



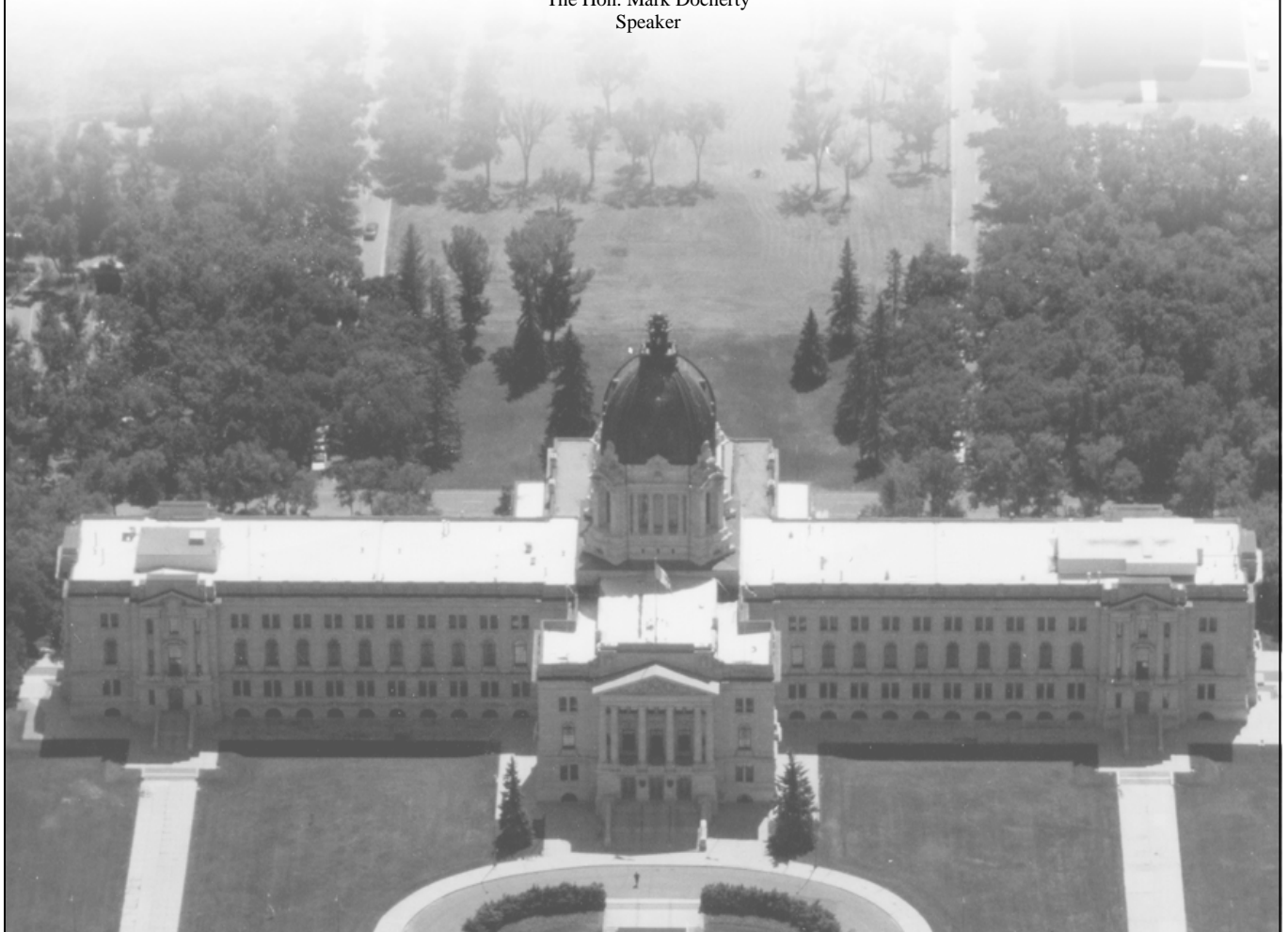
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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

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

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 Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/legislative-business/legislative-calendar>

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Central Services.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. Today, to you and through you, I would like to introduce some very special young guests to the members of the Legislative Assembly. Joining us today are more than 50 students who are here taking part in the program A Day in the Legislative Assembly. These students are from Allan School and Walter W. Brown School in the Prairie Spirit School Division. Yes, give us a wave. Sure, you bet. All right, an enthusiastic bunch.

The students are here today along with their teachers Joel Driedger, Shawn Huber, and chaperones Allan School Vice-principal Kelly Wandler, their bus drivers David Doell and Jackie Neufeld, as well as officials from the Provincial Capital Commission.

Mr. Speaker, A Day in the Legislative Assembly is an educational program that was created in 2012 by the Provincial Capital Commission in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the legislative building, and is now offered semi-annually each spring and fall. The program has been a memorable learning experience for hundreds of Saskatchewan youth, teaching them about our democratic process, its history, and the roles of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

The students from Allan and Langham will be touring our historic Legislative Building, observing their MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] in session, and participating in a unique panel discussion.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for agreeing to lead this panel discussion with the students in the Chamber later today, as well as my colleague the MLA for Biggar and the MLA for Regina Northeast and our legislative Clerk for joining that panel discussion.

It's certainly my hope that these students will enjoy this behind-the-scenes look into democracy in action in our province, and that we may even be able to inspire a few of them to explore a career in the public service or elected in the Legislative Assembly. I invite all members to join me in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly this morning. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join the minister in welcoming the students here today, and looking forward to joining them this afternoon and helping them learn about the importance and the function of this, their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to join my colleague in welcoming all the students, but in particular the Allan students. The Allan school is in my constituency and I've been there a number of times, first years ago when my daughter played sports in competition with the Allan students, and then later I've been a judge at oral speaking contests that was held there. And now I like to go there because that's the school my grandson goes. So I think I'm going to be a more frequent visitor at the Allan school when there is events with my grandson. So I want everyone to welcome them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — Oh sorry, where are you here? I recognize the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to join with the Minister of Central Services in welcoming the school group from Walter W. Brown School from Langham, Saskatchewan, who is in my constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley. I understand there's 22 students and teacher Shawn Huber. And I look forward to being part of the panel later in the day, joining you and the other school in the panel discussions. So to my colleagues, please welcome the two school groups to their legislature.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated behind me I have 32 students from the Westmount School in Moose Jaw just not far from where I live, and they're accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Debbie Taylor-French. I'm going to meet with them later and have a conversation with them, and hopefully they've got some really good questions but not too hard for me. And I welcome them all to their Legislative Building.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, to all the members of this Assembly, would like to introduce one of my constituents sitting in the west gallery, Murray Carswell. I ask all the members to join me and welcome Murray Carswell to his legislature. Thanks.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to restore public control over Wascana Park. Those who have signed this petition today wish to draw our attention to a few points: that Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and

conservation area that has been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the university, and the provincial government for more than 50 years; that the city and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to returning to a governance model that is based on equality; and that more and more people in Regina and across Saskatchewan are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park and want to see it stopped.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to restore the governance structure of the Wascana Centre Authority and end the commercialization of Wascana Park.

An Hon. Member: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today — thank you for the enthusiasm — reside in Regina. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — 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 Paradise Hill, Lloydminster, Biggar. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The people who have signed this petition want to bring to our attention the following: Sask Party government has refused to come clean on the GTH land deal, a deal where Sask Party insiders made millions of dollars flipping land and taxpayers subsequently lost those millions; that instead of shining a light on the issue and calling a public inquiry as some Sask Party leadership hopefuls called for, the government is hiding behind excuses around public prosecutions.

The Sask Party government continues to block the main key witnesses from providing the necessary testimony about the land deal. It's Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and deserve nothing less than the truth.

I'll 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 hiding behind partisan excuses and immediately call for a judicial inquiry and a forensic audit into the GTH land deal.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people who have signed this petition today are from the city of Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this morning and present a petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces; employers should be obligated to reasonably accommodate survivors of domestic violence in the workplace; employees who are survivors of domestic violence should be able to take a leave of absence from their employment without penalty; and Saskatchewan must do so much more to protect survivors of domestic violence.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this will be called for in our private member's bill which calls for five days paid leave be allowed to survivors of domestic violence. I believe it's the fourth time we've tabled that private member's bill. We're long past due in passing it, as it brings us into line with other jurisdictions. It's the least we could do in Saskatchewan and it's well past time we passed it.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition today come from Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners are well aware that Saskatchewan has gone from leading the country in terms of minimum wage to being either last or second-last when it comes to minimum wage under this Sask Party government's watch.

The petitioners are saying that a minimum wage should not be a poverty wage. They are pointing out that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage will improve health and well-being and lift Saskatchewan workers out of poverty. They point out that a \$15-an-hour minimum wage will benefit local businesses and support local economies by putting money in workers' pockets to spend in their community.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to adopt a

plan to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for all workers.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens from here in the fair city of Regina. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Location of New Group Home

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motto of Weyburn is “the opportunity city” but in the last few days there may be the impression that this is not the case for some in our community. But, Mr. Speaker, I know Weyburn and I know that this is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that everyone involved in the new group home proposal is working towards a solution. In fact later this morning members of council will be sitting down with the developer, as they have already met with the Weyburn Group Homes Society, to resolve this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Weyburn Group Homes Society is a very valued organization in our community who serve wonderful clients, among the most vulnerable in our community. And we cannot say thank you enough for all the work that they do. As a government we support their work and have added three new group homes in Weyburn, providing 12 clients with a place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, what is important for these clients and their families and their support workers is for some calm and peace at this time while a resolution is sought. Mr. Speaker, concerns have been voiced of what could be lost when a group home moves into a neighbourhood. Mr. Speaker, in my experience, including attending the opening of the three new group homes in our community, these homes don't take away. They add. They add a safe and secure home for our most vulnerable. They add to the colour and richness of a neighbourhood, and they add a smile to the face of those who have a home to call their own. Mr. Speaker, any neighbourhood would be lucky to have them. Thank you.

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

Chili for Children

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, well said. You speak for all of us.

In 1979, Mr. Speaker, Theresa and Robert Stevenson recognized a very specific need in our community. They recognized that too many children in our schools were struggling to learn, not because they weren't capable or lacked initiative but because they were hungry. The Stevensons stepped up to meet the need, and soon the community saw what they were doing and stepped up to help them help the kids.

[10:15]

Forty years later, through the generosity of donors and the ongoing commitment of staff and volunteers, Chili for Children is feeding about 800 children a day, three days a week. That's roughly 10,000 meals a month, Mr. Speaker. It's an amazing labour of love. In my home neighbourhood of North Central, Mr. Speaker, whenever something gets said about St. Theresa we tend to think they are talking about Theresa Stevenson. It could not be more fitting that Chili for Children, aimed at providing one of the essentials of a healthy learning environment, recently received the University of Regina President's Community Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Greg Stevenson, son of Theresa and Robert, and now CEO [chief executive officer] of Chili for Children for he and his family's many years of community service; and in thanking the program's staff, people like Delia Pelletier, who in my opinion makes the best frybread in all of Regina; Donna Adam; Lisa Ochoo; donors and supporters like Safeway, McGavin's Bread Basket, and the Regina Fire & Protective Services and Chili for Children's many volunteers, for seeing the need and accepting the challenge of meeting it. Thank you, so very much.

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

Curling Team Impresses at Winter Games

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on February the 15th, the 2019 Canada Winter Games kicked off in Red Deer, Alberta. For two weeks, over 3,600 athletes competed in 19 different sporting activities as part of Canada's largest multi-sport and cultural event for youth. There were over 215 elite amateur athletes who proudly donned the green jerseys to represent Team Saskatchewan.

Among all the athletes was a curling team from Moose Jaw, the Skylar Ackerman rink. Skylar Ackerman, the skip, along with third Madison Johnson, second Chantel Hoag, and lead Samantha McLaren put on an impressive performance at the games. They boasted a 6-4 record after round-robin play and entered the quarter finals tied for fourth place. Their best day of play came on February the 27th when Team Ackerman beat Quebec with a convincing 10 to 3 victory and later cemented a 5-3 win over British Columbia in the evening draw. Unfortunately the Ackerman rink was defeated in the quarter finals after a hard-fought match against the eventual bronze medalist, Team Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, athletes like the young women on Team Ackerman and their fellow Team Saskatchewan teammates serve as some of the greatest ambassadors for our province. They demonstrate that dedication and hard work never go unnoticed. Please join me in congratulating Team Ackerman from Moose Jaw and their fellow Team Saskatchewan teammates on the impressive showing in the 2019 Canada Winter Games. Thank you.

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

Researcher's Achievements in Geology and Paleontology

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I recognize a constituent of Saskatoon Centre, Meagan Gilbert, who was featured in the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* Young Innovators article in

September 2018 for a geological and paleontological contributions that have put Saskatchewan on the map for studying dinosaurs in Canada.

In two years Meagan has collected and identified nearly 3,000 plant and animal fossils that are now housed at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Meagan has found numerous rare fossil fragments of the ankylosaurus, a six-metre long spiked dinosaur found near the US [United States] border. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the ankylosaurus is no longer with us.

Meagan's work has provided a better understanding of the evolution of climate and life. She found evidence that suggests Saskatchewan had had a tropical climate for millions of years. Meagan's outstanding work has been published in the journals of *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Palaeoecology*. Meagan is not just exploring our past but looking to the future as well. She believes if we understand how animals and plants of the past responded to major environmental challenges, we can better prepare for how climate change may affect us in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we recognize the outstanding work of Saskatchewan's own researchers and academics. I ask that all members join me in recognizing Meagan Gilbert's tremendous contributions to geology and paleontology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Fundraiser Supports College's Welding Program

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month I had the privilege to attend the 7th annual Carhartts and Caviar event in Swift Current. Created by Great Plains College welding instructor, Jared McKenzie, this fundraiser auctions off creations from his students, donated pieces of metalworks, furniture, and art in order to raise funds to enhance the college's welding program.

Welding students from Great Plains sported their best pair of Carhartts to a lively audience with hopes to raise as much money as possible for their welding equipment and scholarship program. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was also caviar there, as well. Mr. Speaker, the event was sold out. It raised over \$13,000 during the live auction.

Jared McKenzie has been recognized many times for his teaching abilities and was awarded the Colleges and Institutes Canada Gold Award for Teaching Excellence back in 2016. Mr. Speaker, this was the first time that this award has actually been presented to an instructor from Saskatchewan. McKenzie, who was a Great Plains College student before he became an instructor, says the annual event has grown from being just a fundraiser to being a teaching tool and a source of pride for the students.

I'd like to recognize my community and thank them for supporting this fundraiser, as it provides funds for its students to succeed and grow their career right here in southwest Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd now ask all members to please join me in congratulating instructor Jared McKenzie and the Carhartts and Caviar fundraising team on another successful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Launch of Crime Watch Advisory Network

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I had the pleasure of joining the Minister of Corrections and Policing, the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], and FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] for the launch of the Saskatchewan crime watch advisory network.

When someone reports a crime, the RCMP can use the Saskatchewan crime watch advisory network to send out an advisory about criminal activity in a specific area. Text messages, emails, or phone calls with information from the police then reaches people across that community.

During my time on the crime reduction committee, a recurring theme in the feedback we heard from rural Saskatchewan was the need for effective communication. And that's exactly what this system is about: getting credible, effective, and reliable information to people quickly. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan crime watch advisory network initiative responds directly to our government's goal to improve the response to rural crime. The program will initially run in southern Saskatchewan and, if successful, we will look to expand it to northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP said at SARM just this week that approximately 2,000 people have already signed up. Mr. Speaker, everyone wants to protect their family and their home, and I thank this government for their contribution of \$50,000, as it will improve safety for many in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan crime watch advisory network is just one tool we can use to work together to help make our province safer for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Men's and Women's Curling Teams Win Gold

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Melville Curling Club played gracious host to the 2019 CurlSask senior men's and women's provincial championship, which was held from February 27th to March 3rd.

I'd like to congratulate the Nutana Curling Club from Saskatoon for taking the gold, which was their first senior men's title: Skip Bruce Korte, third Darrell McKee, second Kory Kohuch, and lead Rory Golanowski.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to highlight Team Anderson who look home the gold on Sunday afternoon with the senior women's, keeping a very impressive four curling seasons' championship streak alive. Sherry Anderson, Patty Hersikorn, Brenda Goertzen, and Anita Silvernagle have had amazing accomplishments over the past four years, including a two-time Canadian Senior championship and one World Senior championship in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, this event would not have been made possible without the many volunteers. I'd like to thank Larry and Gerri

Martin who are the tournament's lead volunteers for the event. Among the amazing list of volunteers is Carson Dennis, son of our super-athletic member from Canora-Pelly, who was the icemaker for the tournament.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the curling community in Melville, we were truly honoured to host such decorated athletes in our rink. I now ask all members to join me in congratulating all participants and volunteers of the 2019 Senior Curling Championship.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I was reading old question periods in *Hansard* — and I realize I should get a hobby — but one struck me as a good one for a throwback Thursday. It was in 2006 and the former minister of Agriculture, at that time critic for Agriculture, Bob Bjornerud, was going after the then minister of Agriculture for having criticized the federal minister of Agriculture, saying that when farmers need help, the last thing that we should be doing is, you know, knocking around that minister.

I just thought that was an interesting throwback Thursday, when we see the Premier having decided to welcome the new minister into her new role by starting a Twitter feud. Now that bull-in-a-china-shop approach to diplomacy and federal-provincial relationships may make sense if you're on team Scheer, perhaps less so if you're on team Sask, Mr. Speaker.

But last week I asked the Premier about canola and the challenges that we're now seeing with canola getting into China. And he put forth some important things that he's going to do now and into the future. What was missing from that was . . . You know, this has been an issue that we've known about for more than two years. China has been sending these signals. And this Premier has travelled to the US, to India, to China, and we've heard nothing about his work to try to expand our access to those markets or maintain our access to China.

If agriculture is so important to this government, as it should be, why has that been not at the very top of his agenda on all his foreign travels?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — First of all I need to clarify, Mr. Speaker. I'm on team Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, and as yesterday I extend an open invitation, an open invitation, understanding the importance of agriculture in this province to the Canadian economy, Mr. Speaker, the importance of our agri-food exports to the . . . Canadian agri-food exports, Mr. Speaker. We extend an invitation to the Minister of Agriculture to come and engage with our Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, on priorities and issues quite frankly that are so important to us right now.

Mr. Speaker, I did engage when I was in China on our agri-food exports, Mr. Speaker. We have four crops that are in the queue, Mr. Speaker, to be allowed to export into that market as food grade crops: oats and fava beans and chickpeas. Mr. Speaker, we

did engage with not only with the national government in China, we engaged with individuals, Mr. Speaker, that are actually importing our crops and making food for the Chinese people there, Mr. Speaker.

As always, we go on trips that involve industry, Mr. Speaker, and we were fortunate to have a number of industry representatives that we met with through STEP [Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership] and others in China, Mr. Speaker, as we do in all of the countries. This is a priority for this province, Mr. Speaker. The current issue with canola and China is a priority for this province, Mr. Speaker, and we've been reaching out to a number of different entities to ensure that we're able to come to a positive place with respect to that.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A significant concern for farmers across Saskatchewan right now is the fact that the federal government is looking at legislation that would allow end-point royalties or trailing royalties for farmer-saved seed. Producers across Saskatchewan, including an overwhelming majority of those present at APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan], voted against this change, Mr. Speaker. This is a change that poses great risks for farmers in the province.

The Premier likes to pick fights. I haven't seen him win one of them yet, but he likes to pick them. I'm wondering if he's willing to fight for farmers and fight for the right for Saskatchewan farmers to plant the seed that they have grown.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government will always stand up for farmers, unlike that party did for 17 years, didn't even support agriculture or work with agriculture, Mr. Speaker.

We have had the discussion. There's another round of consultations going on by the federal government. We have initiated discussion with all the farmer organizations and commodity groups here in the province that we will be meeting later this year and we will take a position with those groups. We will come together with a consensus group on what the position of the province of Saskatchewan will be on end-point royalties, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan deserve to know what this government's position is today. I would like a clear answer from the Premier, Mr. Speaker. Farmers deserve a clear answer. Will he stand with companies that are trying to use the law to lock in their profits, or will he stand up for the freedom of farmers to plant the seed that they have grown?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government will do something that that party never did. We will consult with farmers in this province. We will consult with farm groups in this province. And we will ask them what is the

position. We will come to a uniform position. We will not be heavy-handed and take a position. We will listen to the groups in this province and come to a consensus. And that'll be our position for the farmers in this province, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

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

Mr. Meili: — This issue's been going on for a long time. Farmers across the province have already spoken. This Premier and this minister know the opinion and know what is the right thing to do, but they will not stand up. They will not take a position.

What is the position of this government? Are you . . . Are we going to see, Mr. Speaker, this government stand up simply for big industry and their rules to control the seed? Or will they stand up for farmers and their right to plant what they have grown in their own fields?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I think we just found out what the definition of Renew Saskatchewan is, Mr. Speaker. The definition of Renew Saskatchewan is this new, renewed interest in rural Saskatchewan when we have the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus that is able to drive to our largest centre, the city of Saskatoon, during a SARM convention and visit when all of the rural leaders from across the province come to our largest city, and they feel they have consulted with rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, in our largest centre in the province. Mr. Speaker, it is members on this side, this side of the House that represent rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, represent them well, represent our producers across this province, virtually all of our producers across the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We hear the members opposite with their renewed interest in rural Saskatchewan. Well the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, when they had the opportunity, when they had the opportunity to govern, they were raising the education property tax on rural Saskatchewan land, Mr. Speaker, farm land in the province, all the time to unsustainable levels, to unsustainable levels, I might add, Mr. Speaker. All the time they were raising taxes on rural Saskatchewan agricultural land to these unsustainable levels, they closed 176 schools across the province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was clear, and the lack of an answer is extremely obvious. They don't want to stand up and say what they really believe because they know they're offside with farmers in this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they're also offside with municipalities. The cuts that they have made to municipalities . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I'd really like to see some courage

on the part of this government and an ability for them to come up with a clear position that's onside with Saskatchewan farmers, as we've yet to see that.

We've also seen them offside with municipalities, cuts to municipalities, downloading of costs to municipalities. At the same time, they've doubled the PST [provincial sales tax] so it's made it harder for people in those communities to pay the increased taxes that have resulted from those cuts and downloads, Mr. Speaker. The number of people who are in arrears on their property taxes in the last five years has risen by 12 per cent in P.A. [Prince Albert], by 85 per cent in Saskatoon, by 112 per cent in Moose Jaw, and by a whopping 147 per cent in Regina.

That's people unable to pay their property taxes because this government's financial choices have made life more difficult. How can they call this a balanced budget when their choices are increasing costs and making it impossible for people to pay their municipal taxes?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, it's been this government that has invested in a strong economy here in the province, Mr. Speaker, and the result is just that, Mr. Speaker. We have 165,000 more people that have chosen to live here, Mr. Speaker, chosen to live in a community in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, 108,000 of them have moved from countries all around the world, Mr. Speaker. This is a statistic that this government, the government of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, is so very proud of, Mr. Speaker.

They're adding to our communities, Mr. Speaker, and the volunteer hours that they volunteer in their community, Mr. Speaker, this is — and I spoke about this yesterday at the rural municipal convention, Mr. Speaker — this is the community, these are the people that we represent, Mr. Speaker, and this is the Saskatchewan that we know and love. And rest assured, Mr. Speaker, we'll always be members on this side of the House that will stand with those families. We will stand with their jobs that they have in their community, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our best days are still ahead of us.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's choices have forced municipalities to raise their taxes. They've also doubled the PST making it harder for regular people to afford the cost of living or to pay those risen taxes. And they also added that PST to construction, which makes things much more expensive for cities.

Yesterday the Premier was boasting at SARM about the generous new revenue-sharing model. Well in Moose Jaw they're seeing an increase of \$200,000 this year from increased revenue sharing. You know what else they're seeing an increase of? \$800,000 in PST costs. We can see how that would be pretty cold comfort to see a little bump in revenue sharing when everything else is costing so much. No wonder so many people are in arrears for paying their property taxes.

Will the Premier do right by municipalities and by the people of Saskatchewan and scrap the PST on construction labour in next

week's budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier about the unsustainable tax rates in rural Saskatchewan under the members opposite when they had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker. All the while, all the while they attended, Mr. Speaker, the convention that we had the opportunity to attend yesterday for the bear pit, and they were asked repeatedly, year after year after year, Mr. Speaker, would you put together a municipal revenue-sharing formula for the municipalities across the province, Mr. Speaker. Year after year they said, we might be able to do that. They never did, Mr. Speaker. They never did put in place a municipal revenue-sharing, Mr. Speaker.

Well thankfully, thankfully, Mr. Speaker, in 2007 the people of this province, they got fed up with that answer, Mr. Speaker, and they made a change. They took a leap of faith, Mr. Speaker, with a government that they have chosen twice since then, Mr. Speaker. They got a fair, transparent, predictable municipal revenue-sharing formula, Mr. Speaker, one that is sought after from municipalities outside this province, Mr. Speaker, and one that has seen an over 90 per cent increase in funding to our municipalities, Mr. Speaker, because we're partners with our municipalities across the province.

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

Construction Industry and Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, for months the PST on construction contracts has harmed our economy. Building permits are down all across our province. Home builds are massively down in communities across our province. Hard-working tradespeople have been forced to unemployment. Many have been forced outside of Saskatchewan. The fact is clear that this job-killing tax is harming our economy. And as noted by the Leader of the Official Opposition, it makes no sense to force municipalities into a situation of double taxation, ultimately property taxpayers into double taxation. And that message was very clear at the SARM convention this week, at SUMA before that, and communities across the province.

Will the government admit their mistake and commit to retracting this tax that's causing so much harm on our economy, on workers, and on businesses across our province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I've several times explained to the members opposite that the difficult decisions were made in order to get our finances in the province back on track to balance, Mr. Speaker. And we will be delivering a balanced budget in a few days and that member opposite . . . [inaudible].

And here's what the people of Saskatchewan does not want to see. Since we have been government, Mr. Speaker, building permits across this province has been on average about \$2.5 billion a year. Mr. Speaker, what was it when the NDP were in power, when they were closing facilities, when they were closing hospitals, when they were closing schools, when people were

leaving the province in droves? Well, Mr. Speaker, the average building permits in those days was less than a billion each and every year. It's two and a half times more than under the NDP. Do you honestly think people want to go back?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — [Inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker, it's answers like that that really fail workers and businesses and communities across our province, an answer like that that defies economic hurt that's been caused by this very short-sighted choice by that government, Mr. Speaker, and a result of the Sask Party government failing to manage our finances, mess after mess, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to financial mismanagement.

The Sask Party again brushes aside the concerns of industry, of small businesses, of workers, of municipalities, and of us, Mr. Speaker, and of course plowed ahead with the imposition of the PST on construction labour. But the fact is, the bottom line is that it's hurting our economy and hurting workers, and it's past time to do the right thing and scrap the PST on construction labour, get people back to work, and help to fire up this economy. Will the Premier commit to doing that here today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, yet again, in just six more sleeps the province will see a balanced budget in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Was this government failing the people of Saskatchewan when they built the Moose Jaw Hospital? Were they failing the people of Saskatchewan when they are building the children's hospital? Were they failing the people of Saskatchewan when they built the North Battleford hospital to help with mental support, mental health issues, within this province, Mr. Speaker? Were they failing the people of Saskatchewan with the Swift Current long-term care home facility? How about the Regina bypass, Mr. Speaker?

Record investment in all of our highways. Record building of schools across this province, Mr. Speaker. Were we failing the industry and failing people of Saskatchewan with all of those builds? They have seen profitable infrastructure builds under this government unprecedented in the history of the province.

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

Irrigation District Agreements

Mr. Pedersen: — Unlike the Premier's suggestion, as Agriculture critic I've been travelling all across this province, not just to Saskatoon. I've been to Kelvington, Nipawin, North Battleford, Canora, Melville, Birch Hills, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw, Outlook, Rosthern. And it's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that there is a huge infrastructure deficit in this province.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order please. Recognize the member.

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to irrigation infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party solution is to push that bill onto farmers. And farmers have feared that this

would be coming for some time, but they are frustrated with the bully tactics that this government is using. Irrigation districts are being forced to agree to non-disclosure clauses in the funding and transfer agreements, and that means that they can't even compare notes with other irrigation districts to see how bad of a deal that they're getting from this province.

My question for the minister is, why is he bullying producers by insisting on confidentiality clauses in the agreements with irrigation districts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it ironic when the member opposite talks about travelling around the province and we've got, you know, facts where he's in a community with six people showed up and listened to him talk.

So, Mr. Speaker, we've had a very good discussion with the irrigation districts in this province. We've come to agreements on them. We've come to agreements on funding. We're ready to go on that. So, Mr. Speaker, everything he is saying is totally false. The agreements have been worked on. They're done and the irrigation districts are happy with the results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the producers felt like they had no choice in those agreements because the ministry made it clear that the confidentiality clauses were not negotiable.

And this is a pattern that we've seen from this government, hiding behind confidentiality clauses to hide from the public what the Sask Party is really up to. We've seen it with the sell-off of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company], with the bypass, with the GTH, the P3 [public-private partnership] schools, the sell-off in Wascana Park. The list goes on. And now we are seeing it with the infrastructure download to irrigation districts. What possible sensitivity is there with these contracts and what is the Sask Party trying to hide?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these agreements were agreed upon with the irrigation districts. The funding models, the formula was all agreed upon by the irrigation districts. Mr. Speaker, these agreements are all, all signed. Everybody's happy with the agreements.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I met with two municipalities that have most of the irrigation in at the SARM convention the other day. We had a very good discussion about this. They're happy with the transfer and the process, the way it's going, Mr. Speaker. I don't know where that member's getting his knowledge from or his information from, Mr. Speaker. But I've met with the irrigation districts and, Mr. Speaker, this is a good deal for them and they're happy with it and we're going to get it signed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, it sounds like the irrigation

districts are happy because the minister told them to be happy. Mr. Speaker, if the agreements are so good, then why doesn't the minister table the agreements? If there's nothing to hide, if they're so good for the irrigation districts, why not make them public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that's an insult to the irrigation districts. Mr. Speaker, they can think for themselves. They've done a good deal in negotiating this deal. We've worked together through this.

I met with the irrigation districts on a number of occasions. I drove up to Outlook. We met in Regina. We've had meetings going on since I've become the Agriculture minister, Mr. Speaker. We've negotiated this deal. They're happy with the deal and we're ready to sign it and transfer the assets to the irrigation districts, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the question is simple. Will the minister table the agreements, the funding and transfer agreements, with the irrigation districts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I will not table those agreements. Those agreements are signed with the irrigation districts, Mr. Speaker, and that's the . . . If the irrigation districts want to disclose them, they can do it at that time when the agreements are signed and delivered.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the irrigation districts can't disclose them because the minister forced a confidentiality clause on them. So will the minister put these agreements before the legislature?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, the agreements aren't even signed yet. Wait till the agreements are signed, Mr. Speaker.

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

Investigation in Pinehouse Village

Ms. Sproule: — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, needs to look up what a non-disclosure agreement actually means before he makes comments like that.

Now I'm going to try this again today, Mr. Speaker. In October of 2016, two months after the now Finance minister had taken over as Minister of Government Relations, she wrote a letter to 34 members of the public who had raised concerns in July of 2016 about multiple infractions of provincial legislation and serious financial irregularities from the village of Pinehouse. In her response she indicated that she will "schedule a meeting with

the village council at the earliest opportunity to assist them in complying with the provisions of the law.” She added that the concerns and recommendations will also be responded to by the Ministry of Justice.

So our question for the minister, Mr. Speaker: did the now Finance minister, then Minister of Government Relations, meet with the village council in her official capacity as promised? How many times? And what were the results of her efforts to assist them in complying with the provisions of the law?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, we always work with municipalities that are out of compliance to help them get back into compliance. SARM, SUMA also work with municipalities that struggle with compliance. A lot of times what we find is that they may be lacking capacity issues.

We received a report from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner on November 13th. It was clear in the report and the comments that were made by the mayor at that time that the village is really not interested in compliance. So that report also recommended that the Minister of Government Relations then intervene in the village of Pinehouse. We acted on those recommendations and appointed Neil Robertson as our inspector to look into this situation. He is undertaking a very thorough analysis and we’re awaiting his report.

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

Ms. Sproule: — So, Mr. Speaker, in 2018 the now Minister of Government Relations launched an investigation into the village’s failure to follow the law. Thirteen times the Information and Privacy Commissioner found that the village failed to follow the law. But perhaps if the Finance minister had acted back in 2016 like she said she would, things wouldn’t have become so dire.

Now the Justice minister also mentioned that the investigation is ongoing but he didn’t commit to making it public. When will that investigation be completed? When will the report be delivered to the minister? And will he make all of the findings of that report public?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, that quite often we see municipalities that are struggling with capacity to take on the responsibilities of governance. November 19th we received the request from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to act on some of his requests that he had found with the village of Pinehouse in his communications with them. It’s very clear, we found out, that the village of Pinehouse is not interested in the compliance side of things, so we have since launched an investigation. We have acquired a very capable individual, Neil Robertson, and we’re awaiting his report.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Sarauer: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period today, the Minister for Agriculture used the phrase “totally false.” That language is unparliamentary. We ask him to withdraw and apologize for that statement.

The Speaker: — I think I heard “completely false” during debate. I mean that’s during debate over the facts. He didn’t say he was deliberately misleading this House, so I’m not going to rule that in favour.

Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Ask leave for an introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I’m sorry, extended? I recognize the member.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues know me very well. It’s with great pleasure I introduce three of the people in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. First my oldest daughter, Katelin. I know I’m not supposed to pick favourites as a Health minister, but obviously my favourite health care worker in the province. She’s been a nurse for over three years now. Former roommate and actually got to look after me for about three weeks when I was going through a little bit of a troubling time. So happy to see my daughter Katelin here.

Along with her is her new husband from last June, Mark Cuthill. Mark’s a construction project manager in Yorkton, avid fisherman, and great all around guy and makes a great son-in-law. And with them as well, last but certainly not least, is my granddaughter Raya. She’s a 16-year-old from Yorkton. She’s a top-notch student, athlete, gymnastics coach, and very competitive canoe and kayak racer, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to welcome my family to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Fiaz: — I ask for leave for introduction, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Another member has asked for leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, to all the members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce a few of my friends sitting in the east gallery: Sundeep Singh-Sandhu, Jatinder Brar, Sukhchain Sadhu, Ham Jutla, Sunny Bajwa, Jatinder Rumana. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the team that arranged Guru Nanak-sahib Free Kitchen on every Sunday from 1 o’clock until 4 o’clock. I ask all the members to acknowledge their volunteer work, what they do for the free kitchen, and welcome them in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont. I'm assuming you are joining in.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Request leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member has asked leave for introduction of guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to join with the member opposite and welcome friends and community leaders that are with us here today in the east gallery, leaders not just in the Sikh community within our province and our community but leaders within our province as a whole through many facets, Mr. Speaker.

What they do to provide those in need through the soup kitchen is just another expression of the generosity of the Sikh community in our community. To each and every one of the members and friends that are here today, I say thank you; I say welcome. And to all at the temple and to all supporting this very important effort, we say thank you as well.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this morning and enter into the debate that's before us today.

I'd like to first start my remarks by saying how grateful I am to the Minister for Rural and Remote Health and all the other members who've introduced guests in between me giving a point of order and me having to stand for 75-minute debate, because it gave me the opportunity to actually open my binder and move some documents aside. It's always a really quick transition, especially on this opposition side, to move from question period to 75-minute debate. So I would just say, I don't think it was intentional on anybody's parts — these are important guests that we were introducing — but selfishly I'm very happy that that just happened.

We have a lot to talk about with respect to this development that's been going on in the park and the governance change and the problems that we've seen since, specifically since the government took over control over Wascana Centre Authority and folded it into the Provincial Capital Commission and changed the governance structure. And the growing level of concern and discontent we've heard from the public has brought rise to the situation where we are today now with the Brandt project currently on hold pending the outcome of the auditor's investigation.

I know I'm not going to be able to provide all the information that I'd like to provide about this in only 15 minutes. I'm grateful

to my two other colleagues who will be participating in this debate today as well. But I know this won't be the last time, it certainly won't be the last time — much to, I'm sure, the minister's chagrin — that we'll be discussing this topic again.

Again, like I said, where I want to start is on a discussion around the governance structure changes and the impact that that has had. Largely the Wascana Centre Authority was run by a board that consisted of the University of Regina, the city of Regina, and the provincial government, with delegates from all of those for over 50 years, Mr. Speaker. And the board was constructed in a way so that no party or none of those three parties had majority control over, voting control over the board. So no decision could be made at that level without one party having another party's support. So if someone wanted to vote in favour of something, you needed to leverage the support of one of the other two organizations that were at that board. And really I think the people of Regina, judging from the outcry we've heard recently, would argue that it served us fairly effectively for a while.

While perhaps some have raised concerns about how it's delayed the projects, or projects that some have wanted to do, and you see that in some of the emails that have been leaked to us and to media, so far that's the whole point, Mr. Speaker. Wascana Park is . . . We've said this a million times, but it is the jewel of our city and it's one of the crowning jewels of our province, Mr. Speaker, which is why it's so important that it's kept intact and that it's preserved and that any changes made to the park are done slowly and carefully and thoughtfully, Mr. Speaker.

So all of that changed when *The Provincial Capital Commission Act* came into force in 2017 and the board structure changed. And while concerns were raised by this opposition and in particular the critic for the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission] at that time, my colleague, the member from Elphinstone, there were a lot of concerns that flowed out of what this government was doing in 2017.

So to the fault of nobody, it was hard to frankly pay attention to a governance structure change when so many devastating cuts were happening across the province. But I do want to give credit to the member from Elphinstone, who at the time of the tabling of the bill and during committee did propose an amendment to have the governance structure changed back to what it was previously. The Sask Party majority on that committee voted against that amendment, Mr. Speaker, and we are here today as a result of that, largely.

Mr. Speaker, one of the main things that flowed out of this governance structure change was a loss of confidence in the public in the system. And you're seeing it today. You're seeing it all over the place. We now have a province that has full control over the board, majority control. And while we have been assured that they continue to move forward on a consensus basis, Mr. Speaker, we don't have the assurance of the actual legislation requiring it to provide us with comfort. And when the meetings are closed — we don't get to know what days the meetings are happening; there's no public access to the meetings; and minutes aren't allowed to be made publicly available after the meetings — we have no way of being, as a public, being assured that this is the case.

[11:00]

We strongly believe that no political party, any political party that's in government, should be in control and should have unilateral power over the park. So while maybe we're being told that the board is going to work on a consensus basis right now, we don't know that that's going to be the case six months from now, five years from now, 10 years from now. And I think we should all be in agreement with wanting the park to be preserved for hundreds of years to come.

This governance structure is important to talk about because it is a major change that has happened, and the Brandt project is the main project that is the project that was approved after the governance structure has changed, Mr. Speaker. And what we've seen so far is a lot of concerns about not just process but why this decision was made and the timing of the governance structure change as it relates to the Brandt project, Mr. Speaker.

The communication that's been leaked to us . . . And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I talk about concerns about this, it's not like we have access to all of the information that's available yet, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We only have some communication that's been leaked to us or to the media to have a picture and an understanding of how this project unfolded to begin with. So there's still a lot of secrecy. There's still a lot of concern, and there's still a lack of transparency with respect to this project, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But what little we do know and what little has been provided to us so far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaks a lot to the concern around the timing of the governance change. Based on the email communication that we have so far, it appears that there was some frustration at the level of Brandt around how slowly the progress was going. You see the architectural advisory committee speaking out and expressing extreme concerns about the project, advising that the project should not go ahead. You see some further frustration by Brandt and then what you see is, during that time, you see a governance structure changed so that there is more majority control by the province on the board.

And you also see the lease renewal, so the lease agreement changing between the provincial government and CNIB [Canadian National Institute for the Blind]. And I do want to point out . . . And I know the minister and I have had some debate over this in question period and in the rotunda about the lease, the 1955 lease agreement and the 2016 lease agreement. But there are some distinct differences between the two agreements, and I think it's important that we read them into the record.

The 1955 lease agreement was between the provincial government and CNIB for \$1. Yes, it was done during Tommy Douglas's era. It's a fantastic thing for a non-profit that needed the support. The 2016 lease, while it also is a provincial government lease with CNIB for \$1, has some very significant changes to it. And in particular I want to point the public's direction to schedule C of the lease agreement, which did not exist in the 1955 lease agreement, because it states explicitly that the lease cannot be assigned or subletted without approval from the Wascana Centre Authority.

In the 2016 lease agreement, there's a more complicated process that has been put in place, and they've also included schedule C, which includes a list of permitted tenants that will be allowed to be assigned or subletted. And now there's been some debate in

the media between a few different folks, including the minister and his officials, about whether or not the lease supersedes the PCC Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I do point that whatever the outcome of that is, whether or not it should be the legislation that supersedes the lease, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but why was this lease drafted in the way that it was? It's a government lease. It was drafted by government officials who are well aware of the legislative requirements, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So then why do we have something like schedule C? And were all parties aware of the legislative requirements and the fact that the legislation should supersede leases when this was signed, Mr. Deputy Speaker? And that's one of the things that are so concerning.

I do want to read a list of some of these permitted tenants that are in here because I think it's very important. There are ones that align with the five pillars in the list of permitted tenants. It begs a question as to why this was necessary then, as the five pillars are still very integral to Wascana Park. And if I have time, I do want to talk about how important those five pillars are and how far we're straying and how we have yet to hear from the government members on that board that they will commit to not supporting any . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, nothing from them at all really in terms of whether or not they will commit to not passing anything on that board that does not conform with the five pillars.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Walsh Acres seems to want to say something, so I'm really hoping he's entering in the debate this morning because we have yet to hear anything from him or any of the Regina Sask Party MLAs on this issue. So I'm really looking forward to seeing if himself or one or any of the Regina Sask Party MLAs are speaking in this debate today, Mr. Speaker.

The one I wanted to speak about, I know my time is limited so I do want to say the ones that are concerning that are in this schedule C that do not conform with the five pillars include this, and this is number 6 of schedule C:

Tenants whose purpose directly or indirectly is ameliorating the conditions of the blind including but not limited to the CNIB optometrists, ophthalmologists, or other eye and vision care professionals.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not inconsistent with what the 1955 lease had said or the 2016 lease. But more concerning is number 7 and number 8:

Tenants whose purpose is not inconsistent with the permitted tenants in paragraphs one to six above, including but not limited to general office tenants, the nature of whose activities do not unduly detract from the activities of other tenants in the lands and/or improvements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, so while the other portions of this do seem to align, this one really opens the door much wider than both the PCC Act calls for and what is traditionally allowed in Wascana Park, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And this is part of why there has been so much concern raised. We've heard a lot about a lack of assurance as to who would be in that park. This is an important piece of land that I'm sure

everybody, any developer would love to have the opportunity to develop an office building in that park. It's a great space to be able to rent out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is why again it's so important that we have a process that people trust and we have a process that moves slowly and thoughtfully, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That is what the former process was. And that's why it was so successful, not this essentially knee-jerk situation that we have now, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I know my time is very limited. I did also want to talk about the concerns that were raised in the report, *The Heart of Saskatchewan*, the Wascana Park report that did speak to the concerns around funding and the lack thereof of sustainable funding for the park and the damage that has on the future of the park, and the fact that the governance structure changes — although members opposite have used the report as their reason for making the governance structure change that they did — is not really spelled out in the way that they've liked to think it was spelled out in the report.

But I'll leave that for my colleagues opposite, because I still have to move my motion. So I would like to spend the next 25 seconds moving my motion. And I'm moving:

That this Assembly calls on the Sask Party government to reverse its takeover of Wascana Park and restore the board structure of the former Wascana Centre Authority; and

That this Assembly calls on the Sask Party government to stop the four-storey office building as proposed and ensure that the CNIB is able to build a new facility that meets its needs while maintaining the integrity of Wascana Park.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Park has moved that:

This Assembly calls on the Sask Party government to reverse its takeover of Wascana Park and restore the board structure of the former Wascana Centre Authority; and

That this Assembly calls on the Sask Party government to stop the four-storey office building as proposed and ensure that the CNIB is able to build a new facility that meets its needs while maintaining the integrity of Wascana Park.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As always, I'm honoured to rise in this House and speak to you on the topics that are important to this government and the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, commercial development has always been possible in Wascana Park within the guidelines specified in legislation and the principles of the Wascana Park master plan. The principles will continue to guide the development throughout the park from now and into the future. All proposed development, such as the new Wascana Pool project, will continue to go through the proper approval process to ensure the integrity and objectives of the park as well are protected and respected.

Mr. Speaker, the already existing commercial activities in the park are well enjoyed and liked by citizens of Regina and our

visitors. People are able to enjoy such attractions like The Willow on Wascana, Skye Bistro, the Conexus Arts Centre, canoe and kayak rentals, food trucks, and Innovation Place, which hosts research and start-up businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Capital Commission board decided to suspend all further consideration related to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's project due to the regular review being performed by the Provincial Auditor, including the process taken in regards to the CNIB. As a government, we respect this decision. The board is taking cautious actions and approaches, allowing the Provincial Auditor time to conduct a full review before the final approval of the project. I am confident that the proper process for this project has been allowed.

The board has informed this government that this decision will be reviewed once the Provincial Auditor has publicly tabled this report, and it will be public in December 2019 as a part of volume 2 of Public Accounts.

Mr. Speaker, we hear many misconceptions from the members opposite on the development of the park. I would like to set the record straight and I will quote *The Heart of Saskatchewan* report from March 2017. And I quote:

After much review and analysis, the option that provided the best opportunity to preserve the legacy of Wascana Centre as the legislative grounds in the province's capital city was determined . . . [by] the Government of Saskatchewan leading the development of Wascana Centre and assuming responsibility for the Centre . . .

The government would develop a plan for advisory input by the original Wascana Centre Authority partners and stakeholders, and the partners will remain responsible for the stewardship of land and structures they own within the Centre. The partners would agree to common architectural, engineering and landscaping standards and have an overarching agreement to that effect.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind does so much for not only our province, but people across Canada. This is a very worthwhile project for CNIB, as they are very much in need of a home to allow them to dedicate their resources to providing valuable services for the people of Saskatchewan. I would like to note that approval for this project has been rigorous and all proper steps were followed. The tenancy framework and the tenant approval process was approved in September 2015 by the previous Wascana Centre Authority board.

It is also very important that we note that the final design of the building still requires the final approval, and that approval will require that it complies with the principles of the park, as I have already mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, this transition has all been part of the master plan of 2016. I would take this opportunity to stand and correct the Leader of the Opposition who has recently stated, and I quote, "Part of what this government did along the way was not just not follow the law, but they changed the law so that this would be allowed."

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker, he alleged that we have changed the rules for this project to go forward, but I would like to use my time today to remind him, the master plan of 2016, page 70-71:

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind has resided in the Culliton Centre for many years. It was a non-conforming use which [historic plan of the College Avenue Campus] pre-dated the establishment of the Centre. The WCA Board has recently confirmed that the CNIB is a conforming use in Wascana Centre.

Currently, CNIB have proposed the redevelopment of their headquarters to house their operations in a new expanded facility. The new building may accommodate other tenants in addition to the CNIB. Wascana Centre Authority has conditionally approved the project.

This was done when the government did not have majority of the board. It is my wish that the Leader of the Opposition now has his facts straight.

Mr. Speaker, in regards to the lease, I would like to commend Central Services for their hard work. They have a real estate team that reviews contracts in conjunction with officials from Justice to ensure leases are in compliance with legislation. It is very important to note that our deputy minister has sent a letter to CNIB providing clarification that the lease does not supersede the Act and the principles of master plan are to be followed in regards of tenants.

In regards to the \$1 lease, let the record show that the lease agreement is between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. An extension of the lease and the lease rate were granted based on an agreement from 1955. There is a process, Mr. Speaker, and many guidelines that our government has and will be following.

Moving forward, the PCC and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind are going to look at the recommendation the auditor makes and will respond accordingly. We are going to let the auditor do her work and respect the lawful process.

Mr. Speaker, our government has made record investment into Wascana Park. Between all the funding partners, there has been more than 75 million invested in Wascana Park in the last decade. Of that number, approximately 45 million was contributed by the province. This is a 35 per cent increase in the funding directed toward the Wascana Park in our last year compared to the NDP, they did.

In the 2017-18 fiscal year the Provincial Capital Commission undertook many projects totalling \$1.363 million and Arboretum Park development at the cost of \$494,000, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government will never take advice from the members opposite. Since we have taken the government, Saskatchewan has seen great investment and improvement, world-class innovation, and the growth in population. The members opposite are out of touch and out of pace with the way this province continues to grow. They got that message, Mr. Speaker. I hear that.

As the Provincial Auditor is reviewing this project, we are not

going to prejudge her work. We know that the PCC and CNIB are going to look at any recommendation that the auditor makes and will respond accordingly. We are not going to speculate like the members opposite do. On this side of the House, we have respect for orders, law, and process. We are going to let the auditor do her work and then we'll process accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, I definitely am not supporting the motion put forward by members opposite and would like to show a few of the investments, Mr. Speaker, that our government spent money on these projects. In 2017-18 fiscal year, the Ministry of the Central Services undertook many projects as well with an overall costing is \$513,000, projects including road, curb, and sidewalk maintenance and cost of \$304,000. Also an electrical cost totalling \$209,000, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, I'm not supporting the motion put forward by the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. And thank you very much.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a really important debate we're having here today. This is something that has implications right across Saskatchewan. And I appreciate my colleague bringing it forward, of course.

For many of us, it's a simple fact that Wascana Park is a beautiful park but it really means so much more in terms of honouring the indigenous folks and the fact that we're here on Treaty 4 territory. You know, every day on Scarth Street Mall I walk by the bison, oskana, the origin of the name Wascana. What that means for us as a province, it's pretty significant.

I just feel that, you know, the member from Regina Pasqua, when he's talking about out of touch, I believe this is a really glaring example of yet once again the government being completely out of touch. It's easy to say that, but here we have a situation where they're pinning a lot of their hopes on the auditor. And in some gracious way, they say, well we'll just let the auditor make her report and then we'll proceed. And of course they're very . . . They're okay with the process and what's been changed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in a province where we've seen changes, particularly in the 2016-17 budget that impacted the urban parks right across this province, and everybody in Saskatchewan is wondering, what's going to happen, what's going to happen here. Because they are very worried about what happens in the cities and how this province is reaching in, reaching in and mucking about with stuff, mucking about with stuff, making sweetheart deals, sweetheart deals. Now if they would get behind getting big money out of politics, a lot of this would be more transparent and would be more understandable. But because there's a veil of secrecy over there and they're hoping that they can get away with this, that's just not going to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to quote, and I hope the minister responsible read what Murray Mandryk said yesterday about the "Sask Party's Brandt approval has never been a simple matter of process." Now I'm going to take a minute here and read part of this because I think it's important to get into the record, important to get into the record.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I quote:

But typical of a government that learned little from its GTH experience, it doesn't seem to get that Ferguson actually talked a great deal about the processes either ignored or skirted by Bill Boyd et al. to do things that shouldn't have been done.

He goes on to say:

This is what auditors do: They find if process was followed and if the right processes are in place. So it's rather dangerous for anyone to presuppose Ferguson will conclude something that neatly lines up with government talking points.

Already, Ferguson knows a lot about this "process" because of the information that's already been reported — all of . . . [this] has been passed on to her office by now.

For example, she knows Brandt was involved with the CNIB in the development of this project well before the tendering process that we still haven't seen. She knows the Architectural Advisory Committee [AAC] chair in June 2016 concluded Brandt's proposed development would contravene both the WCA's Master Plan and the Wascana Centre Authority Act.

I end my quote there, Mr. Speaker. So we wait and we see what happens. But the government could do the right thing, could do the right thing.

Now you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had the privilege of working for Wascana as a summer student in 1980 and again in 1982. Now during my interview process . . . and I bet the minister who's entangled in this fiasco probably doesn't know the answer to the simple question I was asked. You know, Wascana has a lot of lampposts and the question they asked me was, how do you paint a lamppost? I wonder if the minister knows the answer. How do you paint a lamppost? Well, you know, from a kid from Mortlach, that was pretty simple. You paint it from the top down. You know, you really have to think with some common sense. You're asking a pretty common-sense question. My lead was modest. He was a pretty simple, straightforward guy, and he just wanted to know how you painted a lamppost.

Now we see here a pretty simple solution to this problem. Use your common sense and get back to what has made this park a beautiful place. So I'm curious, will the minister . . . I'd like to ask him because he may not read my remarks, so I'd like to know if he actually knows how to paint a lamppost. But anyways I did get the job and I was successful and I was able to cut the grass, actually cut the grass around CNIB building.

Actually it's a beautiful park. And we all agree the CNIB is doing a wonderful, wonderful job. But, Mr. Speaker, this is absolutely the wrong way to go about it. You know, when we had . . . You know, and it's interesting, the member from Pasqua said they'd take no lessons. But didn't I hear them get up and say this is all Tommy Douglas's fault, that they're pinning it all on Tommy Douglas and the deal that was made in 1955? And they're just following what Tommy would do, what Tommy would do.

But, Mr. Speaker, everyone in the province . . . And I represent downtown Saskatoon. The minister who's caught up in this

fiasco represents Saskatoon as well. And interestingly the deputy minister who's the head of the Provincial Capital Commission is also from Saskatoon. So here you have a bunch of Saskatoon people working on this project. I think maybe, Mr. Speaker, people around this province are watching very carefully.

And we saw what happened just a few, short years ago when they cut the funding to the five urban parks, and then they took a look at Wascana. They changed the governance structure there, changed the funding for Meewasin. And people, particularly in Meewasin but right across the province, was saying, hey the urban parks across this province are also jewels, are also jewels. Wascana is a big one and a major one, but we also have them in Weyburn, Swift Current, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Saskatoon, and of course Regina. The model that started in Regina then went up to Saskatoon is a beautiful thing.

So I hope, I hope this is not a model for how they're going to muck about stuff in the other cities. They come in with a Trojan Horse, and they say that they're going to do this municipal revenue sharing. But today we saw what happened in Moose Jaw where you're getting \$200,000 more dollars — that's a good thing — but they're paying 800,000 in PST. What kind of a deal, what kind of a deal . . .? And they expect to be thanked for that. They expected to be thanked for that. And yet we saw the members from Moose Jaw, both members from Moose Jaw, vote in favour of cutting the funding for Wakamow. Yet we have petitions day after day saying that was absolutely the wrong thing. You talk about being out of touch. Those two members from Moose Jaw said, we're giving more money and more money to the city, but yet they took back 800,000 in PST on construction labour. I would understand why some of those people are thinking about whether they should run again. And so, Mr. Speaker, we are seeing this. Is this the master plan of this government on that side?

And of course, you know as I said, we've raised this issue — and of course these folks voted against this last spring — it's to get big money out of politics. As I said, if this was simply done like other provinces and the federal government, where people believe that politics should belong to the people of the province, that we ban corporate and union donations and we get on like everyone else, what everybody else is doing because they believe that's better policymaking, a lot of this would be resolved. But question marks remain about the sweetheart deals that are there, that you look at what the potential is.

[11:30]

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very, very important resolution that we have here, and we are all looking right across the province. We're looking at the minister, who is ironically from Saskatoon, and how he's handling this and how he handled Meewasin. He stickhandled that. How he stickhandled that fiasco, and then now he's back here in Regina on very thin ice on Wascana Lake here. I think he's going to see himself really caught up with the . . . Well he should do the right thing before the auditor's report comes out because, you know, the people are thinking this is a beautiful park. We need to support CNIB. We need to make sure their building is replaced. But we need to do it in an appropriate fashion that's transparent, that we haven't switched up the rules halfway through the game, which these folks are prone to doing.

And so the right thing to do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think, is for the government side to join us in supporting this resolution today and then getting out there and saying, hey, we're going to do the right thing and restore confidence of the people of Saskatchewan and Regina to this issue. So thank you very much for your time, Mr. Speaker. I will be in favour of this motion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Olauson: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the Assembly today to speak to the motion. And it's really good to see the member from Saskatoon Centre get up on his feet and add to the discussion. I so enjoy his comments about mucking about and working in Wascana Park in the 1980s and painting things. It just warms the cockles of my heart to hear him . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, to hear him speak about his past.

But I find the motion a bit odd, Mr. Speaker, as it seems to imply that the Canadian National Institute for the Blind facility would somehow ruin the integrity of Wascana Park. Commercial development has always been possible in the park within the guidelines specified in the legislation and the principles of the Wascana Park master plan. Those principles will continue to guide the development throughout the park now and into the future. Any proposed development will continue to go through the proper approval process to ensure the integrity and objectives of the park are protected.

The approval process for this project has been rigorous and all the proper steps were followed. Mr. Speaker, development is part of the Wascana master plan. Development can help bring more services, businesses, and attractions to the park, bringing in more residents and visitors.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you and all the other members know, I'm the MLA for Saskatoon University, so I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about the Meewasin Valley in Saskatoon and how smart development has enhanced Saskatoon, the river, and the community. Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the Meewasin Valley master plan, 2014 to 2024, and right in the mission it says, "Recreation and development balanced with conservation." And I think that that is a balance that Meewasin has really achieved.

The Meewasin Valley in Saskatoon has some amazing developments such as River Landing, the Rемаi art gallery, Persephone Theatre, Optimist Hill, the Nutrien Wonderhub children's discovery museum, the new Nutrien Tower, the Bessborough Hotel, and so much more. Mr. Speaker, River Landing was designed to reclaim the riverfront with development of a new park, the Rемаi Modern art gallery, a live performance theatre, and the *Prairie Wind* landmark. The riverfront includes a pavilion building which is a seasonal concession; the amphitheatre which holds concerts, dance lessons, and more; art installations; and a water play feature.

If any members of this Assembly have been to Saskatoon's downtown, they have undoubtedly seen our new and beautiful Rемаi Modern art gallery at River Landing. The new building was made possible by the generous donation by Ellen Rемаi on behalf of the Frank and Ellen Rемаi Foundation. The 11 000-square-metre museum of modern and contemporary art

opened in October 2017. In 2018 the gallery has had more than 400,000 visits, and I'm sure the member from Saskatoon Centre would agree with me, it is a true jewel on the banks of our river.

Mr. Speaker, Persephone Theatre is now located in the Rемаi Arts Centre. The new location includes a 421-seat mainstage, a 150-seat black box second stage, two classrooms, and two rehearsal halls. Persephone seasons have grown to include a six-play mainstage series, a three-play second stage series, and six productions for youth.

With the development of River Landing there has also been additional commercial development in the area to meet the needs of those . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I would remind the member that the motion deals with the park here in Regina, the Wascana Centre, and I would appreciate it if he would tie his comments into that. I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Mr. Olauson: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and with a little patience, I'm sure you'll see where I'm going with this.

With the development of River Landing, there's also been additional commercial development in the area to meet the needs of those visiting, including Shift Restaurant, State and Main Restaurant, Good Earth Coffee House, and The Banks condo development. One of the newest additions to River Landing is the Alt Hotel by Le Germain.

Now, Mr. Speaker, last summer it was announced that Nutrien will be the anchor tenant in the new Nutrien Tower that will be in River Landing. The new tower is said to be the tallest office building in the province and the home of Nutrien's Saskatoon office. It will include a rooftop winter garden and patio, fitness centre, and on-site conference facilities. The building will be environmentally sustainable and energy efficient, with developers targeting LEED [leadership in energy and environmental design] gold certification. The company's 400 employees will occupy the top eight floors of the building. This is a very exciting development for Saskatoon and for the entire province.

But west of these developments, Mr. Speaker, is the Saskatoon Farmers' Market and Ideas Inc. It's a business incubator. A former electrical garage was renovated to form an indoor farmers' year-round home for the market in a beautiful setting, also providing Saskatoon residents with ready access to high-quality food from local producers.

Adjacent to the building is the Market Square which allows for summer outdoor markets and special events. Attached to the south end of the building, another renovated structure has been turned into a business centre, Ideas Inc., to include a business incubator to help young businesses grow and to create new jobs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to speak about the grand opening of Optimist Hill in a member's statement last week, but I'd also like to take the time to refresh members on this exciting new development in Diefenbaker Park located in Meewasin Valley. Optimist Hill is a new state-of-the-art winter playground with affordable equipment rentals to make outside play easy and

accessible for everyone in the community. Diefenbaker hill had to add 30 vertical feet to make this dream possible. This winter the ski and snowboarding hill, the terrain park, and tubing lanes are all open. This is just phase 1. Phase 2 of the campaign will build a permanent four-season chalet with concession, lift ticket sales and rentals, and a beautiful view of the hill and the South Saskatchewan River.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all of these great developments that are in Meewasin Valley absolutely tie in to what's happening in Wascana Park.

An Hon. Member: — We knew you'd get to it.

Mr. Olason: — You knew I'd get to it sometime.

Mr. Speaker, just steps away from many of these developments are restaurants, shops, and businesses. These amenities help provide services and attract a large group of families and visitors.

Now, Mr. Speaker, again the reason I'm going through all of these wonderful developments is not only for the information of this place, but it's also to show that these developments have improved the services, activities, and facilities around the riverfront while still maintaining the integrity and beauty of the trails and parks. They have followed their master plan and found the perfect balance between development and conservation. Residents and visitors to Saskatoon can enjoy the natural beauty of the river and the surrounding trails while also enjoying the services and activities and the businesses near the riverfront.

Mr. Speaker, I think Wascana Park has also managed to maintain that balance between development and conservation. There are a variety of commercial activities in the park already, including the Willow on Wascana, Skye Bistro, Conexus Arts Centre, canoe and kayak rentals, and food trucks, as well as Innovation Place which hosts research and start-up businesses.

It is important that the proposed developments go through the proper approval process to ensure the integrity and objectives of the park. The approval process for the new building which will house the Canadian National Institute for the Blind was rigorous and all the proper steps were followed. Mr. Speaker, this is a very worthwhile project as it will provide a much-needed home for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, allowing them to dedicate their resources to providing valuable services for Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, it's all about balance between development and conservation. To ensure that the balance is being met, the Provincial Capital Commission board informed our government that they decided to suspend all further consideration relating to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind project due to the review being performed by the Provincial Auditor. The board is taking a cautious approach and wants to allow the Provincial Auditor time to conduct a full review before final approval of the project can be given. We are confident that the proper processes for this project have been followed, but agree that a cautious approach is necessary to ensure that is the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we trust in the Provincial Auditor and, as she and her team are reviewing this project, we are not to prejudge her

work. That's why, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the motion brought forward by the members opposite. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm more than pleased to stand in my place today and enter into this 75-minute debate, and there's so much I want to say, so much that needs to be said, but I'm going to do my best to keep within my time here and not have to have you stand up and cut me off, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Following months of controversy and backroom dealings, the minister finally announced last week that the proposed office tower in Wascana Park was on hold pending the findings of a recently announced auditor's report. I'd like to say thank you, first of all to my colleague from Regina Douglas Park for her efforts, her focused and effective efforts at raising the issues, raising concerns around this development in the park. I'd like to also thank the countless citizens of Regina Lakeview and other citizens of Regina, citizens frankly from right around the province who value and care about this park and what's going on there, for their sustained efforts raising their concerns. I think that they have shown once again that collective action can have a positive impact.

And I'd also like to thank my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre who as far back as 2017 raised concerns about this project and proposed an amendment to return the former Wascana Centre Authority governing structure of this park that we all care and value in the heart of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, thinking back to 2017 when the minister rose and announced *The Provincial Capital Commission Act*, I remember thinking, and I think it is on the record as well, why? What was the reason that we were seeing a wholesale takeover by the provincial government of Wascana Centre? This is a governance structure, a three-way governance structure under the former Wascana Centre Authority that saw input and voting by three partners in the maintenance and governing of this park: the University of Regina, the city of Regina, and the provincial government. This had served our province and this park very well for over 55 years, and it was a bit curious. Why now? Why in 2017 were we seeing this takeover? Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that particularly in the last couple of months, thank you to some . . . again the work of my colleagues and citizens as well as some investigative reporting, we've started to understand what was going on, why the need for this takeover.

And this didn't happen in isolation, Mr. Speaker. If we will remember back to that 2017-18 budget, not only was there the cuts to Saskatchewan regional parks — it was a bad year for parks and education that year, Mr. Speaker — there was also a \$400,000 cut to Meewasin Valley Authority as well that year. The government was looking for revenue, Mr. Speaker, and looked to our parks and our schools at that time.

The year before, following on the theme of takeover and decimation of urban parks, we saw \$540,000 cut from the budgets of five urban parks, Mr. Speaker. So we weren't sure at that point exactly what was going on with this takeover but as I said, Mr. Speaker, I think it's a little more clear now.

At that point when the minister stood in her place to talk about the need for the takeover, she talked about the current structure being unworkable. Looking back through some of the documents, it would seem that there has been chronic underfunding of the park, I think, and there had been some deferred maintenance, but it still didn't really make sense as to why we saw this change. But I think we know a little better now, Mr. Speaker.

[11:45]

This is a government that, despite claiming that they wanted to be the most open and transparent government ever, has become mired in instance after instance of changing governance structures that they don't like, that they can't push their will through. And if they don't like it, they use their majority and just change the legislation. We saw this with Bill 63 in education. We're seeing this here with the takeover of Wascana Park.

We do welcome the auditor's work on this issue, but remember, as the Sask Party government becomes prepared to dust off their old lines around the GTH and hiding behind the auditor's report, that what she is looking at is simply whether processes were followed, not looking into the whole scope of what has gone on with this building.

Now if I understand the comments by the members opposite, what they would have the people of Saskatchewan believe is this is solely a philanthropic endeavour meant to support the CNIB, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly agree on this side that the CNIB has been a good tenant in the park, that the park has been a place that has been beneficial to those people of southern Saskatchewan who use the CNIB building, Mr. Speaker, and that going back to 1955.

However, Mr. Speaker, they would have us believe that somehow a four-storey office tower built and sublet by one of the Sask Party's . . . well I believe the biggest donor to the Sask Party, that that is really what's going on here, Mr. Speaker, and this is no different than usual in the park.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, the people of Regina are smarter than that. And I think that this government ought to give them some credit. A 77,000-square-foot commercial building with a schedule C that allows wide open tenancies to be announced later, and instance after instance of the hiding of documents, lack of being forthcoming with the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, we have no fewer than two motions before city council, prior to the announcement of the suspension, calling on . . . raising concerns, raising very real concerns by the city council of Regina about this project and what had been done here.

We have a city office building vacancy in this province that is well outside what the city is comfortable with. We have a lot of vacant office space in Regina, Mr. Speaker. The city wants to reduce the vacancy rate in the centre of the city, and building office space outside the centre of the city, outside the official community plan of Regina, is against the wishes of the city of Regina, the representatives of the city of Regina, and is another instance of this government looking out for their own interests but not the interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

This park does not belong to this government, Mr. Speaker. That is why we have the governance structure that we had previously of Wascana Park, noting that this park belongs to the people of Saskatchewan and it should be not at the whim of any government, regardless of political stripe, to change to suit their own interests.

We know that there are five pillars of the plan for Wascana Park, Mr. Speaker: the development of the seat of government, the enlargement of educational opportunities, the advancement of cultural arts, the improvement of recreational facilities, and the conservation of the environment. Mr. Speaker, shoehorn as they might like to, the specifications of a four-storey, 77,000-square-foot building simply — open to commercial development — do not fit within those five pillars of the parks, Mr. Speaker. No matter what lines these members want to spin, it simply is not the case. So with that I will be voting with the motion in support of governance changes to Wascana Park.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to join into the debate. I have sat here for the last 55 minutes listening to some good arguments on this side and listening to members on that side that kept saying they've got so much to say, and after 35 minutes, their side said so little. It was really quite interesting, Mr. Speaker.

And what I want to do in the 10 minutes that I have is talk a little bit about my history in this park and some of the events that I've had the opportunity to go to that were not well received initially by some people in this city and around the city, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk a little bit about that. Then I want to talk and reiterate some of the things that were said by the two speakers on our side, Mr. Speaker — the member from Regina Pasqua and the member from Saskatoon University — a little bit about the process that was followed, a little bit about Brandt. And then I want to close off my short 10 minutes with talking a little bit about the opposition and their dislike for this project, for sure, Mr. Speaker, and their presupposition of what the auditor is going to say, Mr. Speaker, and their twisting and turning to try and make this such a major issue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent my life in and around Regina, for sure . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Indian Head-Milestone has the floor. I'd appreciate if members would respect the member's right to speak. I recognize the member.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying that I spent a lot of time in and around this park as I grew up outside of the city, but spent some time in around here. But where I got the most exposure to the park was, a number of years ago when a business owner in Regina wanted to put on a festival in the park. It was called Summer Invasion, Mr. Speaker. And there was certainly a number of people that were not necessarily in favour of it. It was using the park differently. And I realize that there's going to be viewpoints from not using it at all to full on use of this park, Mr. Speaker. But these guys, it was

Off Axis, Danny and Doug Elder, that wanted to put this together. And they put on an event.

And it drew youth. It drew people into this park that it hadn't seen before, you know, Mr. Speaker. And it was utilized, what I think this park was meant to, Mr. Speaker. And it evolved and evolved until a number of years ago, we ended up having the national wakeboard championships on Wascana Lake, Mr. Speaker. And we brought people in from all over Canada, and that's when I was really involved because I happen to have two guys that like to put their feet sideways on a board and, Mr. Speaker, they competed at that.

But what I found most fascinating, when people came from across Canada and walked around Wascana Park and watched the competition on the park, to a person they said, I cannot believe you've got this in your city. Why are you not utilizing this more? Why isn't it more evident to the rest of Canada? Most people that come to Regina and see this beautiful building — I know they're against business in the park, but some people call this the business building of Saskatchewan, conducting the business of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — they looked at that and said, why are you not advertising this more? Why are you not having more utilization, Mr. Speaker? And most people think, when they think of Wascana Park, as the area between Albert Street and Broad Street. Wascana Park is so much bigger than that. It's 2,300 acres, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: — How much?

Mr. McMorris: — Twenty-three hundred acres, about four section. I think that's about four section of ground that I'm used to, Mr. Speaker. But it winds out all the way out kind of past the Wascana golf course and past the old Plains Hospital. I could do a speech on the old Plains Hospital. Oh no, sorry. I digress. I remember doing that the last time I was up standing in here.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, people just couldn't believe what a beautiful jewel we have. And I think the one thing that we can all agree on — their side and our side — is it is an absolute jewel. Most people would agree with that. But how do you utilize that jewel, Mr. Speaker, is where you start finding divergence. And, Mr. Speaker, the CNIB, Canadian Institute for the Blind, is a perfect utilization of this park. Having them in this park is a perfect utilization. Now, Mr. Speaker, their building was old and was being condemned. They needed to get a new building. They had talked to Brandt, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't the government that put those two together. CNIB and Brandt got together on their own. Mr. Speaker, the only . . . really the input that we had with the CNIB — who has the lease on the land, they're the ones that have the lease on the land — they're the ones that are going to negotiate with whoever they want to, to get that building. They put out an expression for interest, Mr. Speaker, to build a building. There were six people that took that package out and only one came back.

Now I know the opposition is dead set against Brandt. That seems to be the sticking point and we heard it in every one of their speeches, that it was more about Brandt, I think, than it is about the building itself, Mr. Speaker. It's the CNIB that's making a deal with Brandt, Mr. Speaker, and the CNIB have the lease for the land, Mr. Speaker. So I know they're trying to say that the government has joined in with Brandt, but it isn't the government

that's joined in with Brandt; it's CNIB, after putting out a tender and Brandt coming back and answering their tender, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know they're dead set against business in the park. They've said it many, many times, and especially it goes against them and their brand. But, Mr. Speaker, there are all sorts of examples of business in this park. And you know, it seems to be quite okay if the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] is trying to look for private businesses to come into their building, to rent their building out. I don't hear any objections to that, Mr. Speaker. It seems to be really centred around Brandt more than anything else, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, their arguments have been about governance. They're upset about the governance, Mr. Speaker, but if they would read *The Heart of Saskatchewan* report that was done on the Wascana Park, it talks about a whole lot of deferred maintenance, which I give the Regina . . . The member from Regina Lakeview said, it was really deferred maintenance — absolutely. The NDP were an absolute shame to this park, Mr. Speaker. And nobody should ever believe that they're any great defenders of the park.

Mr. Speaker, I can remember — and I've been around here far too long — and some of you may remember this. Do you remember when Premier Lorne Calvert decided that we should do skateboarding up and down the rails? In fact there was a while . . . Can you believe this? The Wascana Park authority would put out old light standards and everything else on the cement so that skateboarders . . . I know the Leader of the Opposition would be dead against . . . totally in favour of this, Mr. Speaker. But they put out all that type of stuff and it turned Wascana Park into a junkyard, Mr. Speaker. And finally people complained enough.

Remember that? The member from Saskatoon Centre certainly will remember that. And they finally decided . . . You know, they're supposed to be the great defenders of the park and they sure weren't, Mr. Speaker. They tried to turn it into a skateboard park if you can believe that. Now I had two guys at home thought it was a pretty good idea, Mr. Speaker, but I had a whole lot of constituents who thought differently.

Mr. Speaker, they're all against governance, Mr. Speaker, but it was interesting because, as I said, they had so much to say and the member from Saskatoon Centre talked about painting posts. Now I don't know what that has to do with Wascana Park. He also got on to, certainly, the PST and a whole lot of other issues.

I thought they had the smoking gun that this was such a terrible thing, but it really comes down to really two things. It comes down to, they don't like the governance model even though it was suggested in a report, Mr. Speaker, that was commissioned. And it was suggested because who's the major funder in this park, Mr. Speaker? It's the provincial government. And they figured it should be more representative in the governance structure and that's what has happened, Mr. Speaker. They also talk about putting more money into infrastructure and that's what this government is doing. It's following along with the park.

But more than anything else, Mr. Speaker, I think this is just a real rejection of the Brandt and that whole piece. They don't want to see Brandt . . . You know, it's interesting. They keep talking

about this tower only in Saskatchewan and only the NDP would say a four-storey is a tower in Saskatchewan. Because for 16 years, I don't think we got past ground level, Mr. Speaker, or one level under the NDP. So if a tower is a four-storey in Saskatchewan, that certainly meets the NDP mould, as we sit in a building that's probably eight storeys high conducting the business — I know they're against business — conducting the business of this province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good project for the CNIB. This is a good project for the province, Mr. Speaker, and it's a good project for other proponents that will be seen in that facility, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to . . . I am not presupposing what the auditor will say because frankly it doesn't matter what the auditor will say to the NDP. They're going to completely disagree with it, whether it's a GTH or anything else. There was issues in the GTH that we've accepted and changed, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, they've already presupposed what the auditor is going to say. And, Mr. Speaker, I think they're wrong. I will not be supporting the motion.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Kindersley.

[12:00]

Mr. Francis: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There have been eight reports on the construction in Wascana Park. That's right — eight. We can list them to the members opposite if they need that list. But these reports including *The Heart of Saskatchewan*, which describes . . . or which the NDP critics seem to love to often reference, have all stated the same thing: that our government has properly followed all the procedures and protocols. And now our government is co-operating with the Provincial Auditor, allowing her to do her job and conduct her report.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Centre who seems to be an expert on common sense yet criticizes members that aren't seeking re-election. Mr. Speaker, the question is, are eight reports not enough to convince the members opposite that proper procedure and protocol for this project was followed and respected?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the shout-out about common sense. I appreciate the recognition, and I would just say if there's ever an example of common sense here, how does this look? A buck? How do you get into that kind of sweetheart club deal? Let's get big money out of politics. He talks about eight reports. There's been reports after reports after reports. All of Canada has got big money out of politics. Why don't you guys get big money out of politics?

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon University spent an awful lot of his time talking about all of the office buildings in Meewasin and then attempted to connect it to Wascana. So to the member for Saskatoon University: is he

saying that the level of development in Meewasin should apply to Wascana? Is he looking for hotels and condos in Wascana Park?

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

Mr. Olason: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Commercial development has always been within the guidelines specified in the legislation and the principles of the Wascana Park master plan. Those principles will continue to guide development now and into the future. We will continue to work with our partners in supporting Wascana Park, including the city of Regina, the University of Regina, and other park tenants like the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the CBC.

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

Mr. Dennis: — The NDP agree with the Provincial Auditor's work, Mr. Speaker, until it doesn't work, doesn't agree with their political objectives. They wanted her involved in the GTH. Our government asked her office to take a look and accepted her findings and made changes. Then her office wasn't good enough for the NDP. To the member from Saskatoon Centre: will the NDP accept the findings of the auditor even if it doesn't align with their political goals?

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

Mr. Forbes: — You know, Mr. Speaker, these guys seem to be pinning their hopes on the auditor's report. All we've been hearing about is what the auditor . . . And I have to tell you I have a lot of faith in the auditor, but these guys have extended, especially the GTH deal. You know, we heard time after time after time, you know, getting up and saying the auditor said that this and that, but the answer really was what does it . . . Does it pass the smell test? You know, people are out there asking about this. What does this really look like? Does this look like a sweetheart deal or what? I tell you, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to the auditor's report, and we look forward to that, but these folks should do the right thing and cancel that deal and start all over again supporting CNIB in their very good work.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this giveaway of Wascana Park to a large corporate donor, to a large corporation, simply isn't on for the people of Regina or the people of Saskatchewan.

But my question is to the member from Regina Pasqua. The minister and the mayor of Regina have different versions of what went on in 2016 when the Wascana Centre approval supposedly went forward for the CNIB building. The mayor told the media that they approved about a 6,000-square-foot building, nothing like what we've seen today. I'll say that again. The mayor said that they approved about a 6,000-square-foot building, nothing like what we've seen today. And of course what we see today is a 77,000-square-foot building.

My question to the member from Regina Pasqua: who's right? Him, the Premier, or the mayor of Regina?

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, CNIB are not the donors, Mr. Speaker. Let me give a member a red and white stick for a day or two and then ask them, is this project is worthwhile for CNIB or not? The approval process has been rigorous and all the proper steps have been followed. And the project was publicly tendered, Mr. Speaker. And the process was overseen by the national body of Canadian National Institute for the Blind, not for the provincial branch, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for asking the question.

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wascana Park, as we know, has always been a unique and well-loved space in Regina. Not only can you escape the busy streets to a diverse open-air space, but you can also enjoy and support high-quality local restaurants, food trucks, and also take in a show at the Conexus Arts Centre.

Mr. Speaker, development has been happening for years in the park, and even took place when the members opposite were in government, including the CBC and sound stage and the restaurant, Willow on Wascana. My question is for the member from Regina Lakeview. We know the NDP are against anything positive, but why are you against any new development in the park when it clearly had a positive impact on the city and has always been subject to the PCC processes?

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

Ms. Beck: — I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. And I think that that question would be one well put to the councillors from the city of Regina who have stated repeatedly that this plan is outside their OCP [official community plan], that they have concerns. And there are no less than two motions before city council asking for further . . . expressing their concerns about this project. And I think that their concerns are well founded, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, to the member for Regina Pasqua: can he explain what the exact difference is between “refreshing” and “firing” a team of architects?

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prior to that structuring, Wascana governance AAC [architectural advisory committee] did not have the term limits. In 2018 the Provincial Capital Commission viewed this as an opportunity to refresh the committee to have it best reflect the value of our own Saskatchewan architects for the better future for

our citizens, rather the architects from other provinces. You would think the NDP would be happy replacing out-of-the-province architects with the local architects that truly understand the value of this park to the province. This was the bold decision, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new CNIB building will be taking up approximately point one per cent of the Wascana Centre. The physical space of the building is very small to scale. What really matters is the huge impact it will have on the CNIB and all the people of Saskatchewan who benefit from the services.

To the member from Saskatoon Centre: why does the member want to halt the CNIB from having a new building in which they so desperately need?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have to say I hold CNIB in a very high regard, you know, founded over 100 years ago as part of the Halifax explosion. Our own family was in Halifax as part . . . and suffered from that explosion. My grandfather was in France in World War I. My grandmother was in Halifax when that happened. We hold CNIB in huge, huge esteem. But why it's messed up in this sweetheart deal created by that minister there, no one seems to know. There is a real lack of common sense over there. Why don't you do the right thing? Support CNIB right off the bat. Give them their buck, their lease if that's right. But, Mr. Speaker, it's so important that we do the right thing.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, to the member from Regina Pasqua: just how does one go about getting a buck-a-year lease in the jewel of the crown of this province? Or is it just one of the perks of being part of the 100,000-plus donor club?

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One more time, out of touch with Saskatchewan businesses, out of touch with . . .

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Impact of Bill C-69

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by Mr. Hindley.]

The Deputy Speaker: — Members, it is my duty pursuant to rule 27 to advise the Assembly that this item of business has previously been adjourned three times and cannot be further adjourned. At conclusion of the debate or at the normal time of adjournment, whichever is reached first, every question necessary to dispose of this motion shall be put.

I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll begin by stating this, and I'm sure my colleagues, at least on this side of the House, will agree completely with me on this one. I don't think or believe that in the history of this province or the governments of this province that there has ever been a more significant and important priority motion to debate and support than this one, one that attempts to inform the voting citizens of this province about the need to stand united in squashing the federal government's Bill C-69 or forever lose an industry that has been an important and major contributor to our economy. I know the opposition believes otherwise and has given us more than enough proof of that. Pictures are worth more than a thousand words.

Mr. Speaker, next to agriculture, oil and gas has been the second-largest contributor to the revenues of our province, revenues that support and provide for the funding of a growing population's health, educational, social services, and infrastructure needs. And not just this province's infrastructure needs, but as we all know, it has greatly taken care of Quebec, Ontario, and the Maritime provinces' needs through equalization payments for a very, very long time.

Mr. Speaker, 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. Thirteen per cent of Canada's oil comes from Saskatchewan, and a big chunk of that is the Lloydminster area, my constituency. Lloydminster has been the second-largest contributor over the years to Saskatchewan's oil revenues. And we are lucky that even in this long downturn in the volatile oil prices that we are experiencing, some companies have continued to invest in the area, while many have closed their doors or packed up and gone south.

You remember, Mr. Speaker, when the NDP were in government here, our young people were relocating to where opportunities could be found. Today it's drilling rigs moving to American oil fields. Their rig count is up 7 per cent. How long until our young workers follow those rigs across the border?

Mr. Speaker, all research has shown and leads to a cry for pipelines. Pipelines are the safest and most efficient way to transport oil. Getting our oil to tidewater is imperative to opening the industry to global markets and getting a fair price for Western oil. Bill C-69 as it stands will stop any future pipeline builds dead in their tracks. We have already witnessed what happens to the applications for pipeline expansion or construction in this country. When the federal government decides to play rooster in the henhouse, all heck breaks loose, chaos and confusion abound, and no eggs get laid — no pipelines.

Let's recap, Mr. Speaker: Bill C-69 is an Act to enact the impact assessment Act, to replace the current *Canadian Environmental*

Assessment Act, 2012. This innocuously named C-69 presents a major risk to Canadian industry and prosperity. The clear-minded, hyperbole-avoiding Canadian energy pipeline agency has gone so far as to suggest that, owing to C-69, and I quote, "It is difficult to imagine that a new major pipeline could be built in Canada . . ."

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that this bill has gone before the Senate and is now on a travelling road show to hear from various commentators on the concerns with this new legislation, which includes uncertain timelines and unclear criteria.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker, today Canada has strong provincial and federal regulatory oversight over the 119 000 kilometres of underground transmission pipelines crossing our country. Pipelines in Canada are regulated based on jurisdiction. Pipelines that operate within a province/territory fall under the provincial/territorial regulator's authority, and if a pipeline crosses provincial or international borders, it's regulated by the National Energy Board. No matter who regulates them, pipelines are held to strict requirements throughout their entire life cycle, from design and construction to operation and retirement.

Canada's upstream oil and natural gas industry takes pride in meeting some of the world's highest environmental standards. Pipelines carry 97 per cent of Canada's daily natural gas and onshore crude oil production from producing regions in Western Canada to markets across the American border. And sadly, Mr. Speaker, that is our only market. We need to get pipelines to tidewater.

The application for pipelines is rigorous, has strict guidelines during all phases of the application process. It's lengthy and it's costly. Keystone XL, the Trans Mountain expansion, and Energy East crossed all their t's and dotted the i's to perfection and spent millions of dollars in the process, only to throw their hands in the air and walk away when our federal government decided to overrule the NEB [National Energy Board] regulatory oversight and change the goalposts.

Bill C-69 will not only change the goalposts again, but its proposed regulatory regime will prevent any new pipelines from being built in the future. So the question being asked: is that what the federal government wants? Is that what the NDP wants? To completely kill the oil and gas industry and all economic benefits from it in our province and our country? Because that's what Bill C-69 will do if it is passed. In its current form, the bill will diminish the global competitiveness of Canada's oil and natural gas industry and, Mr. Speaker, we are already seeing this happen.

We've already lost a lot of ground in this respect. Canada is falling behind. Competition for capital investment in the global market is fierce, and if Canada wants its industry to be a major player internationally, our federal government better wake up, drop Bill C-69, and get some pipeline approvals done ASAP [as soon as possible].

Mr. Speaker, according to CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, global energy demand will grow by 30 per cent by 2040. We should be the supplier of choice in a world that needs energy to grow the global middle class. A strong energy

sector with pipelines transporting our oil to tidewater and agreements with global partners is key to ensuring Canada's prosperity for the future, not a bill that kills one of our strongest economic industries.

Mr. Speaker, our own Minister of Energy and Resources appeared and spoke on Bill C-69 to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. She began her remarks by saying, and I quote, "If sober second thought were ever necessary, it is with this bill . . ." She expressed the grave concern by our government and many in the energy sector over the misleading statements by our federal government that this bill is about streamlining and efficiency. She referred to it as doublespeak and pointed out to the timelines and what they did not include as part of the new process. Mr. Speaker, she says, and I quote:

On timelines, for example, the federal government continues to maintain that Bill C-69 will lead to shorter timelines. However, this doesn't include the 180-day early planning phase and the 30-day ministerial decision phase. Also not mentioned is the fact that the environment minister can extend timelines for an impact assessment report for a maximum of up to 90 days, or indefinitely . . .

Mr. Speaker, maybe our Prime Minister in his role as a former drama teacher is hiding a magic wand somewhere in his closet and will be able to say "abracadabra" and the timelines will disappear and all will be well with the bills.

Mr. Speaker, it's been said that the current approval system is broken and thus the need for a renewal and re-look at how we do pipelines and other major energy projects in this country. As I mentioned, we have been approving pipelines, Mr. Speaker, since 1949 in this country. We've created a National Energy Board that has shown and proven it has strict and strong oversight, management, and regulations on many major projects and pipelines already operating within provinces in our country. Mr. Speaker, the system isn't broken. The bill blatantly allows for political interference so even if an investor checks all the boxes on a great project and goes through a perfect public consultation process, winning the support of key stakeholders and communities, they have no certainty of approval.

Looks like I'm supposed to be wrapping up, Mr. Speaker, so I'll jump to my end remarks here. I think my colleague, the Minister of Energy and Resources, summed up the position of the federal government very clearly when she testified before the committee, and I quote:

Needless to say, this bill, to our mind in Saskatchewan, constitutes part of a toxic trio when taken side by side with Bill C-48, the clean fuel standard, and a toxic quartet or quintet with the carbon tax and Bill C-68. They all amount to major negative cumulative impacts on future investment in this country.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has already made it difficult to get pipelines built in this country. Bill C-69 will make them impossible. Take this in tandem with Bill C-48, a tanker ban that only bans outgoing Canadian oil but doesn't affect foreign imports.

The federal NDP is led by a man who said, and I quote, "I oppose the development of Kinder Morgan, Energy East, and Keystone XL pipelines." Jagmeet Singh is pretty clear, Mr. Speaker, far more clear than the Saskatchewan NDP leader who goes to anti-pipeline rallies, stands next to and behind "Keep it in the ground" posters, and then claims that's not what he's about at all.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have the NDP member from Regina Douglas Park heralding their party's national leader's victory as an exciting moment for their federal NDP caucus and New Democrats across Canada. And I quote:

Jagmeet is incredibly energetic. He's not just bringing renewal to the party, but he's creating momentum and engaging a broader swath of people across the entire country. He's going to bring many years of his experience fighting inequality to the issues that matter to Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, standing behind leaders whose words and actions kills jobs and devastates a much-needed industry in the growth and development of our economy, and you don't support, speak up, and fight for equality for all industries and jobs across this country, should be embarrassing to that member.

Killing Canadian pipelines isn't going to save the planet, Mr. Speaker. It's just shipping jobs to other jurisdictions, much like a carbon tax will do. And when Canada loses billions in investment, Saskatchewan loses millions in resource royalties, royalties that pay for computers in our classrooms, that pay for surgeries in our hospitals, that pay to pave roads. And, Mr. Speaker, families lose thousands of dollars in wage, wages that help families meet their needs and provide them with a healthy and comfortable lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to fight the good fight, the right fight, and stand up for the people of Saskatchewan. Bill C-69 must not pass. For the good of the Saskatchewan people, it must be stopped.

The Deputy Speaker: — The item before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member from Swift Current:

That this Assembly calls upon the federal government to halt and repeal Bill C-69, legislation which will create even more regulatory uncertainty and politicization of the Canadian energy sector and hurt Canadian workers.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I believe it was carried. I did not hear a dissenting vote, but would you like to have a recorded vote?

An Hon. Member: — Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:25 until 12:27.]

The Deputy Speaker: — All those members in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 50]

Moe	Beaudry-Mellor	Merriman
Ottenbreit	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Duncan	Marit
Hargrave	D'Autremont	Cox
Heppner	Kaeding	Makowsky
Tell	Eyre	Brkich
Carr	Cheveldayoff	Stewart
Kirsch	Bradshaw	Olauson
Weekes	Lawrence	Ross
Wilson	McMorris	Michelson
Steinley	Hindley	Buckingham
Young	Dennis	Nerlien
Steele	Tochor	Fiaz
Francis	Meili	Wotherspoon
Beck	Sproule	Forbes
Belanger	Mowat	Sarauer
Pedersen	Rancourt	

The Deputy Speaker: — All those members opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — nil]

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Drake): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order.

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Drake): — Those in favour of the motion, 50; those opposed to the motion, 0.

The Deputy Speaker: — The motion is carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I ask for leave to move a motion of transmittal.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked leave to move a motion of transmittal. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader may proceed.

TRANSMITTAL MOTION

Hon. Mr. Brkich: —

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion just passed and the *Votes and Proceedings* from today's proceedings to the Senate of Canada.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved by leave:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion just passed and the *Votes and*

Proceedings from today's proceedings to the Senate of Canada.

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

[12:30]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that the Assembly adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:32.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Cheveldayoff.....	5343
Pedersen.....	5343
Harpauer.....	5343
Weekes.....	5343
Lawrence.....	5343
Fiaz.....	5343, 5351
Ottenbreit.....	5351
Wotherspoon.....	5352

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Beck.....	5343
Young.....	5344
Sproule.....	5344
Sarauer.....	5344
McCall.....	5344

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Location of New Group Home	
Duncan.....	5345
Chili for Children	
McCall.....	5345
Curling Team Impresses at Winter Games	
Michelson.....	5345
Researcher’s Achievements in Geology and Paleontology	
Forbes.....	5345
Fundraiser Supports College’s Welding Program	
Hindley.....	5346
Launch of Crime Watch Advisory Network	
Cox.....	5346
Men’s and Women’s Curling Teams Win Gold	
Kaeding.....	5346

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Agriculture	
Meili.....	5347
Moe.....	5347
Marit.....	5347
Municipal Revenue Sharing	
Meili.....	5348
Moe.....	5348
Construction Industry and Provincial Economy	
Wotherspoon.....	5349
Harpauer.....	5349
Irrigation District Agreements	
Pedersen.....	5349
Marit.....	5350
Investigation in Pinehouse Village	
Sproule.....	5350
Kaeding.....	5351

POINT OF ORDER

Sarauer.....	5351
The Speaker.....	5351

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

Development in Wascana Park	
Sarauer.....	5352, 5361
Fiaz.....	5354, 5362
Forbes.....	5355, 5361
Olason.....	5357, 5361
Beck.....	5358, 5362
McMorris.....	5359
Francis.....	5361
Dennis.....	5361

Wotherspoon	5361
Nerlien	5362
Steele	5362
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
Motion No. 1 — Impact of Bill C-69	
The Deputy Speaker	5363
Young	5363
Recorded Division	5365
TRANSMITTAL MOTION	
Brkich	5365

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

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

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

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

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

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

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

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

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

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

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

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan