well that the questions I’m asking today have nothing to do with the investigation he’s referring to. But perhaps the member from Martensville could shed some light on this unusual multi-million-dollar dirt deal.

Now an interesting part of the 2014 deal is found in sections 11 and 12 where Highways paid in advance an additional down payment of 3.6 million to the GTH for stockpiling and hauling dirt on the main GTH footprint. Now this is weird because it’s the same land that they are now busy trying to sell for \$250,000 an acre. Now Brightenview bought some of that land last year — 10 acres with a promise to buy 20 acres more.

Last week in media scrums the minister didn’t answer the question about the additional \$3.6 million down payment on the Brightenview land. He was very clear though; he said the GTH would pay back the money for the unused borrow as that land is sold to others. So my question to the Minister of Highways, did the GTH return the sale price of the Brightenview land back to Highways, since it obviously isn’t being used for stockpiling dirt?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. As I said last week, the borrow pit was purchased from the Ministry of Highways, access to that land, if they needed the borrow material. It was then offered to the partners once the tender was awarded and the partners said, at that time, their borrow pits had better material in it and they didn’t expect that kind of product when they got into their borrow pits. So they didn’t need that product, Mr. Speaker.

This was a major project. There was over 17 trillion cubic metres of product that was going to be needed to build the bypass, which was huge, Mr. Speaker. This was all in regards to that. And as a result, with not using that borrow material, Mr. Speaker, the agreement was signed with the Global Transportation Hub and the Ministry of Highways that once that land was sold, that price would be paid back to the Ministry of Highways, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I’m instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 73, *The*

Insurance Amendment Act, 2017, that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 73 — *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 73, *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2017* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)*, a bilingual bill, with amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)*, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 99 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017* (No. 2)/*Loi modificative n° 2 de 2017 sur l'interprétation*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendment.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 99 — *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017* (No. 2)/*Loi modificative n° 2 de 2017 sur l'interprétation*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 99, *The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2017 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, it's a distinct privilege to be able to stand and speak to this bill today. I'd like to start by recognizing the people of Saskatchewan who made this important day possible. Over the last two years, people across the province have come together to fight this government's privatization agenda.

Saskatchewan people knew from the beginning that Bill 40 was about one thing and one thing only: giving this government the ability to sell off our Crowns without any mandate to do so. This full repeal of Bill 40 that we're voting on today is a victory that was fought for by Saskatchewan people. The public response to this privatization law is something that we haven't seen in this province for many years: petition drives, rallies, phone bees, letters day after day to members on both sides of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to travel to all corners of the province since this legislation was introduced, and when it came to Bill 40 and its partial repeal, Saskatchewan people, whatever their political stripe, felt betrayed — and rightly so, Mr. Speaker, because in the 2007, 2011, and 2016 elections, the Sask Party told us very clearly that we had nothing to worry about. They told us that our Crowns were in safe hands and that

there would be no sell-off whatsoever.

But then — surprise — in the fall of 2016 we saw Bill 40 which, through a backdoor amendment to *The Interpretation Act* and some linguistic gymnastics, changed the definition of privatization and allowed for the sale of up to 49 per cent of any of our Crown corporations. It was another broken promise from this government.

The people of our province rose up and they made it clear that by selling our Crowns, that by selling our Crowns this government would be taking away something that gives strength to the people of Saskatchewan. They spoke up and they made their voices heard.

So today's victory is a victory for the people of this province. It is all of our victory. It's a victory that comes because this government finally saw the light, which we're thankful for. But it never should have come to this. Our Crown corporations belong to the people of Saskatchewan. They were set up by and for us to serve the public interest, not private interests. They send hundreds of millions of dollars in dividends to provincial coffers to pay for schools, hospitals, and highways. They create good-paying jobs in communities in every corner of Saskatchewan.

But shamefully, it's too late for some of our Crowns. ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] and 40 SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] stores have already been sold off under Sask Party's watch. They muse publicly about selling SaskTel on the open market. And STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], our provincial transportation company that connected our province, a lifeline for so many communities, was scrapped and sold off using the wind-down provision of Bill 40.

So it's too late for that decision, that terrible decision with which this government plowed ahead to eliminate this valuable public service that connected Saskatchewan people from Meadow Lake to Maple Creek, providing independence to our seniors, getting patients the access to the care they need, and connected families to loved ones. In this session we heard from people with disabilities who came into this House to tell us the way that they feel trapped in their communities, the way that their independence has been taken away.

But to this day the government admits they did no research, no economic impact analysis on what the full costs of selling off STC would be. Well it may be too late to stop those sell-offs that the Sask Party has already rushed ahead with, but it's not too late to commit to undoing the damage they've done. Rest assured, New Democrats will build back a transportation network that reconnects our province once again.

So while we're glad, we're glad, we're relieved to see this full repeal of Bill 40, we're under no illusions that this is over. We're in no way filled with confidence that this Sask Party can be trusted with our Crowns. We know they're going to keep trying to contract out, carve off everything they can, sell off any parts of these Crowns that aren't nailed down. We know it was no accident that SLGA was removed from the Crown protection Act. And they haven't said yet — they haven't said, they haven't been open yet — about whether they think they can

wind down any of our other Crowns without Bill 40. But whatever they try to do, New Democrats will be there.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — A little order on this side of the House, please . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well it says the debate in a bill. But I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yes, you're missing something, the members over there were asking. You're missing a commitment from New Democrats, a commitment from New Democrats that, whatever happens, we will be on the job, Mr. Speaker, every step of the way. We'll be standing with Saskatchewan people to stand up for our Crowns and the people who rely on them. And I hope, Mr. Speaker, that those members are listening and that this government has learned its lesson when it comes to privatization, that it's learned that anything less than full public ownership of our Crowns is a sell-off, that we won't be back here any time soon debating laws that look to sell off our Crowns.

That's what I hope, because that's what's good for Saskatchewan people and that's what Saskatchewan people want. New Democrats will always stand up to protect our Crown corporations. We're going to be happy to support this amended bill to fully, finally repeal Bill 40. And so, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the vote and to finally getting rid of this terrible legislation of Bill 40. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:40 until 14:43.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

[Yeas — 55]

Moe	Beaudry-Mellor	Merriman
Stewart	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Harbauer	Duncan
Marit	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Cox	Makowsky	Tell
Eyre	Brkich	Harrison
Ottenbreit	Cheveldayoff	Weekes
Hart	Kirsch	Bradshaw
Fiaz	Ross	Carr
Lawrence	Young	Wilson
McMorris	Michelson	Bonk
Doke	Steinley	Hindley
Buckingham	Lambert	Dennis

Nerlien	Steele	Goudy
Olauson	Francis	Meili
Vermette	Wotherspoon	Beck
Sproule	Rancourt	Mowat
Sarauer	McCall	Belanger
Chartier		

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion.

[Nays — nil]

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the third reading motion, 55; those opposed, nil.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 103 — *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It was moved by the minister that Bill No. 103, *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act, 2017* be now read the

third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question.

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third the time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 106 — *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 106, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry. I read that through rather quickly. It's "with amendment."

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill and its amendments be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 111 — *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 111 — *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 111, *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll get it right this time. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 113 — *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017*

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that the bill be now read the third

time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 113, *The Planning and Development Amendment Act, 2017* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

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

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you. Oh, written questions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 294 through 300.

The Speaker: — Tabled 294 to 300. I recognize the

Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, so our committees may continue their good work, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I move that this Assembly be now adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:53.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

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

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

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

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

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections and Policing
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education