



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

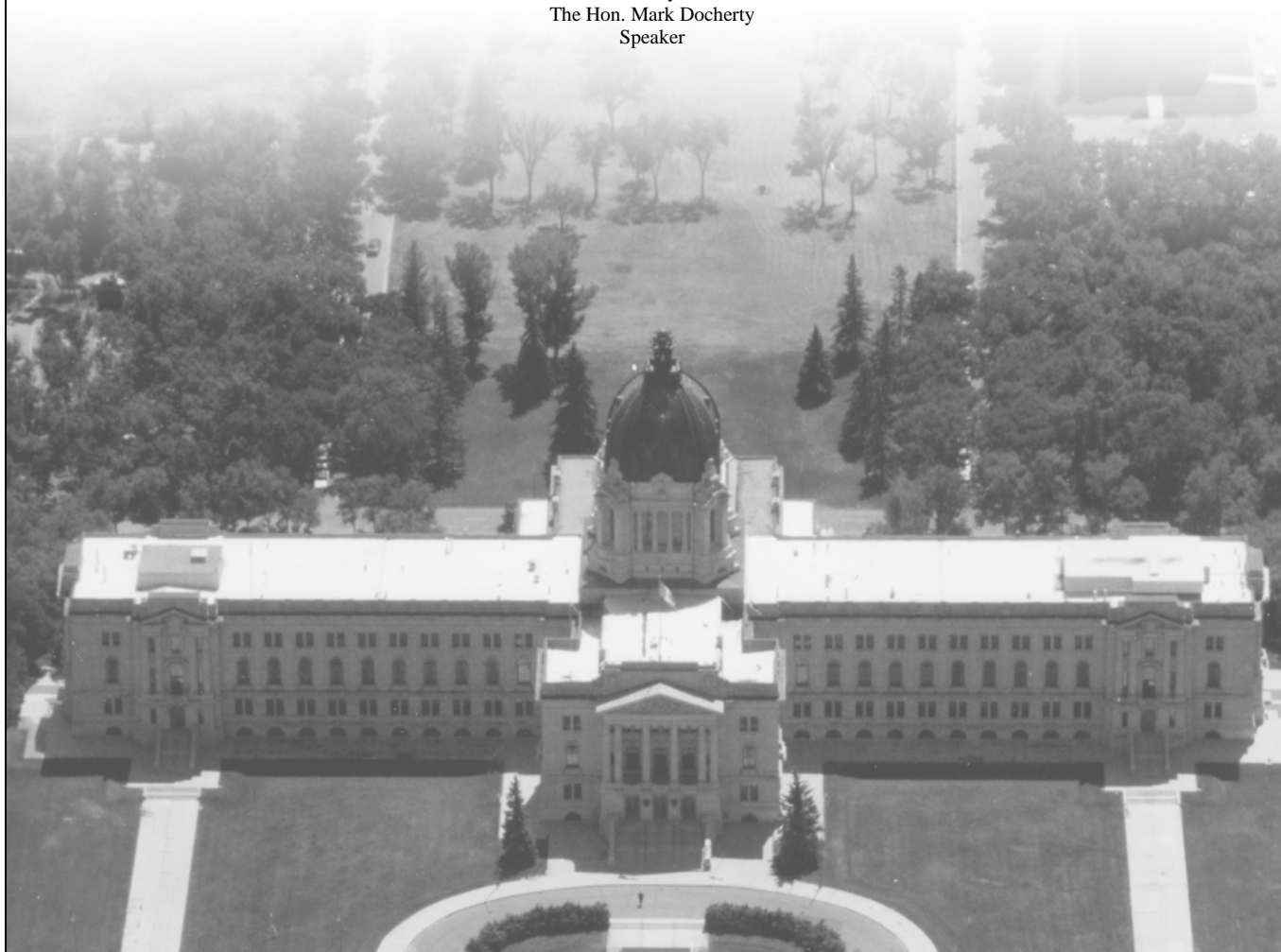
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Mark Docherty  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**3rd Session — 28th Legislature**

**Speaker** — Hon. Mark Docherty  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Ryan Meili

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**Moe**, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)  
**Morgan**, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)  
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**Nerlien**, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)  
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**Weekes**, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)  
**Wilson**, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)  
**Wotherspoon**, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)  
**Wyant**, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)  
**Young**, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyk

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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:** — I would request leave for a number of extended introductions.

**The Speaker:** — For extended introduction, is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the members of the Assembly in advance for the introductions that we have here, Mr. Speaker. But to begin with . . . I have about four introductions, Mr. Speaker. But to begin with, it's a great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly some very special guests that have joined us today.

And in your gallery is Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi, the consul general of Japan, who is located in Calgary, Mr. Speaker, and we welcome him to the Saskatchewan Assembly today. With him is no stranger to this . . . or, Mr. Speaker, with him first of all is Mr. Paul Pryce, an adviser to the consul general; and someone, as I said, who needs no introduction in this Assembly, Mr. Victor Sawa.

Mr. Speaker, Victor is the honorary consul of Japan in Regina here, and this is the consul general's first official visit to our province of Saskatchewan. And he has a busy schedule during his three-day stay in the province of Saskatchewan. Yesterday he had the opportunity to tour the Nutrien potash mine in Lanigan, and I'm looking forward to meeting with him later this day.

Our nations, our two nations, are important allies, and we have established a strong commercial partnership between Canada and Japan. And Japan was the first offshore market for Saskatchewan potash back in the year of 1962, and our trade has grown so considerably since then. Today Japan is our fourth-largest export market, Mr. Speaker, and last year we shipped about \$1.1 billion worth of goods to Japan, which is up about 83 per cent in the last 11 years. Our province is Japan's top international supplier of canola seed, of durum wheat, and of mustard seed. Mr. Speaker, this is a trading relationship that supports hundreds of businesses and families in communities across Saskatchewan, and it's a relationship that we are most surely appreciative and thankful for.

There are more than 40 educational and research agreements between institutions in Saskatchewan and institutions in Japan, and there are ongoing student exchanges, and of course, Mr. Speaker, there are a multitude of friendships that develop from that engagement. We are so honoured that the consul general and Mr. Pryce are visiting our province, and we hope that your time here is very productive and informative. We wish them all the

best in their travels. And I ask all members of this Assembly to welcome these distinguished guests to our legislature.

And, Mr. Speaker, it also brings me great pleasure to introduce to you some constituents from the Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency. We have with us a number of students, I believe 14 students from the Riverbend Colony school, Mr. Speaker, ranging from grade 6 to grade 9. And I had the opportunity to spend some time in the Riverbend Colony school with the member from Cannington when he was Speaker, Mr. Speaker, and we had a mock parliament right there in the school a few years ago, and I think he'll have some words on that. But, Mr. Speaker, today these students are accompanied by their teacher, Lori Woelke; Carol Wollman, Phillip Gross, Michael Gross, and Rachel Gross.

Mr. Speaker, I've also had the opportunity to be on the Riverbend Colony when it was first formed back in the early '90s, as I worked as a summer student in the community of Waldheim with one of the fertilizer dealers there, Mr. Speaker, many years ago. And I remember fondly the time I had to spend with Sam, and Chris, and Andy Gross, who has a lifelong friendship with a dear uncle of mine.

Mr. Speaker, as these students are here today, they're putting in a full day in the capital city of Regina. They have visited the Science Centre. They're touring the legislature this afternoon, and they're going to visit their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], and they'll likely ask him some very difficult questions, shortly after we have some questions from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to just take the opportunity to invite all members to join me in welcoming these students from the Riverbend Colony to Regina here today and to their legislature.

Mr. Speaker, also in the west gallery, we have an individual that needs no introduction to members of this side as he has been in the communications department of the caucus office for five years, Mr. Speaker. He's out actively recruiting. Now his sister has joined Executive Council, Mr. Speaker. Now with his sister working in the building, his mother and his stepfather have decided to come and attend a session, Mr. Speaker, and I want to take the opportunity to introduce Lee Guse, his sister Erin, and Kerry and Kelly Mortenson that are seated in the west gallery as well, Mr. Speaker.

And last but certainly not least, I would like to introduce an individual that needs no introduction in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, someone that is very important to myself and I know members on both sides of this Assembly, and that is the previous MLA from Kelvington-Wadena, Ms. June Draude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the Premier in extending a welcome to our visitors from the consul general of Japan in Calgary, Mr. Kobayashi. Yōkoso. Very nice to see you here. Thanks so much for joining us as well, Mr. Pryce.

And of course a special welcome and thanks to Mr. Victor Sawa, someone who's been a legend in our community, his

contributions to the arts and the community, well loved by the people of Regina. Great to see him again in his Assembly.

And I ask the members to join me in welcoming them here today.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the Premier in welcoming the students, the staff, and the chaperones from the Riverbend Colony.

As Speaker I did have the opportunity to do a mock parliament in their school — a very, very nice school, I might add. And it was a learning experience, I hope, for them, but it was certainly a learning experience for me to tour the colony.

There were a number of very, very bright students there that participated, and fact is the colony teachers and elders pointed out that these would be the first students going to university. So I'm hoping that actually happened, because they should have gone to university either last year or this coming year. So I'm encouraging them to continue that process because these were extremely bright students, Mr. Speaker.

And I would ask the legislature to welcome the students, staff, and chaperones from the Riverbend Colony to their legislature.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's my honour to join with members opposite to welcome June Draude to her Assembly. It's really nice to have her here today. It was an honour to serve with her in this Assembly for many years. And I know she put her heart into her service, and so much of that was demonstrated in her work as a minister and certainly continues on in that way as well. A lot of work right now with Autism Resource Centre in helping so many within our community.

So I ask all members to join with me in recognizing June Draude here today.

While on my feet, Mr. Speaker, it's a real honour actually to welcome members seated in your gallery with Concrete Saskatchewan. There's a strong delegation that's here today that represents industry and different stakeholders within this very important industry within our province and across Canada — quite literally the builders of a very strong foundation within our province, critical to building the infrastructure that we need, critical to building high-quality structures and buildings and homes.

I was really thankful to take time, along with members of the opposition, with this delegation here today and hear as well some of the efforts that they've taken on and some of the benefits of concrete as it relates to being sustainable as well, from a climate change perspective.

And I was really receptive to their call for improved procurement, Mr. Speaker, taking in the total lifespan costs to ensure best value for taxpayers, as well under ensuring that we maximize the local economic benefits, recognizing that the concrete industry is integrated right across Saskatchewan. And

when we're utilizing concrete, we're engaging Saskatchewan businesses and workers. So it's my honour to welcome, on behalf of the official opposition, Concrete Saskatchewan to their Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to echo the member opposite and welcome members of the concrete association here today. We look forward to meeting you, a number of us, later. I know we're set to meet later this afternoon and to attending the dinner later on this evening. We welcome you and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could just join the minister and the member for Regina Rosemont in welcoming the group from Concrete Saskatchewan who are here today. And perhaps as I mention their names, if they could just give us a wave: Kris Watrich, Logan Rathgeber, Jonathan Moser, Colin Marshall, Matt Walker, Nicole Campbell, Steve Schimpf, Rick Claffey, Ryan Swayze, Shane Mulligan, Michael McSweeney, and Ashley Campbell.

Mr. Speaker, as we've heard, they've had a number of meetings here today. Concrete Saskatchewan promotes the use of high-quality concrete products and they continually strive to improve all aspects of the industry. The organization represents over 60 concrete plants and approximately 90 per cent of the ready-mix concrete poured in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I think the other 10 per cent is poured by my dad and the cheap cement mixer that he bought at an auction sale years ago and used to have us kids operate, but anyway. Mr. Speaker, I'd just join the members in welcoming this group to their Assembly today and look forward to meeting them later this afternoon.

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

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to join with the Premier and welcome two of my constituents from Moose Jaw North that are in the west gallery. That's Kelly and Kerry Mortenson from Moose Jaw. And I don't know an awful lot about Kelly other than he is a retired autobody instructor. They both operate an auto detailing business now in Moose Jaw.

I'm a little bit more familiar with Kerry because Kerry was an entrepreneur as a limousine operator and driver years ago. And after she got out of that business, I actually hired her to be in sales at CHAB radio at the time. And she did very well but she didn't stick around very long because she had more important things to do and went on to do even better things.

Also along with them is, like the Premier pointed out, is their son Lee who works in the caucus office. And welcome to the Executive Council's Erin Bradish, the daughter of Kerry. So welcome to your legislature and I ask all members to welcome them as well. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier and the member from Regina Rosemont in welcoming my good friend and mentor, Ms. June Draude. And I just want to point out to the ministers that you'll be very happy to note that she's not wearing her red high-heeled shoes today. Thank you. Please join me in welcoming June.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join all my colleagues in the Assembly in recognizing Concrete Saskatchewan. I had a great opportunity to learn more about their particular industry and the great value it offers to construction overall throughout the entire province, including my beloved North. And I just want to add on this point, Mr. Speaker, as I welcome them once again with my colleagues, is to point out that concrete is resistant to wind, it's waterproof, and it does not burn. I learned that this morning. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents, people, businesses all across our province as it relates to the Sask Party's expansion and imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction. Of course this is the epitome of a job-killing tax at a time where we need to create jobs and drive investment. We have a government that's taking actions that are of course driving up the cost of living, but hurting our economy, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents from Estevan and Moose Jaw. I so submit.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

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

I'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 citizens of Kindersley, Macklin, and Denzil. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to reinstate the PST exemption on children's clothing.

Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to a few points, one of them being that the Sask Party government remove the PST exemption on children's clothes, and that their decision is impacting Saskatchewan families and businesses; that Saskatchewan families have been burdened by a decade of Sask Party utility rate hikes and tax increases and cannot afford another Sask Party government tax.

Mr. Speaker, I will 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 stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on children's clothing and stop hurting Saskatchewan businesses and families.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition, they reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of in-house security services at Saskatchewan health care facilities.

These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Government of Saskatchewan security services review in the Saskatchewan Health Authority appears to be driven by a desire to contract out and cut costs, rather than improve safety in health care; that front-line workers have the solutions to address increased violence and safety concerns in public health care: more in-house staff, proper equipment and training, and improved incident reporting and follow-up; and that safe, quality health care means having an adequately staffed, properly trained and equipped in-house security team, not cutting jobs and contracting out to the lowest bidder.

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 government to commit to maintaining quality publicly funded, publicly delivered, and publicly administered security services.

This petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon, most of them from my riding of Saskatoon Fairview. Mr. Speaker, I do so present.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present a petition for a private bill on behalf of the petitioners from Prince Albert.

The prayer with the petition requests to:

Wherefore our petitioner humbly prays that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to grant, subject to subsection 6(3) of *The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995*, Canadian Revival Training Centre Incorporated the authority to award certificates and diplomas and confer degrees in biblical studies and theology that are necessary and useful for the carrying into effect the objects and purposes of Canadian Revival Training Centre Incorporated.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray.

I do so present this petition. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — Pursuant to rule 101, this petition is referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatchewan Arts Board Awards

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize this year's outstanding Saskatchewan Arts Board awards that annually celebrate the achievements of the arts in our province, held on October 25th. I was joined by my colleague from Regina Lakeview, Pasqua, and Saskatoon University.

The winners were Marjorie Beaucage, a Métis filmmaker from Duck Lake that was recognized for artistic excellence; Lisa Bird-Wilson, a Métis and nêhiyaw writer that received the RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] Emerging Artist Award. Her book *Just Pretending* won four Saskatchewan Book Awards, including Book of the Year. Felicia Gay, of Swampy Cree and Scottish descent, curator of the galleries at Wanuskewin, won the Leadership — Individual Award; OSAC, the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, received the Leadership — Organization Award; and Joseph Naytowhow, a nêhiyaw singer-songwriter, storyteller, actor, and educator received the Arts and Learning Award.

Ellen Remai accepted the Honorary Award. Ellen is responsible for one of the largest donations to the arts in Canada's history, a total contribution to the Remai Modern of \$103 million. And the Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Ken Mitchell. Ken has been inducted to the Order of Canada and the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for his work as a literary ambassador here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it was said often that the nominees also deserve recognition. I ask all members to join with me in congratulating the outstanding contributions of the nominees and the awards winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Remembering Richard Murray

**Ms. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our dear friend, dedicated public servant, and fabulously fun hat wearer, Mr. Richard Murray, passed away October 15th, leaving us far too soon. After spending more than 30 years in the public service, Richard was most recently appointed as deputy minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. Prior to this, he was deputy minister of Central Services. It was during my time as minister there that I had the privilege of getting to know Richard.

Richard Murray was a man of many talents. He loved doing media interviews, tackling the most contentious subjects with ease and flair. His abilities to negotiate deals are legendary, and I pity the poor salesperson who was tasked with selling him one of his many Mustangs.

Richard was a passionate football fan, a season ticket holder for both our Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Minnesota Vikings. He was a great cook, a fantastic baker who loved to entertain, and entertain he did. Richard always had a joke to tell, a song to sing, a fun fact or two, and a YouTube video to share.

Richard's larger-than-life personality made even the most mundane tasks fun. Arriving at meetings with his tie a little askew and his hat perched on his head, he didn't take himself too seriously and made sure that those around him didn't either.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we are fortunate enough that the people we work with become more than just that. They become friends. When we lose them suddenly like we lost Richard, it shakes us to our core. To my friend Richard I say, Godspeed on your next journey, and go Vikings! Thank you.

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

#### Sober House Project

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to attend the Prince Albert City Council meeting on Monday, October 22nd to witness a very special presentation by students from Wesmor Public High School in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, students from Wesmor Public High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions have been working on a project called the Sober House Project. The goal of this project is to have residents in Prince Albert and across Saskatchewan post sober house signs on their door to let people know that alcohol is not welcome in their home.

The students presented their project to the Prince Albert City Council and secured the support of the council. The students explained that the inspiration for their idea came from the book, *Firewater: How Alcohol is Killing my People (and yours)* by Harold R. Johnson.

The students who made the presentation have suffered personal losses as a result of alcohol abuse, whether it was a family member or friend killed by a drunk driver, or watching loved

ones suffer because of alcohol abuse. They believe that putting up signs will encourage those who wish to give up alcohol and show them that many families do not use alcohol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the Students Against Destructive Decisions, their teachers, and Prince Albert City Council for supporting this project and to wish Students Against Destructive Decisions continued success on their Sober House Project. Thank you.

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

### Home Care and Individualized Funding

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Home care is an important service that helps people live independently at home. Mr. Speaker, our government provides over 190 million in funding for home care each year, an increase of 50 per cent since 2007. Starting this year, Mr. Speaker, our government is providing an additional 1.2 million annually so more clients can access individualized funding.

Mr. Speaker, individualized funding is an option for clients who want more choice and greater flexibility to manage their own support services. It provides funding directly to clients or their caregivers to arrange and manage their own supportive care services. This includes hiring their own staff and scheduling staff when they want services. Eligible services include bathing, dressing, meals, home management, respite care, and other services provided by a home care aid. It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that nursing services and other therapies are still available through standard home care at no cost to individualized funding clients.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to providing quality health services to support people living safely in their homes and communities. Individualized funding is a great example of that commitment, serving over 100 individuals across the province and more to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Batoche.

### Touchdown for Dreams Campaign

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to celebrate a fantastic and meaningful campaign, the Cameco Touchdown for Dreams. Every year Cameco partners with the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency to grant dreams to eight women who have been diagnosed with cancer.

This past week the Saskatchewan Roughriders had their annual pink game in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. At the game, pink hand warmers were sold as a fundraiser for the Cameco Touchdown for Dreams campaign.

Mr. Speaker, the program supports women like Lisa Korchinski, Mr. Speaker, a young mother who 10 months ago was diagnosed with a grade IV severe and aggressive form of brain cancer. For her wish, Lisa requested a lakefront cabin for the summer months. Cameco was able to find a beautiful lakefront property just 30 minutes away from Lisa's home where she, her husband,

and young daughter enjoyed the beautiful Saskatchewan summer together.

Mr. Speaker, cancer is a horrible disease and the diagnosis is life-changing. This program helps, even if only a little bit, bring joy and happiness to the recipients. The Cameco Touchdown for Dreams campaign have been granting wishes to women for seven years, and they hope this program continues for many more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Renovations to Swift Current Shelter

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday I had the privilege of attending a ceremony to celebrate renovations for an emergency shelter in Swift Current. The Southwest Safe Shelter supports up to 14 women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this project would not have been possible without the vision, leadership, and patience of Southwest Crisis Services who kept the shelter fully operational throughout the course of construction. Southwest Crisis Services has been operating this emergency shelter in Swift Current since 1989. The shelter required significant upgrades, including a much bigger kitchen and space to accommodate people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the shelter now has a spacious kitchen, a wheelchair-accessible bedroom and bathroom, enhanced security and fire sprinkler systems, and energy-efficient heating and lighting. I'm pleased to say that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, along with CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] contributed \$236,000 under the Social Infrastructure Fund to help finance the renovations.

I'd also like to note that the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice, via the interpersonal violence and abuse program unit, supports Southwest Crisis Services programs, including operating costs at the shelter.

Thanks as well, Mr. Speaker, to Heather Lennox, the executive director, and her team of volunteers, staff, and board members who do great work in our community. We're proud to work with the Government of Canada on a project like this, and with Southwest Crisis Services to achieve these goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Ranch Designated as Provincial Heritage Property

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past June a ceremony was held at the historic W.D. and Alice Reesor Ranch to unveil a plaque designating the ranch Saskatchewan's 52nd provincial heritage property.

This ranch was founded in 1914 just southwest of Maple Creek in the beautiful Cypress Hills and includes a ranch house, several barns, and a beautiful landscape. The main buildings were built between 1906 and 1916, and today they display the original construction with a few modifications to adjust to the evolving ranching industry and the family life.

This property represents Saskatchewan's rich heritage in ranching at a time when ranching shifted from corporate enterprises to family-run operations. Today the Reesor Ranch is still a family-run ranching business and includes a highly successful bed and breakfast.

[14:00]

Historic places like the Reesor Ranch play an important role in the provincial identity, our sense of place, and act as a tourism attraction. Through *The Heritage Property Act*, Saskatchewan's irreplaceable and non-renewable heritage is protected and preserved for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents. Mr. Speaker, the Reesor Ranch is a wonderful, unique property; that recognition is well deserved. Congratulations to the Reesor family on the historical W.D. and Alice Reesor Ranch becoming the 52nd provincial heritage property. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Global Transportation Hub

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems the Premier got a bit confused this week, showing up four days late and in the wrong province for a national conference on trade. Now we've seen him have trouble with his schedule before — couldn't remember when and where he met with Bill Boyd about his illegal immigration plans. But you know, notwithstanding those scheduling troubles, certainly there's some information that should be readily at hand.

Yesterday the member for Saskatoon Nutana asked a simple, straightforward question about the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], but the minister chose not to answer. Maybe the Premier can help his colleague out. How much did Loblaw pay for the land at the GTH?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, day in, day out we hear questions, Mr. Speaker, and often with respect to the Global Transportation Hub, a project that I would say was actually put forward by the members opposite when they had the opportunity to govern the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. And in fairness, it was a project that was advanced by members on this side, Mr. Speaker. There was questions around . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Members, order, please. I'm trying to listen to the answer. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Well thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was questions around the procurement of property in that particular investment, Mr. Speaker. Those questions have been advanced to the Provincial Auditor, who has made her rulings, Mr. Speaker, as well as the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] have looked into this situation.

Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent on us, I think, to realize that this is a business that likely the

Government of Saskatchewan should never have been in and should not be in as we move forward. And the fact of the matter is, is as we look across the province with the industrial land rates, Mr. Speaker, and the price of industrial land across Saskatchewan, we are not going to have a fire sale of this asset that has been invested in on behalf of the people of the province, Mr. Speaker.

We are going to take steps to take the opportunity to get out of the management of this particular project, Mr. Speaker, and eventually out of the ownership. But we are going to watch and ensure that the taxpayers', the people of this province's investment is taken care of every step of the way.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier did no better than his colleague in answering the question. It's an alarming dodge, Mr. Speaker. The minister yesterday said he didn't want to talk about the past. Well with a past like the GTH has, I can understand that.

But this is a present and pressing concern, especially now that we know that we've been subsidizing bus services to Loblaw. People are rightly asking what other perks this company received to move their operations from Saskatoon to the GTH. We have the right to know how much, if anything, did Loblaw pay for the land, and what other perks did Saskatchewan taxpayers provide one of Canada's most profitable companies to provide cover for this government's GTH failure?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have got full access to the information that comes in Public Accounts, if there's something specific they want to ask. I can tell you what perks were received by the province of Saskatchewan from this venture — jobs, 860 full-time jobs, 1,800 jobs at the time of construction; \$485 million investment; massive amounts of tax that are paid in income tax, property tax, and other taxes that are paid by way of fuel taxes, taxes on things that go in and out of that facility.

Mr. Speaker, this is a facility that is set up under its own piece of legislation. Taxes are paid by all of the users that are there. We're glad that the facility is there. We're glad that it's paying taxes. And most of all, Mr. Speaker, to the people that work there, we're glad that they've chosen to live in our province and to become employees in our province, and we thank them for being here.

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

#### Effects of Taxes and Resource Prices on Provincial Economy

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's worth noting that Loblaw was already here. They moved from Saskatoon to the GTH. And how much did they pay for the land? That is a very simple question that the Premier chose to sit down on and that this minister refuses to answer.

Whether it's the GTH or the damage they're doing to our struggling economy, this government just won't admit when



there's a problem. They won't admit when they're taking us down the wrong path. This Premier and this cabinet saw a slowing economy and they chose to slam on the brakes. An economic downturn is no time to put in place a new barrier, especially in an essential industry like construction.

The decision to add PST to construction labour has Saskatchewan companies in trouble and Saskatchewan workers out of work. Will the Premier finally admit that we have a problem when it comes to our economy, and will he stop the stunts and get to work so that Saskatchewan people have work to get to?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, as the members opposite know, as many on this side of the House have indicated, a couple of years ago we were faced with a revenue shortfall here at the provincial budget, Mr. Speaker. That revenue shortfall was due to a number of reasons, most notably natural resource prices — the price of potash, the price of uranium, the price of energy, Mr. Speaker.

And we've seen with that continued differential on our energy resources, the continued suppressed prices and access to some markets with our uranium product, Mr. Speaker, is continuing to do to what is an export-based economy here in province of Saskatchewan. Many of our jobs, one in five jobs actually is directly dependent — many more indirectly dependent — on the exports that we have from this province, Mr. Speaker, which I would note are up over 40 per cent in the last decade.

With respect to the broader attempt to shift our reliance on those resource prices, Mr. Speaker, to consumption taxes here in the province, we made that shift, Mr. Speaker, with some very difficult, difficult choices and difficult and challenging decisions that we had to make to ensure that we were able to set out on our three-year plan to balance the budget in this province, a unique plan by contributing members to the equalization formula in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker.

But our three-year plan to balance, we set out on that with some of those challenging decisions. We remain on that track, on track to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker, and next year in this Assembly we're going to introduce a balanced budget on behalf of the people of the province.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you simply can't fix a problem if you won't admit that there is one. People can forgive an error. They can forgive a mistake, but that forgiveness starts with owning it, with taking responsibility. Tradespeople are rightly worried about how they're going to pay their bills when the last of their EI [employment insurance] runs out. We were joined by some of them in the Assembly yesterday — people who clearly described the way this government's choices have made their lives harder.

Mr. Speaker, when I became a family doctor I took an oath to first do no harm. In medicine we know that sometimes patients will be sick and we'll be limited in what we can do to help them. But we start with that that principle, to never do anything to make

their health worse. Brad Wall used to talk about that same principle. Just a year ago he told *Pipeline News*:

We've tried to practice . . . no harm, [that's] sort of been the motto. We don't want to get in the way of industry when they're creating jobs.

If the Premier won't take my advice, will he at least take the advice of the last Premier? Will he stop doing harm to our construction sector and take the PST off of construction labour?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we've engaged with the industry on what I said was very challenging decisions, Mr. Speaker. We've engaged with them as to the impact of the changes we made with respect to the PST on construction, Mr. Speaker. We've also engaged with them as to the impact of the slow economy that we just talked about, Mr. Speaker, due to the drawback in natural resource prices, the drawback in the price that we're receiving in this province for our energy product, Mr. Speaker, being some 70 per cent less than the world price, missing I think annualized \$7.4 billion out of the Saskatchewan economy just in the energy industry alone that could be reinvested into all sorts of infrastructure here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

And we've also engaged on the infrastructure, the twelve and a half billion dollars of infrastructure that has been invested in in this province over the last decade. And I think of the children's hospital that'll soon be opening in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, with construction materials in it. I think of the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, Mr. Speaker. I think of the 13 long-term care centres across the province, Mr. Speaker, so important to each of those communities and the communities around that they serve.

I think of the investment in highways, record budgets up to a billion and over some years, Mr. Speaker, in our highways across the province, Mr. Speaker. Not like members opposite in years gone by where they've asked members of the province to go out and fix the potholes themselves, Mr. Speaker. I think of the largest infrastructure investment ever in the history of the province, the bypass around this city, Mr. Speaker, ensuring the safe travel of the trucks on our national corridor, the No. 1 Highway, and the safety of the families that are coming into the city.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, with this government it's always somebody else's fault when there's a problem. They need to take responsibility for their own decisions. When it's looking back at the GTH and the problems there — somebody else's fault. When they're looking at the slowdown in the economy, it's someone else's fault. But this is the government that chose to put the PST on construction. This is the government that has a procurement process that keeps Saskatchewan contractors and Saskatchewan workers out of our major projects.

When will this government take responsibility? When will this Premier recognize that he's the Premier and he can take action? He has power to improve the lives of the people in this province, but he chooses not to do so. He chooses to point the finger

elsewhere.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I have said this is the government that made those decisions, Mr. Speaker, and so that we are able to get our books back to balance here in the province so that we can continue with investments far beyond this generation or this particular government for the next generation, Mr. Speaker, investments in that infrastructure and services that people expect.

I talked about the slowdown in the economy, Mr. Speaker. This is also the government that continues to advocate, Mr. Speaker, for the export-based, resource-based economy that we have in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Myself and the Deputy Premier were in our largest centre yesterday, Mr. Speaker, our largest province, advocating on behalf, on behalf of the industries that we have in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We had the opportunity to engage, upon invitation from many months ago, with the Canada-India Business Council in advance of a trip to . . . a mission, a trade mission to India later this year, Mr. Speaker. That's advocating with our third-largest trading partner, the country of India, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we also took the opportunity to advocate with our second-largest internal trading partner, and that's the largest province in the nation of Canada, the province of Ontario, Mr. Speaker.

This is the government that will always advocate on behalf of a strong economy, the jobs that it can provide, and the opportunity that it can provide so that we can continue to service people in this province in the way that they expect, in health care and education and opportunities for ourselves and the next generation. And that's what makes a strong Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Global Transportation Hub and Regina Bypass

**Ms. Sproule:** — Yesterday we asked some very serious questions about the costs of the Regina bypass and what was spent on bypass infrastructure to support the GTH. The minister did not answer the question. In fact she didn't even try.

This government struck an agreement for the bypass that tacked close to \$2,000 of debt on the heads of every man, woman, and child in this province, and they deserve answers from this government. We know that the Regina bypass scope radically changed to accommodate free-flow access to the Global Transportation Hub as the Sask Party dreamed it — not the floundering money pit that it actually is.

So again to the minister: how much more did the Sask Party tack on to the bypass tab to support their lofty dreams for the GTH?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question.

Mr. Speaker, Highways invested about \$87 million in the west Regina bypass prior to the beginning of the broader Regina bypass project. This investment funded the Pinkie Road overpass, two bridges over the CP [Canadian Pacific] rail line, widening of Dewdney Avenue — which, I might add, the member for Regina Rosemont had a petition in this House more than 80 times asking to get traffic off of that road, and he gave member statements regarding that topic. And that is exactly what we did, is improve safety along that corridor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well that the Sask Party's studied-to-death bypass had more than 40 individual studies conducted related to demand, costs, and route design. And there have to be some studies related specifically to the GTH. For the Sask Party to suggest that we need to simply accept this \$87 million as one big, inseparable lump is ridiculous.

[14:15]

Here's what we do know. Design documents posted on the SaskBuilds website today used this projection, and I'll quote:

The Global Transportation Hub will, in the future, achieve full "build out" with forecast external trips of 6,426 daily.

That's 45,000 trips a week. Here's the thing, Mr. Speaker. GTH's most recent annual report indicates only 4,600 trucks flow through in a week. That's barely 10 per cent of what was projected, Mr. Speaker. This government sunk millions of taxpayers' dollars into the west Regina bypass based on those projections. To the minister: exactly how much on the GTH?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the member opposite's question, I believe I answered that in my last question. I gave specific details as to what that money was spent on. The project as a whole is actually a project with one price, and it is a very important project. I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight the importance of this project.

As we've already talked about today, we all know that Saskatchewan is an export-based economy and is more dependent on international and interprovincial trade than any other province. More than two-thirds of Saskatchewan's GDP [gross domestic product] is based on . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Mr. Speaker, more than two-thirds of Saskatchewan's GDP is based on exports, and the province needs seamless and efficient transportation services in order to ensure long-term prosperity and . . . competitive of its producers and exporters. And this is all part of one great big project that will make this province successful. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, let's talk about those projections that are on the bypass website right now. They're projecting when the GTH reaches its full build-out, but you know what, Mr. Speaker? That's part of the problem. There is no road from here to there. There have been no land sales for two years, and the GTH is buried in mounting debt.

Instead of accepting that they have a problem, they're looking to cut and run, dumping it on the city of Regina and leaving us in the lurch. What we have here is a bypass infrastructure that expanded in cost from 400 million to \$2 billion to service the GTH. Why are Saskatchewan taxpayers on the hook for a massive, underused roundabout so that the Loblaw trucks don't have to come to a full stop? Why is Loblaw the big winner here?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Mr. Speaker, once again I'd like to thank the member opposite for the opportunity to speak about this monumental project that brings safety to the province of Saskatchewan, safety to Dewdney Avenue. This does bring some benefits to the GTH. There's no question about it. But yes, when this is in full blown . . . construction is complete next year, on that time we would project about 10,000 vehicles per day.

The members opposite know the importance of this project. In fact the member from Athabasca in *Hansard* actually said the NDP [New Democratic Party] are in full support of having the bypass built to ensure safety and certainly to help the economy. And that is exactly what this government on this side of the House is doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Funding for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government's devastating \$70 million cuts to education over the last two years is having impact right across the province. When I asked the Education minister about this last week he went on and on about the carbon tax. He told me, and I quote: "Now, Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite is truly interested in supporting teachers in the classroom, Mr. Speaker, she should talk about the carbon tax."

I don't know a single parent or teacher in the province that wouldn't give that statement a failing grade. So I'll ask him again. When is he going to stop with the ridiculous rhetoric and return the money that his government cut from our children's classrooms?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I've stood in this House a number of times and I've indicated, and the opposition knows, we restored \$30 million to the funding formula this year, Mr. Speaker, to fulfil the Premier's promise when it came to public education.

And I know the member opposite is a strong advocate for increased funding for education. I know that, Mr. Speaker. But if you're going to be an advocate for increased funding, Mr. Speaker, you also have to be an advocate for those kinds of things

that are going to affect funding in the classroom. The SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], Mr. Speaker, the school boards association — and the member's a former trustee, and she has great respect for the association; I know that — has told us that it's going to cost up to \$8 million. Mr. Speaker, that's got to come out of the funding for public education when the carbon tax is imposed at \$20 a tonne, Mr. Speaker. So those are funds that are coming directly out of public education.

So if she wants to be an advocate for funding, Mr. Speaker, that's great. I'm happy to listen to those comments, Mr. Speaker. And we hear them when we go out and speak to school boards, Mr. Speaker. But the fact of the matter is, the carbon tax is going to affect public education and the funding of public education, and she should be an advocate. She should stand with us. The members on the opposite side should stand with us to oppose the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, because it's going to have a direct effect on classroom funding.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — I'll take the minister's tips on how to be an advocate under advisement, Mr. Speaker, but the question was to restore the full amount that this government cut to our kids' classrooms.

The cuts that they have made to education are having serious impacts right across this province and especially so in the North, where a shortage of teachers is leaving kids in overcrowded classrooms and principals scrambling to get things in order.

Two months into the school year this year, the Northern Lights School Division is looking for 14 teachers in La Ronge, Pinehouse, Stony Rapids, La Loche, and Sandy Bay. And these cuts were made even worse by the Sask Party's damaging and puzzling decision to cut NORTEP [northern teacher education program], a program that offered teacher education in the North for over four decades.

When is this government going to restore the funding that they have been cutting from our classrooms? And what is their plan? I want to hear their plan to address this teacher shortage in the North today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as minister I am well aware of the issues that are faced in the North, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise, Mr. Speaker, that the number of teachers that they're looking for in the Northern Lights School Division is down to eight, so they've made some progress. I met with the chair of the school division and the director of education just last week in my office here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. I plan on being up visiting a number of the schools, visiting the board of education in the next short period of time, Mr. Speaker.

But when they were here, Mr. Speaker, we were talking about a strategy. And my deputy minister and officials within the ministry are working hand in glove, Mr. Speaker, with officials, with officials in the Northern Lights School Division to address this very problem. We're concerned about it, Mr. Speaker, and certainly we're well aware of it and there's steps being taken to address it.

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

### Long-Term Care Home Infrastructure

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, this government's under-investment in health care infrastructure has resulted in crumbling buildings, displaced patients, and a shortage of long-term care beds. We learned in August that all long-term care patients from the Grenfell Pioneer Home would be relocated because of mould in the facility, but the people of Grenfell are still waiting to hear whether this government is committed to maintaining a long-term care home in Grenfell.

According to the former mayor of Grenfell, Lloyd Gwilliam, people in Grenfell have been fundraising for 40 years for the care home to replace the aging wings. He told the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], "People have given half their farm to donations and been buried in the Grenfell cemetery and never saw a new home."

Mr. Speaker, the people of Grenfell are looking for clarity. Have any of the residents been placed in private care already, and will the minister commit today to maintaining a public long-term care facility in Grenfell?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've actually been out to the Grenfell care home a couple of times now. I looked at it a couple of years ago with the former mayor, as well as more recently, and we are aware of the situation in Grenfell.

I would remind the member that we have over the last number of years invested 1.2 million in remediation of that facility to keep it up and running. Only recently we found that the mould was too widespread through the building for the safety of the patients. We had to remove them. So 19 of the 20 clients that were in that facility got their first choice of alternative placements; the 20th got their second choice. As we work towards a final answer to what might happen with the services in Grenfell, Mr. Speaker, we're looking at a few different options, but we are committed to publicly funded long-term care in Grenfell.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, the cost of needed infrastructure in our health care system has ballooned from 2.2 billion to 3.3 billion in four years. Whether we're talking about the mould problems in Pioneer Home in Grenfell or at Pioneer Village in Regina, we see the same mould mismanagement from the Sask Party.

In 2014 the government was told that Pioneer Village in Regina needed around \$60 million worth of repairs, but over the past four years they've put in only \$8 million — a fraction of what is needed.

In the years since, Regina Pioneer Village has been plagued with infrastructure problems including weakening brickwork, aging plumbing and electrical systems, asbestos, and most recently,

mould. Nearly 100 residents were displaced this spring because of the mould problem and now we're hearing privately that the closure of beds may be permanent.

Mr. Speaker, what's this government's plan for Pioneer Village in Regina? Will the minister commit that those beds be reopened and will he commit to not privatizing long-term care in Saskatchewan without taking it to the people first?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, the mould issue in Regina Pioneer Village has been well documented. There's going to be some remediation done for a number of those beds to last for several years, Mr. Speaker. We continue to work on a long-term plan, Mr. Speaker. That obviously is going to be publicly funded long-term care.

Mr. Speaker, let's put this in perspective though. The member opposite talks about underfunding capital. Let's look at the actual situation. Under an NDP government, Mr. Speaker, 52 hospitals closed in the province. Mr. Speaker, under this government, hospitals and, and to the member from Rosemont, long-term care facilities built around this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we'll take no lessons from the NDP on long-term care and the treatment of our seniors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 132 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 132, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now introduced and read a first time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Principal Clerk:** — First reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Next sitting of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Heppner, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Ms. Mowat.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Yorkton and Rural and Remote Health.

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a bit of a late evening last night. I finished off about 10:30, so I'll just wind up my comments this afternoon, hopefully as briefly as possible. I want to just confirm again my recognition of my family, my constituents, my staff both here and in Yorkton for the hard work that they do and the support that they do give me that I'm able to do the job that I am here in Regina, Mr. Speaker.

But of course we're here today to speak to the Throne Speech, "Standing Up for Saskatchewan," Mr. Speaker, that I touched on last night. It's a very aptly named Throne Speech based on one of the opening paragraphs in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, stating that basically we will stand up for Saskatchewan by working to protect and grow our economy, by carefully managing taxpayers' dollars while delivering important government services and programs to the people of this province.

I think that's very important for any government to do because that's what we're here to do, Mr. Speaker. Part of that is our plan, of course, to return back to balance over a three-year period. It started a few years back. We'll be returning to balance in this next budget.

[14:30]

And the benefits of that is showing. There's confidence in our province. We have the AAA credit rating that's continued. Our population continues to grow. We still have interest from the general business sector in investing in Saskatchewan. They look at us favourably, and that's going to continue.

So some of our strongest, I guess, business opportunities in this province are fairly widespread. Of course agriculture is our number one driver of our economy, so we're always very responsive and attentive to that, Mr. Speaker. But also we're working towards strengthening our oil and gas, our mining industries, Mr. Speaker, through different incentives and programs and policies, as well as being fair with everybody in our province when it comes to taxation rates and cost of living, which is why we've done a lot of the tax incentives and tax policies we have over the last number of years, 10 years, Mr. Speaker. That has delivered our 112,000 lowest taxpayers that do not any longer pay provincial income tax in our province.

When we look at some of the investments, and we heard about it today: my friend, the member from Estevan, the new Highways minister, and the work that she is doing with the highways infrastructure, our other investments in infrastructure throughout the province.

We just heard some quite interesting questions, I guess I could say, from the Health critic about investments in our infrastructure in health care, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health touched on it

very well. Not enough time to touch on all the investments, but if we look at those investments, Mr. Speaker, \$1.5 billion over the last 10 years. He touched on the children's hospital, the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, which is going to pay huge dividends to the people from all over the province. Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford, a facility to help our mental health patients and some that have gotten themselves into some criminal activity because of some of their mental health implications, Mr. Speaker. So developing those buildings and those programs within those buildings to serve some of the most needy in our province, Mr. Speaker, is very important to us.

And when we look at our school investment, Mr. Speaker, \$1.6 billion in our schools over the last number of years. Whereas the NDP closed schools, Mr. Speaker, 176 schools, I think if I remember right, the amount of schools that they closed. The Minister of Health touched on the 52 hospitals. He didn't quite have time to touch on the 19 long-term care facilities that they closed, the Plains health centre, Mr. Speaker.

So we see a pattern developing here; over 10 years of Saskatchewan Party government, build after build after build; replacing facilities and making sure that we have, to the best of our ability within a balanced budget, investment in infrastructure in the province. Whereas we saw under the NDP, closure after closure after closure, Mr. Speaker. And I'll get into maybe before the end of my comments some of where we know the NDP would go just by history and by some of the comments that they made over the last couple of years.

We look at more investments in infrastructure through telecommunications. We know SaskTel's been investing quite mightily throughout the province. I think if you look throughout the country of Canada, our neighbouring provinces, especially those with more rural challenges, I don't know if there's another province that has the telecommunications coverage that we do because of the utilization of our Crown corporations, specifically SaskTel.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of that. Like, we're very proud of the coverage that I know I have in my home area when it comes to the investment of SaskTel in rural Saskatchewan, which also lends itself to public safety with the connectivity from these rural areas, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Highways did touch on the bypass. I want to touch on that briefly. Mr. Speaker, we hear this over and over again about the 400 million ballooning to 2 billion. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's put on record exactly what that project is. Under the NDP when originally proposed, a few miles of repaving, four overpasses, \$400 million. What we have now is 12 interchanges, Mr. Speaker. We have 40 miles of new four-lane pavement. We have access roads off to the start, connecting to the new Global Transportation Hub.

And of course they are two very separate projects. The bypass is one project; the GTH is another project. I have full confidence that as we look down into the future — 5, 10, 15, 20 years down the road — we're going to see the GTH paying huge dividends to the people of this province through the export opportunities.

I could point to some of the investments under the NDP, Mr. Speaker: SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development

Company], no more SPUDCO; Clickabid, gone. Some of these other investments . . . And I wish our former colleague Yogi Huyghebaert was here. He had this list down pat that we would just be hammering through the list. But all of these things — bingo halls, Mr. Speaker — gone.

The GTH is there, and whether in public ownership or eventual private ownership, we know it's going to be paying dividends to the people of this province for many years to come. Of course the bypass again, the investment there, an actual 1.2 billion investment. Mr. Speaker, not 2 billion, 1.2. The extra, Mr. Speaker, is money that is going to be spent over the next 30 years to make sure that that infrastructure is kept in like-new condition and returned to the people of the province at that time. So we know through the auditor's own information that's like 300 and \$400 million savings over the period of 30 years. And again we get a brand new asset, like-new condition in 30 years. So, Mr. Speaker, I do believe in the long term, it's a very good investment.

And of course, never to forget the safety implications. I know, Mr. Speaker, I travel that road multiple times per week. I remember the challenge that I used to have with traffic coming onto the road, level crossings, level intersections. We heard time and time again the people from those areas coming into this Assembly, talking about the tragic incidents, accidents, and sometimes loss of life that we would see down that stretch of highway. Mr. Speaker, since the construction started, since the opening of some of the new sections, we haven't seen that happen. I know there's been some accidents, but nothing that has been involving where the former crossings, the intersections were, Mr. Speaker.

And of course, the member from Rosemont, time and time again — as the Minister of Highways talked about today — 80 times I think he delivered petitions, and I think a couple member's statements about getting the trucks off of Dewdney.

Mr. Speaker, this project, this bypass has done that. It's increased the traffic flow outside of the city to around the city and taking those trucks off of Dewdney. So you'd think the member would be on his feet applauding and not continuing to berate that project. Plus all the contractors that have worked on it, I think 80 per cent of the contractors that have worked on that project are Saskatchewan local, Canadian contractors. And we should be very proud of that, the economic development that's happened because of that project that's been so very important to our province.

I know just recently we've saw the announcement, I think it was last week, the member from Martensville celebrated the opening of a couple other interchanges there that is going to help with traffic flow around the north end of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I could go on and on about the investments in our other major city, Saskatoon, with some of their bridge infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, let's not forget whether it's the bypass, these bridges in Saskatoon, this is important infrastructure for the whole province. I drive around Regina. I drive into Saskatoon. I'm from Yorkton, I'm on the other side of the province. I enjoy the use of those facilities, those infrastructure facilities, to get me safely around and transported through those major centres, Mr. Speaker. So let's not forget these infrastructure investments in

major centres — whether it's hospitals, highways, the schools — serves everybody in the province, Mr. Speaker.

When we look at some of the investments that we're making, we talked in the Throne Speech about investments in public safety. We know the provincial protection response team has already showed dividends, really good outcomes with some of those initiatives integrating our conservation officers, our highway traffic officers with some of our police forces. Very important, Mr. Speaker.

And we look at another investment by the Minister of Highways, 700,000 in assessing some of our intersection safety in the province after the tragic incidents that we saw happen around Tisdale only a few short months ago, and doing a study on those intersections to be sure that we have some of the safest level crossings in the province, in the country, Mr. Speaker.

We look at the changing of *The Police Act* to enable rural municipalities with populations under 500 to join regional police services. And, Mr. Speaker, this only lends itself to increasing our capacity when it comes to public safety and policing opportunities with our municipal partners, to give them some options when it comes to providing safety for their citizens.

Of course I really appreciated my friend, the new member from Melfort, his comments about Clare's Law last night, Mr. Speaker, protecting the public again from a different point of view, a different way, by making sure that there's a framework for Saskatchewan police services to inform intimate partners about possibility of risk by other partners, Mr. Speaker. I think that it's very important that we do keep our citizens as safe as possible and sharing that information, I think, is very important.

I want to dwell a little bit on health care, Mr. Speaker. Again I don't want to spend too much time, but there is a lot to talk about in health care. I'll be as brief as I possibly can. We look at some of the opportunities that we see in the province now in living in rural areas with accessing health care. Are we saying we have it perfect? Absolutely not. Has there been a lot of movement, momentum? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. And I'll get to some of those comments in my remarks.

We look at some of the investments we've made in MRI [magnetic resonance imaging], but also in private MRI delivery that's increased the capacity of our province to the point of doing over 1,400 additional MRIs in our province due to that initiative, Mr. Speaker. And I think we have to explore all those opportunities that do lend itself to strengthening our whole health care system.

We know moving from 12 regions, Mr. Speaker, to one has shown great improvements throughout the continuum of health care. There are challenges for sure, but talking to our other jurisdictions across the country that have gone from multiple jurisdictions down to one or fewer regions, we know that we are quite a bit ahead of the curve on that, that we have addressed a lot of the issues, and we continue to address some of the challenges that do come. But the benefits that we're seeing from going to that one health region has shown, again, very many benefits for the people of the province, which isn't the sole reason we're doing it, for financial savings. But we do see an initial financial savings: 10 to \$20 million. We know as the system rolls

out, efficiencies are found. It's going to show even more savings, Mr. Speaker.

Something I've worked on quite a bit over the last number of years is working with our EMS [emergency medical services] providers, providing a more uniform contract system, a more uniform delivery system across the province when it comes to the EMS. And we saw, I think, a CBC article just last week about the changes that we're moving ahead with, whether it's the closest car responding or whatever the case might be, Mr. Speaker. But improving EMS services with response times is also with the level of expertise that is manning those cars. And areas that right now maybe don't have primary care, advanced care paramedics can more fully cover the province with a very top-of-the-line ambulance service throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, including in rural and remote areas.

I know one of the members last night was talking about what are we doing when it comes to emergency room waits and all the rest of it, Mr. Speaker. Well we know the accountable care unit here in Regina, the only one we had in the province, was very successful. So of course we spread that more widely throughout the system. We have four that are operating, expanding to another three, plus the community care model that will be a step down from those accountable care units to provide those services within Regina and Saskatoon. Those accountable care units are going to show benefits and get people out of the hospital more quickly, out of acute care, which frees up the system, frees the flow into the hospital where there's an emergent situation in need of acute care, but also gets people out of the hospital into their home setting a lot quicker, which is showing great results when it comes to healing and getting well a little bit quicker, Mr. Speaker.

There was, I think, one of our members from Saskatoon talked about individualized funding, Mr. Speaker, today in a member's statement. And we're moving down that road as well, to increase the opportunities for individualized funding to give people more choice within the public system of accessing the care that they need.

I did talk briefly about the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. You know, that project now is 92 per cent complete. I think the staffing number is about 80, 90 per cent staffed. So we know we're very well positioned when that facility opens late next fall. And again, just from personal experience having sick children, acutely sick children, the benefits that's going to pay the people of this province is going to be something that is very close to my heart. But I'm very proud of what that facility is going to mean to the people of our province and our children.

When it comes to some of our mental health issues and some of our responses to some of those issues when it comes to addictions, Mr. Speaker, we know some of the investments that we've seen through PACT [police and crisis team] teams, police crisis action teams, where you have a police officer coupled with a mental health worker responding to some of these situations, has shown a lot of benefit. So of course we're expanding that program throughout the province as well. One of those is in my home town of Yorkton. Also Prince Albert, North Battleford, and Moose Jaw are going to see those crisis teams integrated into action here fairly soon.

Some of the information, some of the conversations I had with our Children's Advocate, when it came to integrating and having mental health supports within our education system, of course we know we announced that pilot program a little while ago. And those communities of North Battleford, Sandy Bay, Regina, and Balgonie have been chosen for the rollout of that program. And we're looking forward to seeing the impact that that will have in the coming months and years in our education system when it comes to mental health supports for our children.

And when it comes to some of the addictions issues, Mr. Speaker, we know that the opioid crisis has been a tragic happening across our country. We're no different. We've suffered some of the effects of the opioid crisis. So that's why we chose to expand the take-home naloxone kit to not only our medical providers, but also to private family members that might be more suited to quickly respond to some of those that may be experiencing an overdose.

And also we know, not that it's directly connected to addictions, but we know the high incidence of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] in the province is something that we have to address. And that's why we decided to do universal coverage for our HIV medications, to more quickly and more fully respond to some of our most vulnerable in the province, Mr. Speaker.

Individualized funding for autistic children in the province, that's been rolled out, and so we'll have \$4,000 annually going to children under six. And then as the years progress, we look at expanding that program as well.

[14:45]

One of the final things I'm going to talk about in health care is something that's again really close to my heart, is rural presence technology. We've seen the effects this has had, its initial trial with nurse robots in Pelican Narrows, expanding out throughout the province, expanding to what some would call "doc in a box," some would call "nurse in a purse," others would call "health in your hands."

But that remote presence technology, able to go right to the patient and be utilized in a very effective manner, is just showing amazing outcomes when it comes to rural and remote health care opportunities and connecting people with health care professionals, including specialists — and from time to time mental health supports, Mr. Speaker — is very important.

So we applaud the work of Dr. Ivar Mendez and the work he continues to do, even going so far as to expand that into Stony Rapids and starting to integrate ultrasound technology into that remote presence technology, Mr. Speaker.

So before I wind up my remarks . . . I think I've probably gone on enough. Some of my other colleagues will talk about some of these other areas that we're touching on in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. But you know, we always have to remember that we hear all this stuff in this building, and it maybe isn't always the right perspective. So we'll hear criticisms across the floor, and that's their job, is to criticize.

But, Mr. Speaker, as a good friend that I mentioned earlier, Yogi

Huyghebaert — God rest his soul. He was a great colleague, good friend, mentor, and I would say hero, Mr. Speaker, a military veteran that we remember at especially this time of the year. He used to tell us something about not getting too wrapped up in this place. And he called it dome-itis, because you think you see what's happening in the media and what's being barked across the floor. That's not really always the whole fact.

And what really opened up my eyes to that fact was, I was at a rural revitalization conference here, just a few short weeks ago in Saskatoon. And one of the opening speakers, a First Nations individual — I can't remember his name or where he's from — but he had just come back from a conference in Australia when it came to rural and remote health care. And I was actually, I was quite floored.

I know we're doing a lot in the province. We're, you know, some of the things we're doing haven't seen the successes that we are expecting to see in the future, but they're under way. You don't really realize people are recognizing what's happening in our country, specifically in this province, through the hard work of our medical professionals, the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority. My colleague and I, we try and help a little bit from time to time.

But what that individual told, the story he told us was the conversations at this conference in Australia . . . Canada, specifically Saskatchewan, being recognized not only for what we're accomplishing, but the direction we're going — remote presence technology, how we compensate our health care professionals, training health care professionals in rural settings, having a higher instance of recruitment and retention in some of the rural and remote areas.

Have we arrived yet? Absolutely not. We have a lot more distance to go and I realize that. But it's very encouraging for me and all those others involved throughout the health care continuum, specifically our front-line providers, when they hear stories like that, that you are doing a heck of a good job; don't stop. Keep plugging towards that final goal of having the best place in Canada. Maybe the best place in the world is what we're shooting for, for those in need of medical assistance in rural and remote areas, Mr. Speaker. So that was quite encouraging for me to hear.

You know, and not to criticize the members opposite too much, the NDP like to come across as the saviours of rural everything, rural health care. And we heard early in the comments of my colleague from Rosetown, the Minister of Health, about the decimation of health care in this province over the 16 years, the last 16 years of NDP government.

The one thing that really baffled me, and not too long ago, when the member from Rosemont — I think he was the leader at the time — doing some health care criticism and he was criticizing our panel report on health system rejuvenation, restructuring, going down to one health region. And I remember the comment he said. I maybe won't be quoting it specifically. I'd have to look back in *Hansard*. But he commented that, you know, why are you wasting your time and your money on this? Why don't you just dust off the report that was done under the NDP, the Fyke Commission report?

Well, Mr. Speaker, you know what the Fyke Commission report would've done, would've said? Never mind the 52 that they closed. They would've asked for 50 or 70 more closures in this province, further decimating health care. Mr. Speaker, that's not anywhere that we want to go. We're here to strengthen health care, especially rural and remote areas. I think our record speaks to that.

We've been building facilities, training, doubled the doctors. We're retaining . . . I think previously we had 60 spots; we were retaining about 50-some per cent, 57 per cent. We've got 100 medical seats now, some of those again in rural areas. We're retaining 75 per cent of those through the hard work of PRAS [physician recruitment agency of Saskatchewan] and Saskdocs and the college and all the others involved in training of doctors. The message is getting out that rural practice, family practice in a rural setting is a great career choice. We're having a lot of success.

So for that reason we're having less and less international grads that we're having to recruit into the system. We're always going to need . . . Our international physicians are a great asset to the system. We're having less and less need of that because we're retaining and training more right in our province. So, Mr. Speaker, that's another bit of great news that I'm really encouraged by. And of course the Minister of Health and I support all of this work. We're a very small part of this team. We really applaud all those again — the Health Authority, the ministry, and all those involved in delivering health care in this province — for the hard work that they do, and we do very much appreciate them every day.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, so much I could talk about in education, the investments we've made. You know, we've got the curriculum renewal coming up that we're looking at more financial literacy and the sciences and technology and engineering, to better prepare our students for a future in this province. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm just so very happy with our Premier's stance, a fight that he started at quite a while ago as Environment minister against the carbon tax, in favour of pipelines to strengthen our economy, but also to forward an honest plan on environmental sustainability through our Prairie Resilience plan, Mr. Speaker, the work that's been carried on by our friend and minister from Weyburn, the Environment minister, the great work that he's been doing as well, Mr. Speaker.

So as I close my comments, I just have to say that I am not going to support the amendment. I'm fully going to support the main motion and support this Throne Speech read by the Lieutenant Governor from our Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today will be one of my last replies from the Speech from the Throne from this Assembly, and it should start where it always should start, with some thank yous.

I'd like to thank my wife Danielle for all the support over the years. She was with me from the very beginning of my political career, and I know she'll be with me at the end of my political



career, whenever that may be. Just like everyone else in here, there will come a day that we'll no longer be parliamentarians in the elected sense, and we'll always have our family to love us when this career is done. And I need to thank her for all the hours of help on different campaigns and support. She's at home right now taking care of two sick boys. I'm not feeling the best. I might be joining them later and she'll be taking care of three boys. And I couldn't do this job without her support, and I'm very thankful that I have that, just as every spouse in here has a spouse that is critical in their success.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank you for the great job you're doing in that role. When I was Speaker, I was very, very grateful to have the opportunity. It was the best job I ever had in my career, I believe, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did and gain the appreciations that I did from that role.

And one of the roles that I appreciate getting to know is the opposition and getting to know that, you know, all members in here want to make Saskatchewan the best possible place. We may have different paths on how to get there, but deep down we all want a better Saskatchewan to give to our children and the next generation.

Another appreciation that I've gained from the previous role was for the media. And if they're watching, a modern Westminster democracy works best with a functioning media that is independent and fair, that will keep government account and opposition account to our interactions and how we handle ourselves in the Assembly and outside. And I'd like to thank the media for the work they do in ensuring an accurate portrayal of the work we do in this Assembly.

As this is the first time that I've been on my feet, I'd like to also welcome the new member from Regina Northeast. He has journeyed a long ways to get to this Assembly, like many people on both sides of the aisles. It is incredibly humbling to become an MLA, and if you look at the rolls, there's something like 760 people have been given the opportunity to serve in this Assembly. And don't take that lightly, how hard it is to get here. And sometimes it takes multiple tries.

And I was lucky to be elected in 2011 and to be re-elected. And you know, it's a lot of hard work and timing and grace of God that make this possible. And sometimes we need to thank the people that got you along that path to get elected and remember how special it is, this Assembly, that where the debates in here that have taken place and continue to take place and shape our province, and we have an opportunity to take part in that. And that is special. And I hope everyone remembers that and cherishes that as much as they can, as they are able to in this Assembly, because you never know when it'll be over. And it is just a truly humbling experience to be a representative of our respective constituencies. For Saskatoon Eastview, thank you. Thank you for the honour that you have bestowed upon me to represent you down here.

And I will try to keep my comments to the Speech from the Throne limited but still with the lens of the people that I represent, Saskatoon Eastview, as much as everyone else has their own lenses that they put on the speech and what it means to them and their family and who they represent. And ultimately that is who we work for is the people of our great province.

There's also some people in the building that don't need introduction, but I will mention them because they are so critical in the work behind the scenes in the caucus office and throughout the building, and without them I think anyone from this side of the aisle wouldn't be effective parliamentarians without their support and work. I'm thinking of Margarite and Bailey and Peter and Karalee and Joe and Shandy. So thankful for their support and long hours to make this possible. They may not get recorded in *Hansard* as often as they should, but I want to make sure that they're recorded today and for everyone to know the important roles that they play in making sure at least the government MLAs are on track and organized and professional as much as possible. So thank you for those individuals.

So the Speech from the Throne 2018, rightfully so, is "Standing Up for Saskatchewan." I think it's an appropriate title for our Speech from the Throne. I think back to all the other speeches that we've heard in this Assembly and this might be the most important. As much as our counterparts across the aisle have commented on the substance on this speech, I think this is a very important speech.

Probably the most important part of it is reconfirming that our commitment to deliver a balanced budget for 2019-2020. And why is that important, Mr. Speaker? Well if we are remembering history and what the dark days of the 1990s were in this province, it was reckless spending that got us into crippling debt. And what came from that, Mr. Speaker? Well it was a correction that was felt throughout the province. It was hurting rural Saskatchewan, urban Saskatchewan, northern Saskatchewan. It is one of the most profound things to me, is the damage that the 1990s did to our infrastructure, to our health care, and education.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my experience with growing up and graduating in Esterhazy in 1996 was that my school was shut down actually by the opposition when they were in government for those 16 long years. My school was one of the 176 schools that was closed down. And they had to make those tough decisions. But where did they decide to cut? In rural Saskatchewan.

And after leaving Esterhazy and carrying on to my education at the University of Saskatchewan, I saw a university that was crumbling. If there's any other alumni from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] here, they might've wrote one of their exams in the old phys. ed. building. It was two World War II aircraft hangars brought onto campus and stacked on top of each other. And I still remember vividly walking up the ramp to the second gym and it would creak and you never thought anything of it. But one of the exams that I had, it was a final exam. I wrote the exam in the morning, came home at lunch time, and watching the news, it was communicated that the building was condemned, that it was ready to fall down. And that was the state of our post-secondary education system in the 1990s.

[15:00]

And why that is important to remember is, if we don't have balanced budgets, we get to a point where there's critical infrastructure and critical services that the people of Saskatchewan deserve, they get hacked apart. And that is what the NDP did to this province. And I can't stress my support enough that this government is going to get this budget back to

balance, and the importance of such.

And we're going to see how this plays out because one province over is taking a different approach. They're spending countless dollars on reckless spending in Alberta and piling up debt at a record speed that — you know what, Mr. Speaker? — they haven't learned the lessons of the '90s, or they're relearning. They're going to relearn the lessons because in short order there's going to be a change in government in Alberta, and they're going to have to look at the books and decide some painful realities of reckless spending. And they're going to experience once again the unfortunate decisions that correct the balance or the budgets, was going to take some very difficult medicine.

And this government has taken a different approach and starting two years ago, is that we started making those tough choices but not large hits to our services that we provide, but correcting it early enough that we're going to get back to balance in a year's time, and we're going to be a better province because of that. And we're not going to be making those disastrous cuts that Alberta's going to be making in a matter of years because you can't continue to run deficit budgets without getting yourself in trouble.

Next I was so pleased to hear in the Speech from the Throne also that we will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan communities, families, and businesses by challenging the ineffective and harmful federal carbon tax in court, Mr. Speaker. This tax is a tax on everything that moves. Mr. Speaker; this will make delivering of services in Saskatchewan that much more expensive.

We heard earlier in question period the opposition talking about, well, how does a carbon tax affect education? Well, Mr. Speaker, those schools need to be heated, and when it's minus 40, I don't think the solar panels on the roof and the windmill in the field is going to actually be able to create enough electricity to heat those schools. We're going to need natural gas and, Mr. Speaker, if Justin Trudeau is successful in forcing a carbon tax, that school is going to get hit. And with that increased cost, that takes out of the budget the ability to hire new teachers, hire new aids. And that is one of the disastrous effects of a carbon tax on our economy and our services that we provide.

And what do we hear from the opposition? The Leader of the Opposition supports a carbon tax. Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House will not wave that white flag. We will not give up the fight, and we will fight this carbon tax to every last minute and inch that we can.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's important to know that this tax is going to cripple our economy. If you look at agriculture, the federal government has said, well we'll just exempt gasoline and diesel from that equation. The problem with that is that if you look at the impact of the carbon tax on agriculture, it's not just those two areas that are important. It's everything else that goes into modern agriculture, such as fertilizer which . . . To produce fertilizer you burn carbon and there would be a carbon tax that would be passed on to the producers.

You take every sector of our economy in Saskatchewan and apply a carbon tax to it, it will be a brake Mr. Speaker, and we will not let that happen to Saskatchewan. We will stand. We will stand with our Premier. We'll stand with members of the

government to make sure that that tax never becomes law in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the carbon tax tries to address climate change. I believe in climate change. I believe human impact is having an impact on our climate. But the actual tool of a carbon tax is the worst possible way of effecting that change. If you look at where it's been introduced, such as BC [British Columbia], and their carbon dioxide rates are up, not down, Mr. Speaker. If you look at different countries such as Australia, they introduced a carbon tax and two years later they removed it. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Well it's an ineffective tool.

If you want to raise taxes, and apparently that's what the federal government wants to do and the Leader of the Opposition here in Saskatchewan wants to do is introduce a carbon tax, then fill your boots if that's what you'd like to do as a revenue generator.

But when it looks like . . . If you really want to impact climate change you need to affect the actual production of carbon dioxides. And I look at our plan that was introduced a year and a half ago and that will actually have real-world reductions in carbon pollution. And, Mr. Speaker, I would stand that that plan is a way better plan than the federal government's plan for a carbon tax.

Now the member from Athabasca is commenting "wave the white flag," and that is what the opposition would like to do. For us to roll over and take their tax, take the tax . . . And you know what? The member from Athabasca can keep chiming from his seat . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I believe the member from Saskatoon Southeast has the floor. Other members will be given an opportunity to enter into the debate. Order. I recognize the member.

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Carbon tax is the worse possible instrument to affect climate change ever conducted in the country. We've seen it in Australia. We've seen it in BC where carbon emissions went up, and we will not wave that white flag. We will not give up the fight, and we'll take this as far as we can to ensure the Saskatchewan residents does not suffer under a carbon tax.

Another important part of the Speech from the Throne, it was the complete new 284-bed, state-of-the-art Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. This hospital is over 100 years old, Mr. Speaker, and it is a facility that every political party of any stripe had the opportunity to replace, and that's fault on any government in the past, including when the opposition had the chance to govern for 16 long years, that they never moved on replacing the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. And this Speech from the Throne outlines that we will get that job done. Past governments haven't been able to get it done, and we will get it done in this coming year, which I'm very proud of, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to also thank our Premier. I think back before Premier Wall made the announcement that he was going to retire, and I think at the time it was always who's going to fill Brad Wall's

shoes. Those are massive shoes, and it is something that would be not envied on anybody is to fill Brad Wall's shoes. Before he made that announcement, it was like, this is going to be quite the task to find someone up to it. And I'm so proud of our Premier. That question isn't being asked anymore. Everyone that I've talked to is so impressed with our job that our Premier is doing that they don't ask those questions anymore. And maybe in a few years people will be asking . . . I really question who's going to fill our current Premier's shoes because there will be a time when he resigns, unfortunately, or move on to another career choice. But we will have to have a new premier, and I think at that time we're going to ask those questions, like who's going to be filling our current Premier's shoes because he's done such an amazing job over the first almost year here.

To our cabinet and to our government MLAs, I'd like to thank you so much for the opportunity to serve with you through the work that we've done. I think . . . We know that Saskatchewan's in a better place. I know we're directed in a better direction than when we took over in 2007. And I think everyone of us that has an honour to be a Sask Party MLA should remember that all those tough hours in the caucus meetings and long hours in committee and heated debate of where were we going as a government, remember where we were and where we are today which is amazing. And it's through that hard work and long hours that we're able to talk about the new possibilities in this province. And it's been an honour to serve with everyone here. And it is an honour that I think that years go by, you'll think back, and I know I've started to reflect a little bit about my time in here and I'm just humbled to be with these colleagues. And thank you very much for allowing me on your team.

There's a lot to be said in the Speech from the Throne. And I just want to wrap up in saying that this is the document that is a road map for the next year. And I believe what we're going to be able to achieve, that it was outlined in this speech, is going to position our province for years to come. And I will not be supporting the government, or the opposition's amendment, and I will be supporting the Speech from the Throne. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is as always a great privilege to be able to take to my feet in this Assembly and offer my response to the Speech from the Throne. Before I get too far into that response though, I think it is important to take a few minutes while I'm on my feet to thank some of those who work behind the scenes to make sure that I am able to do the work that I do here in this Assembly.

I first of all would like to say a big thank you to my constituency assistants, Chris Truscott, and the newly hired — and not new to the job though, Mr. Deputy Speaker — Cory Oxelgren. The combination of experience and organizational skills in my office has me well served, and more importantly, has the constituents of Regina Lakeview very well served. So I wanted to say thank you to them, and I probably don't say that often enough.

I'd also like to say thank you to my executive. We've had some turnover this year, some folks who've had some health issues who've been really, really strong and dedicated volunteers on that executive. I want to say especially to Ms. Lesley Griffin,

who's had some challenges but has met them with just the most amazing energy and strength. I know she's still going to be around, but I just wanted to thank her here publicly for all that she has done for Regina Lakeview.

I'd also like to thank those who work in our office. We've had some staffing changes there as well recently and also some folks who have been around for a very long time. You know, you don't know when you first stand in this Assembly and you run for election how much help you're going to need and how much you're going to draw on those who really work so hard behind the scenes to make sure that we have what we need in here every day, and of course all of those who work in this building towards that same end, who all work towards the goal of having all of us here, all members, to be able to do the best job that we can do for the people of Saskatchewan no matter where they live. So I just wanted to make sure that I took the time to say those thank yous. I know I'm sometimes remiss in saying thank you to those who deserve it.

And I'd also like to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that nearly two and a half years in, I am still in awe of the fact that I have a seat in this Assembly. It is, as I've said, an honour and a privilege, and we had a chance to witness that anew just recently with the election and the swearing in of my friend, Yens Pedersen. To watch it through his eyes and watch it through his parents' eyes and his friends' really did remind me how really special it is to see him sign the . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, the member for Regina Northeast. Excuse me. See, we're still learning, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The member was, the most recent member, I believe, was only the 745th member to ever sign that book. And that includes fewer than 60 women in the history of this whole province. So to be able to stand here, to be able to take all of our places — and I know, I suspect it's the same for members on both sides — really is something that we ought to remind ourselves.

[15:15]

I know in the day-to-day sometimes, you know, we get caught up in the things that go on here. But remember that we are here standing, representing thousands of people, the interests, you know, not of only a few but thousands of people. And I think that is something really remarkable and we should never lose sight of.

So in addition to being a privilege, it's also a great responsibility to sit where we sit. As I said, we don't represent ourselves and our families but to the best of our abilities we represent the hopes and dreams and concerns and the interests of those that we serve. And I really can think of few honours greater than this.

There are over 12,000 residents in Regina Lakeview eligible to vote, and thousands of others who do not yet have that right but who are active members of their communities. I think of those who I met on the doorstep who are permanent residents working to become citizens and very excited for the chance to vote in their first election. And I also think frequently of the children in my constituency. They're not yet old enough to vote but to whom we certainly owe a duty, a duty that I would argue is perhaps greater as they are the ones who will inherit the fruits of the decisions that are made in this Assembly today.

I'm pretty proud of the community that I live in and I get to represent. It wraps around this very building to the north and the east and to the west. It is home to professionals, to many hard-working public servants and Crown employees who work to support the people in this province. We are home to many seniors including several seniors' high-rises, many artists and those who wish they could be artists, and patrons of the arts.

Ours is an established community with many old character homes and it's surrounded by a lush, mature urban forest. It is home to young families, long-time residents, and new residents. We have million-dollar homes and social housing. We have festivals and parks and a bit of nature that runs through the middle with Wascana Creek and Wascana Park. I have neighbours who have lived in this city all of their lives and neighbours who spend their days out on the family farm. And I think of my neighbour Dave here.

Mr. Speaker, all this to say . . . Oh I would also say that Regina Lakeview is also home to people from many faith communities. There's the Sikh temple, the Gurudwara Sahib; the mosque; the Unitarian centre; and numerous churches and places of worship. It is home to many schools, many elementary schools and also to the high school, Sheldon-Williams. And I'll just give a little shout-out to the Sheldon-Williams football team — who won their big city semifinal last night and they're on to the city final — and their coach, Mr. Eric Anderson, a dedicated employee here in our office and a coach that those boys would walk to the ends of the earth for. So I just needed to make sure that I gave a shout-out to them.

So there are many great things about Regina Lakeview, but we're not immune to the wider problems that we see in other communities and around this province. In the last week, two men in my community — two men in their early 20s — have been shot, one of them fatally. There are families who are struggling to pay their bills, and rely on the food bank. And earlier this fall we had a young man who was living behind our office because he couldn't find someplace that he could afford where he felt safe. We are not immune from the grip of increasing gun violence, of addictions, mental health, and rising poverty, here even amidst so much privilege and so many resources.

I attended a parents group at my daughter's school earlier this year and heard parents express their fear and frustration about the lack of supports for their children who are struggling with mental health issues. The wait times to see professionals, both inside the public system and outside the public system, were daunting and making them feel helpless. We are not immune from the crisis in our education system and the rising number of children who are struggling with anxiety and depression.

I've had families express their concerns about rising utility costs, the costs of groceries, rent increases, and families who are struggling just to pay the bills. We're not immune from any of that either.

And none of us here are immune from the onslaught of extremist thought, political uncertainty, and a general retreat of civility that has seemed to have gripped our whole globe. When we see crimes of hate and casual violence, whether at home or abroad, it impacts all of us and it weighs on us heavily.

And neither are any of us immune from the impacts of climate change. Nor are any of us — and I want to repeat this — nor are any of us, especially here in this Assembly, free from the responsibility to take it seriously. We cannot pretend that we do not know what is at stake. We cannot pretend that it is someone else's problem to fix, and we cannot pretend that we have generations to act. And I want to quote from the recently released UN [United Nations] study, the panel on climate change. A line in the sand. "It's a line in the sand and what it says to our species is that at this moment we must act now. This is the largest clarion bell from the science community and I hope that it mobilizes people and dents the mood of complacency."

Mr. Speaker, when that report came out . . . And I want to share a personal story. I was in the car, and I suppose some folks will have a field day with that, but I was in the car driving my daughter to an event. And there was a satire piece that came on CBC radio as I was talking. And I was sort of feeling alarmed but chuckling to myself. And I looked in the back rear-view mirror and I saw my 12-year-old daughter and her eyes were like saucers. Mr. Speaker, she had heard that our planet had 12 years before we risked catastrophic implications that we couldn't turn back from. And I didn't have an answer for her.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon all of us to do what we can to ensure that we are not kicking the problems of today down the road to our children. And I don't pretend to have all the answers to that and I don't think anyone here does, Mr. Speaker. But we cannot deny that it is a problem and we cannot keep using throwaway lines and divisive politics and tactics. We need to get to the table. We need to act like grownups and we need to come up with the solution: a solution of course that protects jobs, that answers the question for people, what is my family going to do; that answers the question, how am I going to deal with increased costs?

There are public policy ideas and solutions and I'm certain of it. This is a province that has always found those solutions. This is a province that takes what's in front of them and rolls up their sleeves and gets to work. But as long as we deny, as long as we resort to throwaway lines and divisive tactics, we are not going to come up with the solutions that we need. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to sit and look at my daughter in 12 years and say I didn't do anything. And I know that everyone here does not want to be in that position.

I'm reminded of one other incident where my daughter said to, my other daughter said to her grandpa, and they were talking about racism. And grandpa said to Hannah, you know, I'm so glad that you know these things and your generation is going to get it right, and I'm so glad for that. And Hannah said to grandpa, she said, you know what? Grandpa, you're wrong. You can change and you have to change because it's not fair to put this all on us. And I agree. We have to stop kicking our province down the road. We have to stop engaging in short-term divisive politics and actually start looking for solutions. And I don't care if those solutions come from this side or that side or another country or another province. We need to get serious about these problems.

And that goes for the problems of addiction. That goes for the problems of poverty. That goes for the problems of racism. They are very real and they are having impacts on communities all around this province, Mr. Speaker. And people are tired. They

are tired of when people are bringing concerns about education up, that the Minister of Education gets up and starts throwing throwaway lines about carbon tax. People deserve better than that from all sides, from all of their politics, and they, frankly, are demanding it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that members come to this Assembly with the noblest of intentions. I don't think anyone comes here thinking that they are going to destroy the province. No one comes here thinking that they don't want to represent their communities or not thinking that they don't have something to offer. And I want to honour that in every member here because I think that's important. When we start to vilify each other, when we start to act like those who don't think exactly like us are somehow less human or less worthy, I think we have a real problem. And it is incumbent upon all of us here to change the culture, to not resort to personal attacks, to not resort to blaming 20 years ago, 40 years ago, pointing fingers across, pointing fingers to Ottawa. We all have a job here to do. We are well paid. We are given an immense responsibility, and people are tired of watching us behave in ways that they wouldn't allow their children to behave.

So when I looked at the Throne Speech this year, Mr. Speaker, I was really hoping that there was going to be something for education. We've been all around the province, and every community is telling us we had a Premier who indicated he understood that things were a problem in education and was willing to do better. We had a Minister of Education, when he was auditioning for that job, stated that not any wheel turns in this province without education, Mr. Speaker. And we were hoping that something would be different, Mr. Speaker, because here's the thing: I know that they've heard the same things that I have heard. I know that they know the concerns that people are bringing them into the classroom. And there was just a summit in Saskatoon where people brought their hopes, their fears, their concerns to the minister, and hopefully with an eye towards creating a better education system in our province, Mr. Speaker.

So I'm not sure what the tie-up is on that side, Mr. Speaker, if it's individual members, or why those ideas that I know they're hearing in their community are not getting through and making it into policy, not making it into this Throne Speech. And that's not a question that any of us over here can answer, but members on that side can answer.

And you know, there are going to be differences. There are always . . . You know, not everyone is a social democrat or a democratic socialist. I don't know why, Mr. Speaker, but that doesn't mean we can't debate ideas. We are made stronger when our ideas can stand up to rigorous debate.

I have a friend named Sam, and Sam and I differ on many, many issues. We don't always see eye to eye, sometimes on the little things and sometimes on the very big things, but we always like a good debate and we always walk away friends. And I know Sam to be a person of integrity, and Sam always treats me as if I am a person of integrity, and I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. And I think that there are lessons that all of us can learn. I know probably members on both sides have friends who don't share the same political views as them, but that they can sit down, sometimes even at the dinner table, and debate it out, Mr. Speaker. And I think we need more of that.

I can hear the members opposite heckling, Mr. Speaker, and I guess some habits die hard. I get that. But it's not me that they have to answer to, Mr. Speaker. It's the people in their communities and it's those 12-year-old kids. It's the people that will come after us that they will have to answer to. And I hope that they have a good answer, frankly, because they will look back and ask: you know, you sat in a place of very, very great privilege and what did you do about these issues? And that's going to be a question that's asked of all of us, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

So I'm going to end with a nod to both my constituent Ken Mitchell who recently won the Sask Arts Board Lifetime Achievement Award, and also my predecessor, Mr. John Nilson.

I'm going to, without my glasses, quote a poem just to remind us of the beauty that is this province and those things that are very core, that are still our best when we put our best selves forward, when we sit down at those coffee rows and we sit down at kitchen tables, and we look out onto this beautiful land that we've all, all are privileged enough to live on. And this is "On the Missouri Coteau." And I can't do it in Ken's voice; I wish I could.

I've wandered the world, looked at great art, your Leonardos  
and Vince Van Go,  
but if you wanta study a masterpiece, take a sunset on the  
coteau.

Look at it there, all purple and gold, 'gainst a blue like a  
robin's egg.

No painter I know can capture the flow of those shapes on  
heaven's lake.

So pour me another cup of Slim's black-as-hades brew;  
the coffees I been sippin [as of] late are thin as Moose Jaw  
stew.

I'll just sit and reflect a bit on the loneliness of bars,  
and the music of the Big Coteau, and the distances of stars.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be voting in favour of the Throne Speech, but I will be voting in favour of the amendment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the Assembly here today to speak in response to the Throne Speech. I'd like to begin by thanking a few people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all my wife, Anita. We've been married since 2007 and perhaps the worst decision of her life that day, I suspect. But you know, maybe. We'll see. And I just want to thank her. Through thick and thin and through some challenging times and some great times too, she's always been by my side and supports me and what I do in this role. And I can't possibly thank her enough.

My stepkids, Raven and Adler. Raven, who is 24 years old and right now is currently on a two-year working holiday visa in New Zealand, working on an organic farm food project. And we FaceTime with her and see the odd post on Facebook and Instagram. And she is just having the time of her life, and we're so very proud of the amazing young woman that she has grown into.

My stepson, Adler, who's 22, has a class 1A truck driving licence, is driving vac truck in Swift Current for an oil company, and is also a dad. He is a proud father to a 14-month-old son named Axel, and Adler has had to learn a lot in the last couple of years here as he's become a young father. And he's working so hard to support his family and to support his baby.

And speaking of which, I'm so very proud as well to have young Axel as my grandson. And as any of us know that have grandkids, when you have your grandkids over, you can't focus on anything else but them, especially once they're walking as Axel is now, because you're constantly chasing them around the house.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to thank some people from where I'm originally from, up in that Melfort, Tisdale area — my parents, Tom and Pat Hindley, farming up around Melfort. And I had a chance to talk to them on the weekend. Dad just recently finished up harvest. This is his most favourite time of the year. He likes to get the crop off and a little bit of field work and then do some hunting. My mom, for years she's made sure that we're all taken care of. She's the one busy making sure there's food on the table and running people to appointments and just generally worrying about all of us. And we tell her not to do that so much. But I have to thank my mom and dad.

My siblings. My sister Melissa and her daughter Elizabeth who recently moved from Carrot River to Tisdale. She's working there and Elizabeth is going to school at a new school there this fall and is enjoying that transition. My other sister Erica who works for an accountant's office in Melfort but she also . . . You know what? She takes her time off and saves her holidays so she can custom combine in the fall, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And you know, you talk about women in agriculture and my sister Erica, there's a person who's a shining light. She posts pictures on Facebook of herself sitting in the cab of the combine and she couldn't be in a possibly better place. That's where she enjoys spending her time. And she also helps out around the farm as well.

Finally, my brother Taylor who's a CNC [computer numerical control] machinist working in St. Brieux at Tillage Tools. He's been doing that for a number of years now. He is by far the smartest and the most talented of the Hindley men in our family, no argument there, and he does some great work.

In addition to that actually, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he's also a bit of an aspiring musician. He plays around with a bunch of instruments he's got, and him and a couple of buddies have formed a band. They're actually practising some cover tunes and play a little bit of rock and roll, some country music. I think they call themselves Kings and Renegades, and their first gig is coming up this December. They're playing at a Christmas party actually, I think. So they're looking for some gigs to play. There might be some folks looking for that.

Interesting though, here's a great Saskatchewan story. I asked him how it's been going lately with the band and he said actually they haven't had a chance to practise much. There's himself from St. Brieux, one of the other guys is from Melfort, another guy is from Tisdale, and the fourth fellow is from Stewart Valley, just north of Swift Current. Go figure how they got all hooked up. But he was saying they haven't had a chance to practise much because they've all been busy with harvest. And now that that is

done, they'll start playing around with some of these cover tunes again.

In addition to my folks, I've got numerous aunts and uncles and relatives around the Melfort area. My aunt — well technically cousin — Darlene Campbell who's probably the only one besides my mom that's watching right now, and she watches this place religiously. It's kind of too bad, but I'm sure she's watching right now. And she's been very supportive of me in this whole thing.

I'd like to thank, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my constituency assistant, Nola Smith, and her family — her husband Dave and their girls. Nola's been working at our MLA office for nine years now, obviously a short period of time with me and then the previous eight with a different fellow there. And she's decided to stick around despite going from bad to worse, I guess. But Nola does great work in our constituency office. But in addition to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, she is also just a great friend and a confidante and someone that I can talk to. And I just can't thank Nola enough for the work that she does.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on our side of the House we should thank the caucus office staff: John, Lee, Karalee, Kim, Hayley, Keenan, Paula, and Tayler. They try to keep us MLAs out of trouble and on the right side of things here to the best of their ability.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, last but not least, the people of Swift Current who, on the 1st of March, elected me to be their representative. And I worked hard to earn their trust and I continue to do that each and every day. And I hope that that's something that I'll continue to do that and I hope that they are pleased with how I am able to represent them here. And I want to thank the people of Swift Current for their vote of confidence in what I do here.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we're talking about today is the Throne Speech. It comes midway through our term. It sets the tone for the Premier's vision and it sets the tone for a government that will stand up for the interests of the people of Saskatchewan. So as we look through the document, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we take a look at some of the initiatives that are in this year's Throne Speech.

We'll start with delivering a balanced budget for 2019-2020. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a couple years ago, the former premier and Finance minister and the cabinet and caucus of the day, they charted a plan, a difficult plan as it were, to get the province's budget back to balance within a three-year span. And there were some difficult decisions to be made in that budget when they started that plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But the reason that that group of men and women embarked on that plan was so that we can be positioned where we are today, which is on the cusp of being able to deliver a balanced budget for 2019-2020.

Now it's a plan that was different than most other plans of other governments across the nation, provincial and federal. It's a plan where we decided that it wasn't okay to just keep spending, to keep going into deficit, so that eventually, you know, our kids, my grandkids, other folks, would have to pay for the decisions we made down the line. And we have made some tough decisions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I would argue that's what the people of Saskatchewan have elected us to do. What they expect of us is a balanced approach but still maintaining, keeping a

handle on spending, but also being able to make strategic investments into schools and highways and hospitals and long-term care facilities and other areas that are of importance to people, core services in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan's economy and our province's finances are both showing signs of improvement but we need to continue along this plan if we're all to be successful.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I spoke earlier about competitiveness and you've heard us talk about it on this side of the House. And some people don't like to hear it but one of the things that's not particularly competitive is the Trudeau carbon tax. And the reason we talk about that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is because, you know, this would have a huge impact on the people of Saskatchewan.

Families don't have a choice when it comes to driving their kids to gymnastics or hockey rinks. Well I guess they do. They couldn't. They could decide not to and tell their kids, no, we can't do this anymore. But they don't have a choice to heat their homes in the middle of January. They don't have a choice if they have to drive to Saskatoon or Regina for cancer treatments, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They don't have a choice to not farm their land or to not service that oil rig.

And you talk about who else will pay besides just directly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there's also other groups and organizations like municipalities and school divisions and hockey rinks and rec centres and town halls. And in all likelihood, Mr. Deputy Speaker, those costs absorbed by those organizations, those will be passed along to the taxpayers. So again the people of Saskatchewan have to pay.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Trudeau carbon tax, it would damage Saskatchewan's economy by nearly \$16 billion — 16 billion, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And so that's why in this Throne Speech you will hear us talk about our continued opposition to a federally imposed carbon tax when right here in Saskatchewan this Minister of the Environment, this Premier, have developed our own made-in-Saskatchewan plan, one that will make some meaningful improvements towards protecting the environment and doing so without destroying and kneecapping the Saskatchewan economy.

It includes a commitment to reduce annual emissions by 12 million tonnes by 2030 by reducing emissions from electrical generation by 40 per cent. That's a meaningful reduction, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Decreasing methane emissions from upstream oil and gas production by nearly 40 per cent. That's also a meaningful reduction, Mr. Deputy Speaker. SaskPower continues to increase renewable energy generation in this province. There's projects across Saskatchewan like the Chinook power station northwest of Swift Current, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a 350-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas generating facility that will produce enough electricity to power the city of Saskatoon, and it produces lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional single-cycle gas turbines.

There's the Blue Hill wind energy project, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that received approval earlier this year. Potentia Renewables was recently announced as a successful proponent of a major wind power project. It's called the Golden South wind energy facility and will be a 200-megawatt project with enough renewable

electricity to power 90,000 Saskatchewan homes. There's also Saskatchewan's first utility-scale solar power project that's been announced. It's a project between Saturn Power and SaskPower and will be in service next year.

We've also revised and updated the plan for Saskatchewan residents to generate their own renewable power. There's a partnership with the First Nations Power Authority to source energy from flare gas power generation projects. These are all steps, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that our government is taking to actually reduce emissions in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'll talk about some of the other initiatives in the Throne Speech. And earlier I spoke about a balanced budget, and within the context of that balanced budget there are also some other announcements. We've talked about introducing changes to improving commercial driver training in this province and improving intersection safety throughout Saskatchewan. Improved cellular phone service in numerous areas of rural Saskatchewan — we as MLAs hear about that regularly.

Mr. Speaker, we made a commitment to address rural crime. So we created the protection and response team, which has seen conservation officers and Highway Patrol officers assist with more than 1,300 PRT [protection and response team]-related actions since April. That's pretty impressive, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And furthermore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we announced in the Throne Speech was amending *The Police Act* so that RMs [rural municipality] and small municipalities can join regional police services in order to increase security in their areas. We're also introducing legislation on trespassing laws, as you've heard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to better address the balance between landowners and members of the public.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* will be amended to create a new critically ill adult leave. That's a significant announcement, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It allows family members of critically ill adults to take a 15-week leave to care for that family member during that period of time.

Something else that's approaching here soon, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is Remembrance Day. And each one of us thinks about how we want to remember the sacrifices of our veterans. Our government has made announcements in recent years, several announcements, to recognize the contributions of our military veterans. The Highway of Heroes, for example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Scholarship of Honour, the veteran's licence plate — those are just a few examples.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this Throne Speech we've also announced that we will offer free fishing and hunting licences to all Canadian veterans. It's a small token of our appreciation. We'll also make it easier for military personnel to move to Saskatchewan by giving them an exemption for first-time registered vehicle inspections brought to Saskatchewan from another jurisdiction. Again, small tokens of our appreciation but important nonetheless.

[15:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the end of September the Minister of Energy and Resources, the member for Cypress Hills, and myself, we spent about three days touring southwest

Saskatchewan — Swift Current, Shaunavon, Gull Lake, Eastend, Consul. We're touring and meeting with representatives from the energy sector and RMs and towns in the area as well.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these companies provide more than just good-paying jobs and solid careers for the folks of southwest Saskatchewan and across our province. They contribute by ways of property taxes. They donate to local rinks and community playgrounds. They're valued members of our communities, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we need to thank the energy sector for the contributions that they make each and every day to our provincial economy. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's why you've heard us talk about the importance of oil pipelines. It's important that we improve market access for our oil and for all of our commodities.

Speaking of commodities, Mr. Speaker, Swift Current is home . . . that area is home to a large number of farms and ranches in the area. And there's also a number of businesses that supports those farms and ranches: farm implement dealerships, fertilizer and chemical dealers, livestock yards, grain terminals. And those are just the direct suppliers towards the ag sector, Mr. Speaker. I would argue that just about every business in Swift Current and the small towns and villages that surround Swift Current, they all rely on a successful ag sector. If it's successful for the farmers and ranchers of our area, they will see it at their cash registers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And when it comes to the ag sector and the oil and gas sector, Mr. Speaker, it's important for those industries to be successful. And in order to do so, we have to continue to promote our exports, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's been a renewed focus for this Premier and for this government. You know, Saskatchewan, we export 70 per cent of what we produce here. And our government is also encouraging growth in the value-added sector as well. It's vital for us to support our existing trading relationship with our major partners — the USA [United States of America], China, India — but we also need to foster new relationships, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so that our producers, the folks, the farmers and ranchers and oil companies in Swift Current and area, so that they have markets to sell their products to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Speech from the Throne lays out a plan for the government, and we need to have a plan. That's what's important, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've heard from the members opposite and they don't seem to have a plan over there. You just can't say what you're not going to do. You have to have a plan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and in addition to that, you have to cost that plan. You have to explain how you're going to pay for things.

And the reason why the members on this side of the House focus on having a plan for the economy and for standing up for issues that have a major impact on Saskatchewan I think can best be summarized by a couple of events that I had a chance to participate in back in my constituency late last week.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, on Friday night I was invited to bring greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan at the 20th annual Swift Current and District Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards, the SCBEX [Spirit of Swift Current Business Excellence Awards] Awards. Twenty years, Mr. Deputy Speaker — that's a pretty significant achievement. And for this year's SCBEX Awards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there

was actually a record number of nominees.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's quite an amazing thing to see a room full of business people, some who are new businesses that are fledgling and are just getting their businesses off the ground, others who've been in Swift Current and area for decades now who are, some cases they're family run operations who are perhaps expanding their operations. They're sinking their roots even deeper because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they're not going anywhere.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these are businesses that have nominated colleagues for an SCBEX Awards and sometimes they see their competitors nominated for an award. And they're happy to see that though, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because they know that if all the businesses of Swift Current are successful, not just their own, then everyone in Swift Current benefits from that success. And when the local economy of Swift Current is successful, it means we're able to support local projects, which in turn leads to the other function that I had the opportunity to attend on Friday afternoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So earlier in the day, I was honoured to represent the Minister of Social Services and the Government of Saskatchewan at a ribbon cutting — I spoke about it earlier this afternoon — for the newly renovated Southwest Safe Shelter. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this was a renovation funded both by the provincial government and by the federal government and it included a renovated kitchen, a ramp for a wheelchair accessible room, security and fire system upgrades, and updated energy-efficient heating and lighting to the building. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the executive director, Heather Lennox, and her team of staff, volunteers, and board members, they do an outstanding job of providing a safe place for up to 14 women and children when they're in times of need during interpersonal violence.

I should point out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, another thing in the Throne Speech was the announcement of Clare's Law. Saskatchewan will become the first province in Canada with legislation that will give police the ability to disclose information about a person's violent or abusive past to intimate partners who may be at risk.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as I toured the shelter on Friday afternoon and I talked to the people who were invited to be part of the ribbon cutting and looked into the crowd, I saw friends. I saw neighbours, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I saw volunteers and people who donate time and money to the Southwest Safe Shelter. I saw business people who serve on the board of directors, Mr. Deputy Speaker, not because they have a lot of time. Everybody's time is precious and they're busy with so many things, whether it's their personal or their professional lives or in volunteer organizations like this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But the reason they are involved and they serve on a board is because this organization, Southwest Crisis Services, is important to them. People from all walks of life in Swift Current and area who pull together for an organization like Southwest Crisis Services that does great work in our community, Mr. Deputy Speaker. People pulling together, people who realize that if their businesses are successful, then they're able to support organizations like Southwest Crisis Services and like the safe shelter. They can donate their time and money to those sorts of



organizations.

And as I conclude, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's a microcosm of the provincial economy right in my home town of Swift Current. If the province's economy is successful, it is because it has created a competitive business environment for businesses to thrive. Then we can afford to make strategic investments into a growing province and into organizations like I have in my community, in Swift Current, and across our great province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with that I would move that I will not be supporting the amendment proposed by the members opposite, but I will support wholeheartedly the government motion. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that we are back in session. And it is indeed an honour to stand here and speak in this House representing the beautiful people of the constituency of Regina Pasqua. Before I go ahead, I would like to thank a few special people who've played a good role in my life and help me on a daily basis: my family, all my brothers, sisters, and of course my mom's prayers.

I will be in trouble if I forget to say thank you to my wife, Attia, for her support and involvement in my life and help me doing my job right. Mr. Speaker, she is a great lady and we've been together since 19 years, and very strong, confident, and selfless lady. We are raising three boys: Ayaz, Kashif, and Arsalan.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you to my CA [constituency assistant], Waqar Bukhari. He's a good friend of mine as well.

Mr. Speaker, in 2008 in political cinema, a documentary movie released by name of *I.O.U.S.A.* And a film critic and commentator, Roger Ebert, said, and I quote, "A letter to our grandchildren . . . I have just seen a documentary titled 'I.O.U.S.A.' that snapped into sharp focus why your lives may not be as pleasant as ours . . ." Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, why would someone choose to borrow money and live luxury and comfortable life and ask his or her grandchildren to pay their debts? It was a challenging time in 2016 when we had 1.2 billion less revenue and the government had to make some difficult but necessary decisions in the 2017-18 budget, which reduced the 2017-18 budget to \$303 million. In the 2018-19 budget we're on track to bring into balance in three years while making important investments for the people of Saskatchewan.

During this session we will deliver the 2019-2020 budget and it will be a balanced budget. Mr. Speaker, the NDP does not agree, but most economists agree that a balanced budget decreases interest rates, increases saving and investment, shrinks trade deficit, and helps the economy grow faster in the longer term.

And we do remember the terrible economic situation in Saskatchewan before 2007 when they closed 52 hospitals, including the Plains hospital in Regina. This resulted in a reduction of nearly 1,000 beds at that time, when demand for

health services was increasing.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party government has more than doubled investment in hospitals and health care infrastructure compared to the NDP, including the new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon, which will better meet the needs of our province's children, expecting mothers, and their families, by enhancing patients' care with a state-of-the-art facility and technology, and enabling greater recruitment and retention of pediatric specialists.

The facility is currently 92 per cent completed and is on schedule to open in late 2019. The Saskatchewan Health Authority has detailed a multi-year recruitment plan and is on track to meet its target. Our government greatly appreciates the work done by Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation and those who have so generously given in support of this very important cause. The total project cost is estimated at \$285.9 million, of which the province is covering 90 per cent of it. Budget 2018-19 includes \$20 million for the final instalment in our capital commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the new Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford will be among the most advanced mental health treatment centres in Canada. The new hospital is now 97 per cent complete and is expected to open soon. The new 284-bed facility will replace the existing 156-bed hospital and two correctional facilities. The new facility will include 188 psychiatric rehabilitation beds and a 96-room secure wing for offenders living with mental health issues. The additional 32 beds will increase capacity so that patients in need of long-term psychiatric rehabilitation can receive care as quickly as possible. The 407 million that the province is investing in this project includes construction and maintenance costs to keep the facility in like-new condition for the next 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, Moose Jaw Hospital. We fulfilled our commitment to building a new regional hospital to serve Moose Jaw and southern Saskatchewan. The state-of-the-art facility was built around a patient-focused model of care where patients have their own room that can accommodate whatever treatment they need throughout the course of their stay. The new hospital includes state-of-the-art equipment, including a new helipad, a hyperbaric chamber, and the first permanent MRI scanner located outside Saskatoon and Regina. The total project cost was an estimated \$99.5 million, of which the province is covering \$80 million. Mr. Speaker, we're using public money wisely and getting best dollar values.

Mr. Speaker, during the NDP government, Saskatchewan had the worst doctor and nurse retention rate in Canada between 2001 and 2006. As I said, Mr. Speaker, we are using dollars by its max value. Today there are 900 more doctors and 3,700 more nurses across the province since 2007. Our province's innovative two-for-one MRI policy, introduced in 2016, has enabled nearly 1,400 additional MRI scans to be provided to patients at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

By moving to the single health authority, we expect to save between \$10 million to \$20 million annually, while providing more coordinated care. Today in our province nearly 90,000 surgeries are performed every year and there are 44 per cent fewer patients waiting more than three months for surgery than a decade ago.

[16:00]

Mr. Speaker, we're committed to reducing wait times in hospital emergency departments. In addition to four accountable care already in operation in Saskatoon and in Regina, we are in the process of establishing three more units. We will also increase investment in individualized funding for home care to reduce the wait list and provide support for additional individuals.

We introduced universal drug coverage for HIV medications and are providing additional funds to the community-based organizations working with the vulnerable population.

In 2018-19, \$2.8 million has been allocated to provide up to 4,000 annually per child under six who is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, giving parents more choice and flexibility to access the supports that best meet their children's needs.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007, 15 new long-term care facilities have been built or are under construction in the province.

Mr. Speaker, before 2007 during the NDP government, for 16 years they closed 176 schools in Saskatchewan — average one school closure every month. They underfunded the education system from kindergarten to grade 12 education, resulting in significant increases in education property taxes and led to tax revolts. Also, Mr. Speaker, from 2001 to 2007, the number of teachers teaching in Saskatchewan schools declined by 400 teachers. This was a shock in the education system.

Here is a Sask Party government after 2007, an over 35 per cent increase from kindergarten to grade 12 education operating funding since 2007; over 1.5 billion invested in 40 brand new schools or replacement schools and 25 major school renovations; 840 more teachers since 2007; created over 8,500 new child care spaces. We have also doubled the number of pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programs.

Mr. Speaker, our government is very serious about our children's education and we have record investment in the education system. Three joint schools opened in Regina in the fall of 2017: École Harbour Landing School and St. Kateri School, École Wascana Plains School and St. Elizabeth School, Plainview School and St. Nicholas School. Scott Collegiate replacement school opened last year. École Connaught Community School was also opened last year. Sacred Heart Community School, it was opened last spring; in 2014, new Seven Stones Community School; and 2013, Arcola Community School; in 2012, Douglas Park School.

Mr. Speaker, in advanced education the NDP government set the record in tuition costs. Here are a few numbers, Mr. Speaker: tuition costs increased 175 per cent at the University of Saskatchewan and 144 per cent at the University of Regina and 336 per cent at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology]. These days it's Sask Polytechnic.

Since 2007 our government invested over \$9.1 billion in post-secondary education, Mr. Speaker, \$406 million in rebates paid through the graduate retention program to approximately 69,000 graduates, the only graduate retention program in the country; 44.6 million provided through the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, over 91,000 scholarships to

approximately 40,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is improving. We are moving in the right direction. Our population continues to grow, reaching 1.162 million people as of Canada Day in 2018, an increase of more than 11,000 in the past one year and 160,000 in the past 11 years. During that time Saskatchewan has enjoyed the second-fastest rate of job growth in the country with 62,700 people more now working in this province.

Saskatchewan's gross domestic product has grown from \$49 billion in 2007 to more than \$60 billion in 2017, an increase of 22 per cent in 10 years. During that time public and private capital investment grew at five times the national rate, increasing by 70 per cent to more than \$14 billion.

The new four-year mineral development strategy announced this spring creates an incentive program to encourage mineral exploration and will increase the amount of geophysical data available. We will be expanding existing incentives and introducing new oil well drilling and production incentives.

The new Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive, a non-refundable tax credit designed to encourage investment in early stage technology companies. Innovation Saskatchewan will also continue to invest in the technology incubator labs which has helped more than 50 companies receive programming support and mentorship, resulting in more than 5 million in private investment for those companies.

The creation and enhancement of Saskatchewan low-income tax credit has tripled the seniors' income plan benefit for low-income seniors and increased personal, spousal, and child tax exemptions to the point that 112,000 more people no longer pay provincial tax.

There is more to do and we have a plan, unlike the NDP whose only plan includes increasing spending by \$2.5 billion. According to Statistics Canada estimates released on May 2nd, 2018, Saskatchewan posted a gross domestic product at basic price of 60.6 billion in 2017. This represented an increase of 2.9 per cent in real GDP compared to 2016. Saskatchewan tied for the fifth place among the provinces in terms of percentage change.

According to the provincial *Outlook Economic Forecast: Summer 2018* from the Conference Board of Canada, real GDP is forecast to grow by 1.2 per cent in 2018 and 2.3 per cent in 2019. The oil sector is expected to benefit from capacity investments in production and transportation.

According to the Fraser Institute's 2017 *Survey of Mining Companies*, Saskatchewan was rated the most attractive location for mining investment in Canada and the second mining investment location among 91 jurisdictions in the world.

On November 28, 2017, the Fraser Institute released the results of its annual international survey of petroleum executives and ranked Saskatchewan second among the jurisdictions in Canada and seventh globally for its oil and gas policy perception index score.

Mr. Speaker, I have more to tell that the Saskatchewan Party

government has done for the people of Saskatchewan, and what is our plan in the future, but let's talk about the NDP. What is their plan? They're supporting carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, a carbon tax on Saskatchewan people who are already playing a vital role in our economy and a greater role to reduce emissions by producing crops. Moreover, the Saskatchewan landscape naturally reduces emissions. Why are the Liberal government and the NDP showing a lack of recognition of our farmers' concern? This carbon tax will be a 16 billion hit to the Saskatchewan GDP. It will cost Saskatchewan families an extra \$1,250 per year and it will have virtually no impact on emissions.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP is supporting carbon tax, ignoring all economists' study of worst impact on the economy. It will simply be creating more challenges for our farmers, businesses, and middle-class citizens. Hockey rinks, school divisions, municipalities — they all are going to pay a lot of carbon tax and that cost is going to be passed along to Saskatchewan people. This appears to be more of a political decision than an environmental. Saskatchewan will continue to fight the carbon tax and we will stand up for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there is another terrible legislation and disastrous step towards Canadian economy being taken by the federal government, and the NDP is supporting that. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about Bill C-69, which is almost banning our Canadian resources, discouraging investment in Canadian pipeline and mines. This legislation needs to be redone. Otherwise foreign investors will continue to flee Canada, depriving us of the capital and investment we need to grow our economy reasonably. We already have a strict framework of environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, the USA pipeline network is 2 225 000 kilometres pipeline. Seventy per cent of their crude oil is being shipped by pipelines, 23 per cent by ship, and only 4 per cent by trucks and only 3 per cent by rail. Mr. Speaker, for the information across the floor, if they go visit [uspipeline.com](http://uspipeline.com), they will find US [United States] still having a few pipeline projects under construction.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian economy cannot afford a carbon tax and Bill C-69. The Saskatchewan government wants the NDP to stand with us, listen to Saskatchewan people, and stand for economic growth of Saskatchewan and for our farmers and for our generation to come, for more jobs in Saskatchewan, for less income tax for the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, that's why I will be supporting the Speech from the Throne and I will not be supporting the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased and honoured to rise in the House today to offer my comments and support for my first Speech from the Throne. I should first mention the support I have and receive from my home community, from my family, and my staff in my constituency office. Without that, quite honestly, I would be lost, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

During my time here, my wife continues to wind down our business interests and single-parent our youngest child that's in grade 11, and we both attempt to co-manage our two eldest which

are attending U of S in Saskatoon. Also a big thanks to my CAs, Judy Penner and Rita Syrota, who carry the brunt of the load when it comes to handling constituency concerns when I'm here. And I want to acknowledge that hard work and dedication and the commitment they show, not only to me but to the constituents of Kindersley. I would also like to thank the caucus staff and the ministry staff that help us handle our constituency concerns on a day-to-day basis.

I would also like to welcome the newly elected member from Regina Northeast, and congratulations to him on his recent by-election victory. This member grew up on a farm in the Cut Knife area, which is not very far from my hometown and an area of very similar local industries, namely agriculture and oil and gas. I trust he will lend some agriculture and oil and gas insight to his colleagues on the other side of the House and provide a rural perspective that they're badly missing. I was going to make a smart football reference about you being the 13th man over there, but I know what it's like to be the new guy, so I'm going to take it easy on you. I do wish you, however, honestly the best of luck as you join your colleagues.

I continue to enjoy this opportunity given to me by the constituents of Kindersley. With my political career still in its infancy, I still find myself in awe of this building and, more importantly, the work the people inside these walls complete on a day-to-day basis helping keep the big machine of government turning. The teamwork, coordination, and communication that goes into running each department level is very impressive to me.

[16:15]

Being fortunate enough to be a part of that machine, part of this government, gives me great pride and a sense of having the ability to make a difference to the people of my constituency and the province.

Our leader, our new Premier, continues to be the most popular Premier not only here at home but across Canada. This is no surprise to me or my colleagues, as he leads by example, supports inclusion and collaboration. These are great leadership qualities and a style that all of us can relate to on this side.

My sole purpose for getting into politics was to help leave this province a better place than we found it, a place for our kids and grandkids to make their home, a place they can receive a good, fair education at a reasonable price, secure a good job, start a small business, take over a family farm, or raise a family — more importantly, a place that hopefully will never allow another NDP government to take us back. We do not want to go backwards. We want to continue to grow.

I believe the Sask Party government since 2007 have had the mix of right ideology and balanced policy that has provided for the successes we've seen over the past decade. This current government, from what I have witnessed in my short time here, takes a very balanced approach to running this province, again, a collaborative effort between the Premier, his cabinet, and us as MLAs.

The Speech from the Throne exemplifies and details this approach. I would like to touch on a few of these points, as they're very important to me and my constituents, the first of

which is sound financial management. Everyone may have a differing definition, but mine is simply don't spend more than you make — a very simple philosophy. And I realize balanced budgets aren't always feasible in government, but it's vitally important to this government to keep a handle on its spending.

This government has worked hard and continues to work hard to get its books in order. With a \$1.2 billion deficit in 2016, the three-year plan to balance is on track for 2019-2020. This is achieved by making some tough decisions, but still maintaining key services and continuing to invest in the province and its people. This approach continues to pay off as we are one of only two provinces that still maintains Moody's highest credit rating of AAA.

Secondly, our economy. Recent polls show that the economy is one of the most important concerns of Saskatchewan residents, and it's important to this government. It's a main focus of this government. Despite unprecedented headwinds and roadblocks from federal governments and trade partners, Saskatchewan's economy still shows signs of improvement. Our population continues to grow, with more than 160,000 people residing here than in pre-2007. Over 62,000 more jobs since 2007, the second-fastest job growth in the nation. Our GDP has grown 22 per cent from 49 billion to 60 billion in that same decade. Public and private capital investment grew at five times the national rate.

Currently this government is working and looking to new ideas to keep us competitive. Recently the Fraser Institute ranked us second out of 91 jurisdictions worldwide for mining investment attractiveness. This session, this government plans to expand existing and introduce new oil and gas drilling and production incentives to help keep us competitive in a struggling market. Also implementing things like the Saskatchewan tech start-up incentive are measures that help improve our economy and keep it moving. Always more to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but rest assured this government is continually keeping its finger on the pulse of its people, its businesses, and the economy to ensure we have the right policies and regulatory environment to promote growth.

One gigantic cloud over our heads here in Saskatchewan, really across the country, is the federal Liberal government and their policies like the carbon tax, and also their unwillingness to push pipeline projects through that are of national interest. This is the largest threat we've seen to Western Canada since the National Energy Program of the 1980s which was implemented by Pierre Trudeau's Liberal government.

The Trudeau 2.0 regime seems to think they can legislate climate change with a price on carbon emissions, a policy that it seems that the opposition members seem to agree with, or at least their leader seems to with his negative comments directed at our fight on this side of the House, a fight we feel they should support us in. "A pointless crusade" was the quote I believe. It doesn't seem quite so pointless now with Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba on board, and quite likely Alberta and New Brunswick joining as soon as they elect new governments. Recent polls show 88 per cent of Saskatchewan people and 72 per cent of all Canadians think it's a good idea to fight the carbon tax in court. We will continue to stand up to Mr. Trudeau and his Liberals whether the NDP thinks it's pointless or not. There'll be no white

flags raised on this side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We have a made-in-Saskatchewan plan to tackle climate change. The Prairie Resilience climate change strategy is a made-at-home plan that lays the groundwork for emissions reductions that does not cripple our energy, mining, and agriculture sectors. This plan includes commitments to reduce electrical generation and upstream oil and gas methane emissions by 40 per cent or 12 million tonnes by 2030. This session *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act* will be introduced. It will set performance standards for large emitters while enabling compliance mechanisms such as technology funding, offset systems, and best performance credits.

Our plan will promote electrical generation from wind, solar, and flare gas capture projects, all legitimate pieces of the puzzle, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a solid plan, a solid plan that's better than any tax that does nothing to address actual emissions reductions. It's becoming abundantly clear that the federal Liberals are using this tax rebate or credit scheme — whatever you want to call it — to redistribute wealth and attempt to buy votes with taxpayers' own money. Let's make it clear. This tax will negatively affect every person in this province, everyone.

While on the topic of taxpayer money, the NDP and some of their biggest supporters have been promoting a campaign against this government asking, where did the money go? Well I understand that they won't always agree with us on where the money should be spent and sometimes selfish agendas cloud people's judgment a bit, but there's literally dozens of examples of where the money has gone.

It's gone into debt reduction. Our operating debt has been reduced by 674 million. 112,000 people have been removed from the provincial tax roll that no longer pay any Saskatchewan income tax. 4.6 billion of personal income tax cuts. 1.37 billion in education property tax cuts. It's gone into infrastructure, Mr. Deputy Speaker — twelve and a half billion, over a billion a year put back into infrastructure that was neglected or closed or shut down by previous NDP governments. 8.4 billion on 13 000 kilometres of highways repaired or rebuilt. 1.62 billion to repair and build new schools and renovate schools. Sixteen and a half billion in Crown capital investment.

Investment into health, Mr. Deputy Speaker, 900 more doctors, 3,400 more nurses. 11.8 for autism services. 3 billion on mental health and addictions. 117 per cent increase to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

Put into education, Mr. Deputy Speaker, two and a half times more funding into education than in 2007. 33 per cent increase in school division funding. 840 more teachers. 7,000 new child care spaces. 9.1 billion into post-secondary education. 406 million paid to 69,000 grads that stayed here in the province once they graduated; 44.6 million to the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, 91,000 scholarships to 40,000 students. They know where the money went.

It's gone into social services, Mr. Deputy Speaker, nearly 1.2 billion invested in 2018 alone, 54 million more than over the previous year. Income assistance increased by 261 million and child family service increased by 182 million since 2007. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people of this province that benefit from all this

investment, they know exactly where the money went; it went to them.

Yes, spending is about making choices, whether it's our own personal budgets, small business budgets, farm budgets, or government budgets. Different ideologies dictate what's important and where the money goes. Here's some ideas the NDP have if, God forbid, they were entrusted with running our finances. Two and a half billion in increased spending with no plan on how to pay for it. That's annual, annual spending. So 10 billion over four years with no costing. We had to do the costing on our side.

And some of the ideas behind it: paying farmers not to spray their crops. Paying new farmers \$10,000 to start up farming. Well how out of touch are they with agriculture? How far does \$10,000 go on a farm these days? Not very far, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And these are just two examples of how out of touch the NDP are with agriculture today.

They would apparently like to take advantage of great sunshine and lots of wind to make Sask a leader in renewables. Well that sounds a lot like the federal Liberal Environment minister talking about forest fires that are burning longer and brighter. It doesn't make any sense. Unserious statements from unserious elected officials. Unserious doesn't seem like a word to me but it sure seems to fit the NDP here in Saskatchewan.

Loans to retrofit green power, which in basic theory it sounds plausible, but their idea that the loan payments will be reused, revolving funds used for next phases, I don't know how you recycle money really but maybe I'm missing something. But I know where it will end. It will end with the taxpayers on this province.

Nonsensical pie-in-the-sky philosophy from east to west doesn't cut it here. And it doesn't take into consideration the people, industries that it negatively affects, industries that built this country, built this province, and continue to drive this province.

Similarities between the federal Liberals, the federal and provincial NDP are many, but two really stand out. They're pro-carbon pricing and they're anti-pipeline. These two policies are potentially the biggest contributors to permanently damage our energy, mining, and agriculture sectors.

The Trudeau Liberals have made it very clear that they plan to phase out fossil fuel development and usage. Sorry, I don't buy that. It's 40 below here and we can't use 100 per cent renewables for baseload power. It doesn't work. Canada has some of the world's strictest and most environmentally responsible energy development policies in the world, and their guidelines are in place to back that up. To be world leaders on climate change, to force carbon pricing when our farmers help feed the world, and we only emit 1.5 per cent of global emissions, is silly. It's bizarre and it's unfair.

Getting back to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this government has laid out a roadmap, a plan; a plan to address climate change; a plan to keep the economy moving forward; a plan to invest in infrastructure, hospitals, bridges, bypasses, highway twinings, passing lanes, interchanges, cellular network expansion, and investment in its people;

improve legislation to protect its citizens; expanding parental leave and maternity leave; a formal apology to Sixties Scoop survivors; changes to commercial driver training; cannabis use and sale regulation; trespassing legislation that balances the rights of rural landowners — a very broad and balanced approach, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to running this province.

This government is ready to take on the challenges we face in Saskatchewan. And I proudly support the Speech from the Throne and I reject the opposition's proposed amendment. Our mission is to keep Saskatchewan strong, and we will remain on track and do just that. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. An opportunity to join in on some of the comments both sides have been sharing back and forth as we debate this Throne Speech. I have to be honest with you. When I think about some of the stuff that's been in a previous Throne Speech, I guess they were into recycling, because they recycled it again. And as we can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of the points that they've done and a lot of the, I guess, things they want to brag about and talk about were actually . . . Time and time we've heard them over and over and over, and they had nothing new.

They talk about a vision. You know, it's unfortunately that there's . . .

[16:30]

But before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I get into some of the points I want to make, I just want to acknowledge my family for their support, my CA, and of course those in the Cumberland constituency that asked me to come here and speak on their behalf on the issues that they see were a priority, that they were hoping this government would've announced in its Throne Speech as it talks about a vision and where it's going to go and the changes it's going to do, and if there were wrongs, they'll correct the wrongs.

We've got a new Premier and he said . . . You know, and we're hoping. And I know our leader has said, admit what you have wrong and then turn around. You turn around and you actually correct it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And you say, okay we'll own that. We'll take the responsibility, and from here on we're going to move forward in a positive way to represent and give the best province for the people of this province and the best services. And the list goes on of what people . . . [inaudible].

But I want to talk a little bit about the challenges. And the government will pat themselves on the back and they'll say that they're doing a great job. And that's fine; there's areas where our government's doing a great job. They should take credit for that. But when a government sees challenges, whether it's the minister and the cabinet . . . And you have many backbenchers over there. I have said that many times in this House. The people have spoke and they've given you an opportunity to govern and to take care of all the province — all citizens, the most vulnerable ones.

But I have to say, I've watched food bank uses going up. I've seen seniors struggle. I've seen individuals being removed from

their homes. But you know what? You can cheerlead all you want. You can cheer, but when you're talking with the people out there that are struggling, they're struggling. You know, you see so many people. And you know, let me be very clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they want to heckle about the challenges that people are facing. That's what we get from ministers and governments over there on that side, and members, you know, very clearly. Unfortunately there are families who are struggling, who are struggling to pay their power bills, who are struggling to provide food. But you know, this is a government that raised PST on so many things, children's clothing.

There's so many challenges, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Those are the challenges. But you had a government that could say . . . You know, let's be clear; they do have enough revenue. Because if they can spend the money and waste \$40 million on the GTH, then there's a lot of questions that people have about that money. You could've picked different priorities. Did you have to support that the way you did? Do you have to keep on? No. Admit you've made a mistake, and let's move forward. But no, they don't want to do that.

They just want to cut services to Saskatchewan families. Whether it's our seniors, whether it's our seniors, our most vulnerable that are working . . . Some of those families I've watched, you talk to some of them, they're struggling. They're working three jobs, two jobs. They're trying to do their part. Every day they're doing their part. They're doing their part and they expect the government to say, you know, we're supporting you and we're going to find programs that will help you, instead of a government who doesn't want to consult with First Nations, Métis, the most vulnerable. They just want to say, we've got the plan and this is the plan.

You know when I think about it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can understand the frustration from many. Because when your power is being turned off because you can't afford it, you just can't afford the power bills that are going on, time and time again we've got power bills that are being raised on all of us. And the people don't mind, the people don't mind paying their fair share, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they do. They work hard and they're trying to do their part, but they want a government.

And there's many, many areas that I've talked about but, you know, when you think a government's picking and choosing its priorities, unfortunately we have a lot of people in this province right now that are struggling. They're not a priority. They don't feel like they're a priority of this government. The government through its programs and cuts is not making them a priority because they're cutting, and that's where it is. So at the end of the day, we see a Throne Speech again, as I said, using that vision. And people want to talk about that a government's proud of their vision and where we're going to go and make the changes.

You know, I think about some of the programs that I've seen cut over time that this government has, you know, taken away. And I think about NORTEP. And I think about there was a Premier now that was once the minister responsible for post-secondary education. I wonder what role he played in that.

Now we're seeing where we're short of teachers. Again, as the minister said today in question period, well they're only short

eight still. They shouldn't be. Our kids deserve, in northern Saskatchewan, deserve to have their classrooms staffed properly with the proper teachers, with the supports that those individuals need. So I see a government again just picking and choosing, as we have said. I've heard people say that, picking and choosing winners and losers.

Unfortunately when I think about STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], I think about that. Here was the chance for a government to say, you know what? We've made a wrong, when it comes to STC that was being subsidized. It was wrong that we cut this for the rural areas that are suffering. And I've heard from rural people saying how they're suffering, northern people. You hear the concerns, and they're not going to forget about what you've done as a government.

You pick and choose winners and losers. But then all of a sudden, lo and behold, a little work on our side as opposition in a committee to look into things, and we find out, oh you can't subsidize public transportation for our seniors to get to medical appointments, to individuals, to families to travel this province, but you can subsidize big companies making big dollars. Wow. You want to talk about picking winners and losers. There, that's what our government's done. That's what this government made a priority: subsidizing workers going to work, but not subsidizing seniors, those going on medical appointment, those most vulnerable. No, no, don't subsidize them. We've got to cut that. We're spending way too much money.

Well you made a decision, and I say you will pay a price for that.

And I know that members on that side, not all of them, I bet you there's some of them, backbenchers that are thinking, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I bet you there's some of them thinking this wasn't right what we did. Like this is not right, some of the cuts. I know that you're here representing the people. I know that. And I have to believe that some of those members will do what they can to remind their members, hey we've got to take care of all citizens in this province, the most vulnerable. Whether they're First Nations, Métis, we've got to take care of them. Whether they're seniors, the most vulnerable, those individuals — intellectuals, those with disabilities — we've got to take care of them. We have to. We've got to do better as a province.

We should be proud. But when you see the numbers going up the way their numbers are, when you see the numbers going up and the challenges that many are facing, I want to say this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Whether it's leaders in northern Saskatchewan or the rural areas or the cities, they're doing their part. They are. They're working hard. They're doing their part. Whether it's front-line workers in mental health, addictions services, they're doing their parts. They're done. Whether it's our nurses, our doctors, they're doing their parts. They're doing all they can, but they're burning out. They're burning out because they don't have the supports. That, we know.

And you see families struggling. Whether it's my own family, many families in this province are struggling when it comes to addictions, when it comes to mental health, when it comes to suicides. We see the challenges that many of our community members are facing, our families are facing.

This government could have said, you know what, we're not

going to do just a pilot. We are seeing this as a crisis. And we see police chiefs, different organizations, leaders, First Nations, Métis leaders, saying it is a crisis. You know, crystal meth is a crisis. The addictions is a crisis. Mental health is a crisis. We need to respond, not put band-aids on. It's not going to work. We can do better and we have to do better.

And this government has to pick better priorities. Because right now the way I see some of the priorities . . . You know, they talk about and they want to brag about spending 2 billion on the Regina bypass. And they talk about record spending on highways. And then you look at it and those numbers of what they're spending on the Regina bypass: 40 some kilometres, \$2 billion. You know, go and say that to the people who travel on roads I'll tell you that aren't even fit to be travelling on. But you see the government, they want to say, well we have priorities, and right now we're spending record spending on highways, but it's going to be on the Regina bypass. And that's fine for them to want to pick. But at the end of the day when it's about safety, they've got to make sure. And they will be held accountable.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many challenges, people in northern Saskatchewan and my constituency that struggle.

And you know, there is, like I said, a lot of leaders, a lot of young people who are doing great things, who have hope, who are doing . . . When I think about the families, they reach out and they want to have some sort of supports for them when it comes to mental health and suicide. And we have a government . . . And those individuals, and I've talked about this. I see the different groups out there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that are trying their best when it comes to suicides, when it comes to mental health and addictions.

All they want is a government to provide services to them. So when they have a need for those services, and they reach out as a family with their loved one, they want to know that they can go to a health centre. They want to know they can go to get supports for wherever their need is and the supports that they want for their loved one. They just want to make sure that support is provided to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So when I say that the government picks and chooses, and they make their choices, unfortunately it's our families, it's our constituents, our citizens who suffer when a government doesn't make the best choices of the finances that they've been given.

And let me tell you. This government wants to talk about, oh, oh, it's everyone else's problem. And it's this problem; it's that person's. It's the NDP's problem. I hear that constantly. It's the NDP's problem. Well news flash again. You've been here for 11 years. You've had record revenue. You've had more money than any government in Saskatchewan history to spend, Mr. Deputy Speaker, more money. And you look at the debt. And they want to talk about their credit rating, and brag about a credit rating so they can borrow more money to put . . . Our grandchildren, our kids will pay. They will pay. And they're going to look back on your day.

I give credit to some of my colleagues, some of my colleagues who have expressed their concern about our environment, and about the warnings that we're getting, and about how are we going to, as a society, how are we responding. How is the government responding? And people will ask that. And I know some of my colleagues have expressed that. Like will we look

back and wonder did we do all we can as members of this Assembly that are being asked to come here and be the voice of our communities?

But, you know, now when I think about it, I think about . . . I was hoping, you know . . . We hear again about these long-term care facilities. I think there's 13 of them. I've been hearing them for year after year — 13 of them, 13, 13. Well we've seen petition after petition served to get a long-term care facility for La Ronge. And what did the government do? What did the government do? Instead they put 500,000 into planning. That money's gone now. They've done the planning. I guess they . . . You know, I give credit to those community members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I give credit to those community members who took part in the planning. They really did their part. They went. They were asked to go. A company was hired, a consultant firm, to do a plan and they went and did their part. We had some leaders. We had community members, seniors. I think there was nurses, doctors. People came forward to do the planning. They were excited about it. But let me tell you, that was all it was, was a plan. They spent the money now for the planning but there's no announcement.

And we have a crisis when it comes to long-term care, and we have raised that. The leadership has brought that forward. You know, so many challenges, and that's in northern Saskatchewan, not just La Ronge. When I also think about families, and I'm going to think about a certain family. And I think about Creighton area because I've had people come forward and residents over there saying they need a long-term care facility. But they also need a group home for those intellectuals that have a disability, for those men and women and those residents who have an intellectual disability.

They want to have a group home so their community members or their family members can stay in the community and are not sent away. Because I have some of them that they're aging. And you know, I know some individuals that are in their 80s, that they have been looking after their loved ones. But the time comes and they're hoping. And they were hoping, and they've been working as a group. And they were hoping the government would say, you know, that is a priority; we need to help in the Creighton area. That would take care of that surrounding area so you would have a group home for those individuals.

But unfortunately, this government chose not to select them, chose to have another party. And you know what? There's other communities that have been given a group home and good for them. I say, good for them. They did the work. They lobbied. They've got that. Great on their part. And they've got the announcement, and nobody's saying that's not great. But the government could look at some of the other areas that need needs.

And when we talk about dollars, government picking and choosing, like there are so many areas when we look at . . . And I've talked about roads. And I know individuals want to petition. And there's many highways that the government is responsible for maintenance, making sure. And I guess, you know, we'll go along and with the Highways minister and the Ministry of Highways, they have a budget and they do.

We will put the pressure on when citizens come to my office and ask me to, whether it's serving a petition, whether it's leadership asking for, how do we get this done? We'll do what we can do to

support that, and we have to support that. But at the end of the day, there are many challenges facing many people in this province. And the government likes to pat themselves on the back and that's fine, as I said earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But when you look at seniors, when you look at the most vulnerable . . .

[16:45]

And you know, in some of our communities they're boarding up houses. They're evicting people left and right and they're boarding up the houses. Why wouldn't you want to keep those residents in there paying rent and taking care of . . . and rather than boarding them up and leaving the community. Like you have 30, maybe 35 homes that are boarded up in a community. For what? Because you, you know, you made a decision that your policy . . .

Sometimes I think about the cost of living and affordability in some of our smaller communities. You know, when you look at just the cost of living, trying to provide . . . When they're trying to work, they're trying to pay their utilities, they're trying to provide for their kids, they're trying to pay groceries, it is overwhelming. And when you hear people calling in and they're desperate for their power to be turned on, when their many challenges that they're facing and you have a government ministries . . .

And you know, I have to give credit. When you can call in and work with the ministries as an MLA office . . . My CA, we do a lot of casework. You can work with individuals. You hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that those individuals and the service are there. And sometimes, you know what? You get a positive response. And I give credit where credit is due. You're not always going to get the response you want and unfortunately some people are gone.

So having said that, this government always wants to have that — oh, well don't you ever acknowledge anything we do? And you know, and I've said that. I will acknowledge when they do things that are right for Saskatchewan citizens. But also I will remind them that people are expecting more from their government. They expect the government to treat them with respect, dignity, making sure that their services that they need are provided.

The government's doing its best, that the government is truly sitting down with individuals, consulting them. You know, that's the other thing. We talk about . . . And I've had some people saying it doesn't mean insulting us, it's consulting us. There's a difference. And I think some people want the government and to hold the government to account to say you need to respond. When they're the ones that are being impacted and it's certain groups, organizations. And I don't care if it's leadership. The right thing to do is consult with them, talk to them. Sometimes they will come up with ideas that will help a government make a decision. But unfortunately this government, it hasn't been known for having the best track record when it comes to individual's consulting.

We wonder why people are coming more and more to the legislature, to this Assembly. Because this government says well we had our vision and this is our vision. We're going to recycle

our announcements and it's really good and that's what they've done. But unfortunately for those citizens that are waiting to hear some good news, some good things, we have a government picks and chooses.

And I think, you know, I keep hearing, where do you want us to get the money to buy that? You guys want more and more. They keep saying that. They like to heckle back and forth. Where do you guys want us to get the money? Where do you want it? You know what? You've got to pick and choose for quite some time, 11 years just about, on your priorities. And they've got an opportunity to pick and choose what they see, as a government, as their priority.

But I'm telling you they've left a lot of people behind. They have left a lot of people behind. This government has not been one that is saying, we're going to take care of residents, citizens. But you have your friends and certain people you support. We understand that. You provide for them and that's what I talked about picking winners and losing.

Well you know what? The Saskatchewan residents, the most vulnerable, seniors, the list goes on. Those with issues when it comes to mental health, addictions treatment, those should be a government's priority. When we're all taking care of those citizens and everyone's doing well, then you can pat yourselves on the back and you can say as a government, you've done a great job because you're providing the services that people need.

And right now, the way I see it, we'll see what happens. The government's going to have another budget at some point and we'll see where it is. But right now to talk about their vision down the road as what their plan is, it's not looking too great for a lot of Saskatchewan residents because this government's picking it's priorities again. It's not. But I remind them again, as I've said this before, Mr. Deputy Speaker, at the end of the day we all have our purpose and, you know, whether we're re-elected or not, whether members choose to run again or not, whether the good people decide to support them and say I will vote them back in, that's going to be up to the people and up to the constituents to decide. But again I remind the members opposite: governments are not elected in; governments, as I understand it, are elected out because you don't serve the people anymore. So just remember that. Times are coming when people will come to you and ask you, what are you doing for them? You can answer to that. I think that time will come and we see.

And the last little bit I just want to say . . . And I mean there's many issues that need to be addressed. And I think about Scattered Sites. I want to talk about our shelter in northern Saskatchewan in La Ronge. It's Scattered Sites. The meals that they serve, the good work that people do for the most vulnerable, I want to give a shout-out to Scattered Sites and the work that some of those, you know, workers do. They go beyond and it's amazing to watch. They take care of the most vulnerable. But unfortunately they also know that they need a shelter so that there's a shelter for them. And I mean there's different ways that leadership works. There's different organizations, groups. They need the shelter to protect those most vulnerable, those people that don't have a place to stay too. We don't want to lose anyone to freezing outside in the elements.

And I've seen a recent report, you know, on CBC, I believe.



There was an article on media that talked about that. How many individuals there . . . I think it was something like 80,000 meals that they've served, and so the most vulnerable that provided meals for over the years. Like it's amazing to watch what they do and the good work that they're doing.

So the list goes on of priorities. But this government doesn't seem to see that some of those issues are a priority. And unfortunately there was nothing, no mention of it again in this Throne Speech.

So I know my colleagues and myself have talked a lot about trying to express the issues that come from back home, the frustration from many Saskatchewan residents. When we go all over coffee shops, it doesn't matter where you go, people will talk. They will ask. You know, you have a government again, the vision with all the dollars they had. PST. Like you think about it. Just about a billion dollars that they have burdened to Saskatchewan residents. And we've talked about exemptions for PST to go on back for construction. And I give credit to my colleagues who are raising it and the challenges that construction companies, different ones are seeing. The PST has hurt them dearly.

So I thought maybe, maybe after we're sharing that, the petitions, I thought, well the Premier and his government will say, hey, we're going to mend our ways, Doyle. And you know what? We're going to bring back the exemption for construction PST. No more PST on children's clothes. No more PST here and there. But no, they didn't.

You know, I thought maybe he would say, we're going to bring back the funding that we took away, unfortunately, from education. We're going to put it back 100 per cent. We're going to put it back and then maybe even give a little more to help out. But no, they want to say, oh, we gave 25 per cent to school divisions in the North. They got 25 over the years since we've been in, I think is what they were saying. Well that's fine and dandy. There are many challenges.

And I want to thank the boards of education. I want to thank the teachers. I want to thank those support staff that support our schools and our kids to try to provide them with a great education.

I want to thank the union workers that are out there, those men and women who are working in the unions but also in non-unions, that are doing the good work that they're trying to do. I want to thank them for what they do for our Saskatchewan citizens. And those individuals in my constituency that get the service, I want to thank them.

But this government had an opportunity to change, accept their responsibility, to say, we've made some mistakes and we're going to change our way, in the Throne Speech. And I see none of that. And for that reason I will not be supporting the Throne Speech and I will be supporting the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is an honour and a privilege to rise before you in the House to make some

comments on the 2018 Speech from the Throne. I realize we're coming close to the hour for this afternoon so I'll begin with my comments and see where we get to.

I'm always humbled when I rise in the legislature, as I recognize and appreciate the special and important opportunity I have been given by the constituents of Lloydminster to be their representative in this historical, democratic, and highly respected place in our province. It is no small task and I want to assure them that I do my best each and every day to make their voices heard and to try and address their concerns and issues. So a very sincere thank you to the constituents of Lloydminster.

I took on this role, as many of us have, because we believe we can help shape a better future for our children, our grandchildren, and all the people of this great province. As I have driven home and here to Regina on many an evening, I cannot help but marvel at the beauty of our sunsets, the vast and varied landscape, or bright moonlit sky. We truly are the land of the living skies and I want my grandchildren to be able to be raised in this great province and to be able to marvel at those same wonders of nature. I believe the Speech from the Throne speaks to all that my government has worked hard at to improve and better the lives of Saskatchewan families so that the beauties of nature remain before all of us and the future does hold many unbelievable opportunities for success and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I won't be able to comment on all the points presented in the Throne Speech so I'll just focus on a few that have benefited my constituency. Last week I listened to the member from Saskatoon Fairview refer to this speech as a cut-and-paste. This is so far, far from the truth. If anything can be considered cut-and-paste, it would be the opposition's proposed dream and deliver plan, which is the same old, tired NDP's cut-and-paste of spend more, do nothing, leave nothing behind, and chase people and investments out of this province.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago I was fortunate enough to participate in some courses of a world-renowned motivational speaker, Stephen Covey. He is the author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. I am always reminded of habit number two: begin with the end in mind. Everything in this Speech from the Throne tells me my government, right from the get-go and each and every year thereafter, continues to follow Covey's habit of begin with the end in mind.

Mr. Speaker, my government's Speech from the Throne is a clear reminder, an indicator to the people of this province that since 2007, my government has stayed true to Covey's second habit and continues to remain on track and focused on delivering results to the people of this province, unlike a cut-and-paste NDP which continues to follow the same old paradigm. And as you may know, the word paradigm comes from the Greek and Latin word *paradeigma*, meaning the pattern we expect to see unless we look beyond our own paradigm and which can be seen as distorted, short-sighted, out of touch, and just flat-out wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we have not been without challenges. Three years of low resource prices, which continue to be a challenge, created both economic and fiscal challenges for our province. These challenges are being created not by us, but by the world economic conditions, continued US trade sanctions against our steel and uranium industries, and unfortunately, in some instances by our

own federal government. My government will continue to meet these challenges by standing up for Saskatchewan, by working to protect and grow our economy by carefully managing taxpayers' dollars through our spending reductions and debt repayment, opposing the prohibitive, expensive, and senseless carbon tax, all while continuing to deliver important government programs and services to the people of this province.

The oil and gas industry plays a significant and major role in supporting the economy. Many families depend on the jobs that the oil and gas industry provide. In my constituency of Lloydminster, we are the second-largest contributor to Saskatchewan's oil revenues. A number of businesses that supply equipment, products, or other services to the oil industry have started up over the years in Lloydminster and rely on drilling to keep their doors open. There have been exceptionally good years in the past, some short slowdown years, but for most of these businesses, these things have remained good.

In the past few years though, things have been harder than usual, and with the challenge in this industry and the significant differential attributed to oil prices and the federal government stopping the development of necessary pipelines, many of these companies have had to lay off people and close their doors. Lloydminster and surrounding small communities are very fortunate that companies like Husky Energy and Serafina have stood strong and have been forward thinking to be able to plan and continue investing millions of dollars into operations in the area. The city and communities have benefited not only from their ongoing presence, their employment of people in the area, the support they have . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It now being 5 o'clock, this Assembly stands recessed till 7 p.m. this evening.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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