



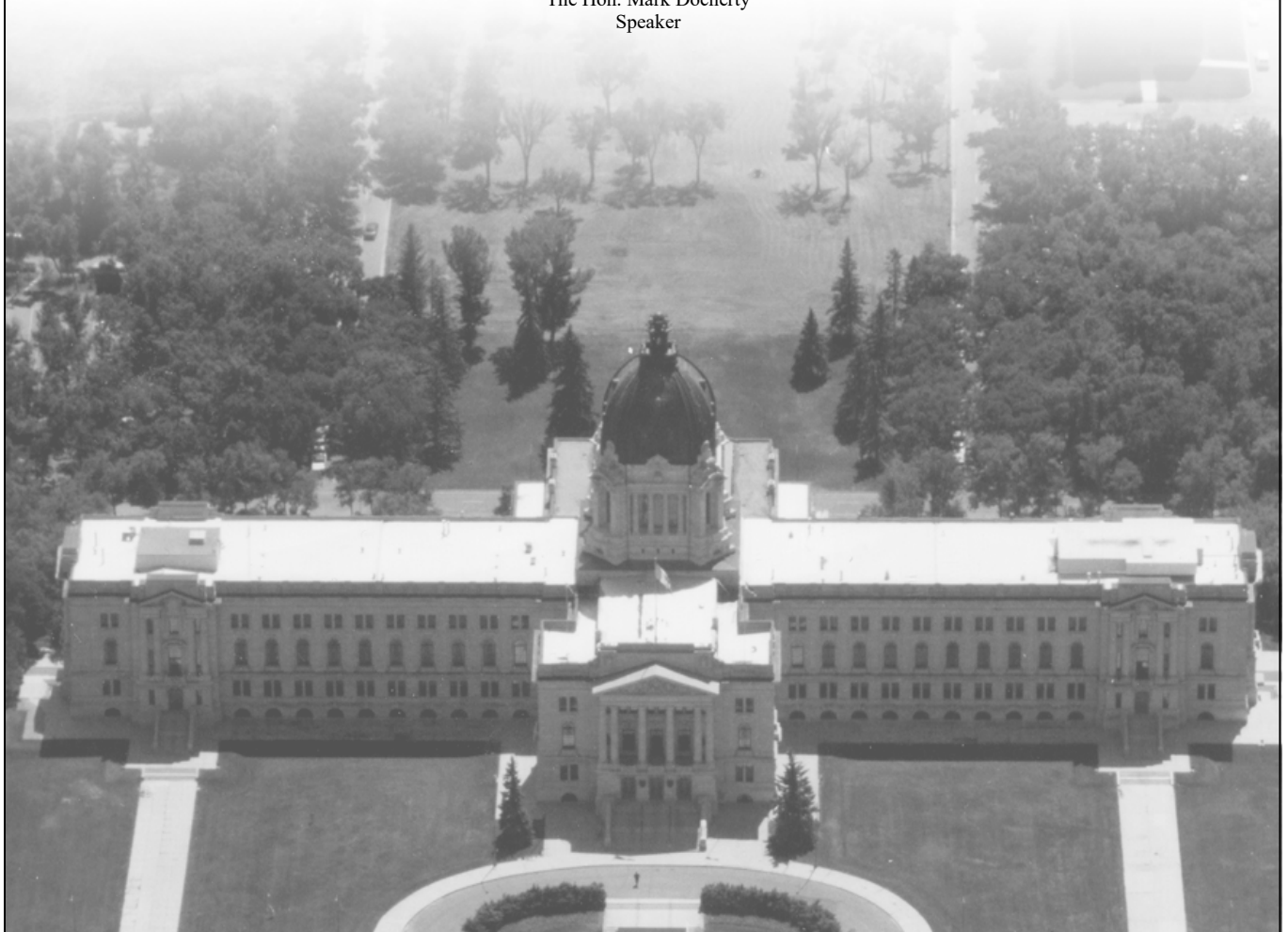
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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)	Makowsky , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Beck , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Belanger , Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)	McCall , Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Bonk , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	McMorris , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Bradshaw , Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	Meili , Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Brkich , Hon. Greg — Arm River (SP)	Merriman , Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Buckingham , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	Michelson , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Carr , Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Moe , Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Chartier , Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)	Morgan , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Cheveldayoff , Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Mowat , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Cox , Herb — The Battlefords (SP)	Nerlien , Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
D'Autremont , Dan — Cannington (SP)	Olauson , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
Dennis , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Ottenbreit , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Docherty , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Pedersen, Yens — Regina Northeast (NDP)
Doke , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Rancourt , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
Duncan , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Reiter , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Eyre , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ross , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Fiaz , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Sarauer , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Forbes , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	Sproule , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Francis , Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Steele , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Goudy , Todd — Melfort (SP)	Steinley , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Hargrave , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Stewart , Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Harpauer , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Tell , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Harrison , Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Tochor , Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
Hart , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Vermette , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Heppner , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Hindley , Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Wilson , Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Kaeding , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wotherspoon , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, a very special guest that has joined us here today. With us here today is Her Excellency Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, the British High Commissioner to Canada. Accompanying Her Excellency today is Caroline Saunders, the British Consul General in Calgary, and Alex Fallon, the Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this is the high commissioner's first official visit to our province since her appointment in August of 2017, and we're very pleased that she's making her first visit here today in the month of April, as opposed to a few weeks ago in the month of February. After all, we do want her to return to Saskatchewan as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Her Excellency is an experienced diplomat. She has served with distinction in the United States, in South America, in Asia, and in Europe. Her previous appointments include ambassador to Austria as well as to France, as well as her government's permanent representative to the United Nations in Vienna.

Mr. Speaker, the high commissioner has a very busy schedule during her stay that includes meetings with a number of cabinet ministers and I believe a meeting with yourself, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to discussing a range of issues with Her Excellency later this afternoon. The delegation will also meet with officials from SaskPower, from STEP [Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership], from the University of Regina as well as Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very special relationship with the United Kingdom, as we all know, a relationship that is rooted in our shared history and our common values. Newcomers from Great Britain helped build our province many, many years ago. About 40 per cent of Saskatchewan citizens actually claim British ancestry. We meet this afternoon in a legislature that is governed by the rules and traditions of the British parliamentary system under the watchful gaze of our commendable Queen. Mr. Speaker, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher commented on this special relationship in a speech that she provided to the

Canadian parliament in 1983, and it went like this. I quote:

We believe in the same high and honourable ideals. We stand ready to defend our free and independent way of life. We agree on the great purpose which we must pursue in the wider world.

Mr. Speaker, the links between our two nations are just as strong today as they were when Prime Minister Thatcher made those remarks. We share a relationship that is warm, that is enduring. We share a friendship that is certain to stand the test of time. And, Mr. Speaker, I wish Her Excellency all the best during her visit to Saskatchewan here and I would ask all members to join me in welcoming our guests to this Assembly and to the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nothing short of an honour to rise this afternoon and to join with the Premier in welcoming these very important guests to our Legislative Assembly: Her Excellency Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque, British high commissioner to Canada, as well Ms. Caroline Saunders and Mr. Alex Fallon. On behalf of the entire official opposition and our leader, Dr. Ryan Meili, we wish to extend our warmest welcome to you, Your Excellency, as well as to your colleagues with us today.

I understand that this is your first visit to our province. I have full trust that you'll experience a very warm Prairie welcome as you travel around, and I hope that you have enjoyable and productive meetings while you're here. And as the Premier said, you have picked a good time to be here in Saskatchewan. It sounds like you have a very busy schedule, but I hope that you do get a chance to get out under our big prairie sky and perhaps see some of the crocuses that are now in bloom in our province.

Again on behalf of the official opposition, welcome to Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce some guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, a number of students, teachers, as well as representatives from the Canadian Cancer Society. We have 19 students from both Saskatoon and the Piapot Cree Nation involved with Youth For Change. They are accompanied by Lisa Kaiswatum, principal at Payepot School; and Meagan Dobson, a teacher at the school. And with them from the Canadian Cancer Society, we have Angeline Webb, Donna Pasiechnik, Sarah Hawkins, Kyra Gawalko, and Heather Monus.

Mr. Speaker, these students are here to talk to MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] about the harm that e-cigarettes and vaping can have to youth, Mr. Speaker. They are going to have an MLA reception later on today with displays by these students set up like a science fair, and I would suggest that any MLAs that are available should make every effort to attend. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome them and to ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in

welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join in with the Minister of Health in welcoming these guests to their Assembly today. I know that we have guests here from the Cancer Society. We also have guests from Youth For Change. I understand that there's individuals here from Saskatoon and Piapot First Nation, and that later we'll be joined by some guests from the University of Regina.

Looking forward to the science-fair-like reception and the creativity that we'll see later today, and I want to particularly thank the youth for their advocacy on this front. I'm not sure that I was as actively engaged in public policy debates at that age, so I want to commend them for coming to this Assembly and to speaking their mind and providing us with some crucial information later on today. I look forward to spending a little bit more time with the group later, but I would ask that all members join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery we have 25 grade 7 students from Grant Road School in my constituency of Regina University, and they're accompanied by their teacher Megan Chamberlin. I'm looking forward to having a very quick visit with them shortly after question period today. I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them here today.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, it's my pleasure to introduce two very special guests today, my two favourite 11-year-olds. One of them is a little bit more favourite than the other. Sorry, Etta. I've got my daughter Ophelia Chartier McDaid here, who is no stranger to this building — she's been coming here since she's been one — and her very dear friend Etta Love.

I just want to tell you a little bit about Ophelia and Etta. Ophelia is a dancer, a singer, and performs musical theatre; and Etta is a powerlifter and a really great public speaker. Some of you may have heard Etta speak at the SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] International Women's Day event and at the Women's March. But the two things that they have in common is they're both really ardent feminists, Mr. Speaker. They are guest hosts on CFRCR's *Laundry List*, which is a feminist podcast, and they are the youth initiative of Women's March in Saskatoon.

And I'm super proud of both of them, but I always get a little choked up when I introduce my kids, Mr. Speaker. But really glad to have them here with me today and I appreciate everybody who said hello to us in the halls and helped make this a really special visit for both of them. With that I'd ask everyone to welcome these two lovely girls to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks a lot, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce Fred Meston and Allan Hoag. They're from Bengough. They are in the Speaker's gallery. Fred and Allan have a combined 65 years of experience making the Bengough ice rink and curling rink efficient, safe, and welcoming for area residents. Fred is very involved in the skating rink. He's played, coached, and refereed and been a rink board member for over 40 years. He's been the rink caretaker for the past 26 years and continues to stay involved because he enjoys seeing the kids have fun and being active.

For Allan, rink maintenance is a family affair. He took over from his father and has been keeping the tradition alive for over 40 years. He's an avid curler who has passed on the game to his kids and grandkids and was recently presented with the Scotty Richardson Memorial Award by CurlSask for his outstanding contributions.

Due to their instrumental operations of this community hub, Fred and Allan recently received the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's Facility Operations Award. The award recognizes long-term leadership and involvement in the enhancement or operations of a Saskatchewan rec facility. Joining in the gallery are Fred's wife, Marlene, and Allan's wife, Joanne.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how important rinks are in communities right across our great province, and I'd like all the members to join me in thanking Fred and Allan for those decades of dedication making Saskatchewan a great place to live. So help me welcome them.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the minister in welcoming Fred and their families to the legislature, and a big congratulations and thank you for your work in the rinks of Saskatchewan and Bengough specifically. But truly, it's the heart of the community, especially in the wintertime. And without people like you making those rinks friendly and working, we'd be a sadder place, especially, as we were talking about, in February when it gets a little tough out there, you know. But thank you so much. We know the work you do and it's so important. So on behalf of the opposition, we welcome you and we thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, really quickly I want to join with the minister, who didn't leave much out. There's not a whole lot left to say, Mr. Speaker . . . As well as the member opposite. But I do want to express a welcome to both Fred and Allan to their Legislative Assembly.

I'll note that I believe Fred was actually the Saskatchewan Hockey Association Outstanding Volunteer in Saskatchewan in 2007-2008, Mr. Speaker, so recognition I don't think is new for these individuals. But certainly the amount of time that they put in to ensuring that Bengough, the kids of Bengough and the older

folks as well that like to curl, all ages in between, Mr. Speaker, have a recreational opportunity. So I can't thank them enough on behalf of the constituents of Weyburn-Big Muddy and the people of Bengough, and I also want to welcome their wives, Marlene and Joanne, as well to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I'd like you to join me in welcoming the school group, 12 grade 7 to 9 students from the Northern Skies Christian School at Porcupine Plain, with their parent chaperones Lynette Friesen, Jason Friesen, Miranda Dueck, Rochelle Friesen, Brenda Warkentin, Tom Warkentin, and Kelly Friesen, and a couple of younger members of the family and a little baby up there that is just a beautiful little child. So please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for a public inquiry and a forensic audit into the Regina bypass land scandal. The people who have signed this petition today would like to bring to our attention the following. Land developers purchased 640 acres of land along Tower Road and had the Regina bypass moved to accommodate their developments. Thousands of people were impacted directly and lost their land, homes, businesses, access, life's work, health, history, and future. Land developers were paid up to 80 times more for their land than long-term land, home, and business owners. The cost of the Regina bypass exploded from 400 million to now over \$2 billion.

I'll read the prayer:

We in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan call for a judicial inquiry and forensic audit into the entire Regina bypass land scandal.

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

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

[13:45]

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government

from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Langham and Biggar. I do so present.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those living outside Saskatchewan, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties.

And we know, though, that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province, where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. But over the past 10 years the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations and of that, 2.87 million came from companies outside Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And we know as well that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and now British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from Marquis and Southey. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to yet again present another petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, the individuals who've signed this petition today wish to bring to our attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence amongst all of the provinces in Canada. And we know we must do much more to protect survivors of domestic violence, including telling employers that they should be obligated to reasonably accommodate survivors of domestic violence and provide paid days' leave for survivors of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we've called for in our private member's bill. It seeks for five paid days' leave to be provided to all survivors of domestic violence in the province. We're not asking for the government to reinvent the wheel. In fact, we're asking them to provide supports that already exist in other provinces in Canada, including Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, PEI [Prince Edward Island], and New Brunswick. Mr. Speaker, all of these provinces have some

form of paid-days leave.

There's no reason why the government can't pass this private member's bill. They have a few weeks left of session to do so. It's time for them to step up, do the right thing, and pass the legislation.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing the petition today come from Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on seed regulations to the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the residents signing this petition want to bring to our attention that the federal government is proposing to pass new regulations relating to seed royalties. These royalties would enable plant breeders to charge royalties on seed that farmers themselves have grown and want to reuse over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, the proposals do not give farmers any guarantee that the royalties that they are paying would be devoted to research. They don't give the farmers any guarantee that the research would be returned for the value of the farmers paying the royalties. And they don't give any guarantee that the research would be on Canadian crop varieties.

Mr. Speaker, the current model of government and funded research has generated up to 20 to 1 returns for the Canadian public and farmers.

And the petitioners in the prayer:

Respectfully request this Assembly call on Saskatchewan Party government to advocate on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers with the federal government to ensure that the rights of farmers to freely use their own seed be established and maintained, that end-point royalties and trailing royalties will not be imposed on farmers, and that any seed research that is paid for by farmers will be controlled and directed by farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners signing this petition are from Maidstone and Cut Knife. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

2019 Tansley Lecture

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Thursday I had the opportunity to attend the 2019 Tansley Lecture, hosted by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. This year's speaker was Jay Famiglietti, former senior water scientist at

NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration], professor of hydrology, and the executive director of the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan.

I, alongside members from Meadow Lake and Last Mountain-Touchwood, joined community members, alumni, faculty, and students for a fascinating lecture on the impact of our changing climate and water use on the earth's water cycles. The talk considered how climate change is impacting global water resources and in particular groundwater.

The event also featured a Johnson-Shoyama student public policy poster contest and I want to congratulate Amanda Noubarian for winning the People's Choice Award for her poster, "A way forward: developing new public service leaders," and Keith Da Silva for winning the IPAC [Institute of Public Administration of Canada] Thought Leadership Award for his poster, "Helping children with FASD smile: the need for better oral health policy in Saskatchewan."

As a legislator I appreciated the urgent reminder that climate change is happening faster than we realize and it's important to develop public policy today that will help us tomorrow. I wish to congratulate the Johnson-Shoyama Grad School for another successful Tansley Lecture and thank those who made it possible.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Saskatchewan Joins Court Challenge

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to announce today that Saskatchewan is joining Ontario in taking the federal government to court over the unconstitutional carbon tax. Today the Ontario government will be laying out its arguments to Ontario's Court of Appeal as to why the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*, a.k.a. [also known as] the carbon tax, is an illegal tax grab.

Mr. Speaker, our government will be supporting Ontario and joining the fight. We will be joining their fight because we know that a carbon tax is a poor environmental policy and does absolutely nothing to reduce emissions. What it will do, Mr. Speaker, is hurt Saskatchewan families — families that drive to dance, soccer, or hockey practices, families that heat their homes or provide basic necessities of life like food and clothing. Everything becomes instantly more expensive with this unfair tax. It reduces jobs and moves jobs to other jurisdictions that aren't charging the carbon tax. And in many cases those jobs will move to areas that are emitting even more than we are here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

It's quite interesting to note who is supporting the federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker — the BC [British Columbia] NDP [New Democratic Party], the same NDP government that has been donating to members on that side. So, Mr. Speaker, will the members on that side of the House stand up for the people of this province or stand with their donor BC cousins?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Women Receive Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 9th I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal Awards Ceremony where I witnessed two Prince Albert women receive awards: Teena Polle and Myrna Nagy.

Teena Polle volunteers at Victoria Hospital and is the front-of-house captain at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre. She volunteers with the Royal Canadian Legion, the Red Cross, and at the First Nations Fine Arts Festival. She also finds time to assist with food services for our homeless. Teena has won the hearts of Prince Albert's arts community with her high level of volunteerism at their events.

Myrna Nagy began volunteering while in grade 9 at Wesley United Church and has not stopped since. She joined Beta Sigma Phi where she has been a member for over 50 years. She has been involved with the Kinettes and has served on the Kinsmen Foundation. She served on the Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce, Prince Albert Crime Stoppers, the downtown business association, the Prince Albert Winter Festival, Prince Albert Tourism, and the Council on Aging.

Mr. Speaker, this is only a partial list of Teena and Myrna's hard work. And I want to thank these women for their dedication, compassion, and their willingness to serve as mentors for Prince Albert women. I ask all members to join with me in congratulating Teena Polle and Myrna Nagy for receiving the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Competition

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend, I attended the 2019 Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Competition held in Lancer. This annual event has given members the opportunity to learn and perform public speaking from a young age.

The participants were divided into four categories and they were judged on their material, their creativity, and their delivery. Each participant shared a unique, informative, and entertaining speech on the topic of their choice. We heard stories about their heroes, their hopes for the future, their favourite sports, their topics like personal growth.

Mr. Speaker, the participants are not only great speakers but many of them are athletes and have the love of the music and arts. But what they all have in common is their passion for the farm and the service to their community.

We all in this House understand the pressures that can come with public speaking, which speaks to how important the program is for the 4-H kids in their development. Having public speaking as a skill not only improves their communication skills but also builds self-confidence with them that they can carry on through their life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members please join me in congratulating all the speakers from the 4-H clubs provincially.

Thank you.

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

Midget Broncos Win Provincials

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in my place to congratulate the Swift Current Abbey Resources Midget AA Broncos on winning the provincial championship. The Broncos defeated the visiting Battleford Barons 2-0 in game three of the championship series, finishing their season with a 47-1 record.

It was an intense game, Mr. Speaker, and actually went scoreless until midway through the third period before Matt Christianson fired a slapshot past the glove of the Battlefords goalie. To add a little insurance, Cash Arnsten scored an empty-net goal to seal the win with just over a minute left in the game. And the goaltender, Brad Nyen, had an exceptional performance, turning aside 27 shots to earn the shutout.

Mr. Speaker, after the final buzzer, the team rushed to the ice for a chance to lift the Jack Loveridge Memorial Cup Trophy, becoming the first Swift Current team to do so since 1976. Mr. Speaker, the Broncos ended their season with an impressive 45-game winning streak, only dropping one game, which was against the Barons, in the provincials. It's great to see that their hard work through the regular season paid off and they were able to continue that powerful momentum right through into the playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask members to join me in congratulating the Swift Current Abbey Resources Midget AA Broncos coaching staff — head coach Todd Hornung, assistant coaches Jody Larson and Dan Johnson, along with manager Jim Christianson — and all of the players on a remarkable season and making all of southwest Saskatchewan very proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Celebrating Saskatchewan's Wild Rice Industry

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 6th I attended the 34th annual Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council Conference. This conference is held for industry professionals to discuss and reflect on the past year's harvest as well as ways to innovate the industry for Saskatchewan producers. The Saskatchewan wild rice industry is one worth celebrating, as it plays such an important role in our province's northern economy. Our province boasts over 150 entrepreneurs that participate in each year's harvest. And, Mr. Speaker, most of these entrepreneurs are from northern First Nations and Métis communities.

In 2018 over 500 000 kilograms of wild rice were harvested from northern ponds, inlets, and lakeshores. After it's grown and harvested, the green rice is sent to either the Precambrian sky wild rice or the La Ronge Wild Rice Corporation processing plants. Then producers and marketers in La Ronge, Denare Beach, and Hudson Bay ship the certified organic product to consumers in the North, all around the province, across the nation, and all over the world.

I am thrilled to know that this product, a northern Saskatchewan product, has this kind of reach. I want to thank this year's organizing committee and the Saskatchewan Wild Rice Council and their many partners involved in this year's conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Martensville.

Clear Choice for Voters

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition recently retweeted an article entitled "Low taxes are nothing to brag about." The article actually condemned us for not raising taxes. It said we shouldn't be proud of having such low tax rates. We should look to Quebec and their much higher tax rate as the way to go.

Now retweets usually come with some commentary from the tweeter. Did the NDP leader say, what, this is nuts; we should be proud of our low-tax regime? Lower taxes attract investment, which leads to more jobs, which leads to a better quality of life for everyone. No, he didn't say that.

[14:00]

Did he say, hey wait; the NDP can't agree with this? We want hard-working people to keep more of their own money. No, he didn't say that either. What he did say was that this was an important reflection on how taxes play a role in sustaining a healthy society.

Well flash back to budget day. The NDP leader said it was too early to discuss their plans for increased spending, lower debt, and how they would pay for things. Well it seems the NDP's true colours are showing. They would raise taxes. And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen this movie before and we know how it ends.

But, Mr. Speaker, in other news, on this side of the House we presented a budget with record spending on education and health, no new taxes, no increased taxes, and it was balanced. Mr. Speaker, there is a clear choice for Saskatchewan voters in October of 2020.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Early Childhood Educators

Ms. Beck: — This government's failure to adequately fund our children's education is failing the next generation, Mr. Speaker. Now keeping with our practice of bringing questions from the public into this Assembly, my first question today is from Dale in Moose Jaw. "Early childhood education is the foundation for a lifelong education journey. Yet ECE professionals are woefully underpaid, in some cases earning between 11 to \$12 per hour, and in most cases under \$15 per hour."

To the Premier: what is the plan to make sure that those who give so much to educate the next generation can earn a decent wage?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government understands the importance of early years education. We've invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in this year's budget intended to support wage increases. Since 2007, Mr. Speaker, over \$9 million to improve wages and benefits of staff in our child care centres. We understand the importance of this, Mr. Speaker. We know that operators are increasing monthly fees to compensate for increased payroll, Mr. Speaker. We also know, Mr. Speaker, that this government has made some commitments with respect to increasing those.

We also provide assistance so that ICE [Infant and Childhood Education] workers can retrain and get more education so that they can fulfill different roles within that, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, 114 per cent increase in funding since 2008-2009. I think that demonstrates this government's commitment to early years education, among a number of other programs that we've initiated.

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

Funding for Rural School Divisions

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that that minister understands just how difficult it is for these workers to make ends meet making less than \$15 an hour.

Moving on to another topic, Mr. Speaker, this weekend we learned about rural school divisions that are being forced to run deficits because of the Sask Party's cuts and chronic underfunding.

Chinook School Division is planning to run a budget with a \$4.8 million deficit this year, and this is the fifth year in a row that it has forecast red ink. How can the Sask Party say that their budget is balanced when there's not only a deficit in our classrooms, but one in the budgets of school boards as well?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, our record of funding education is clear, Mr. Speaker. Over \$56 million added to the education budget this year, the largest education operating grant in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've had some conversations with a number of school divisions. Certainly 60 per cent of the increases in funding go to the four largest school divisions in Saskatoon and Regina, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that they had 89 per cent of the student increases.

Now the formula, as the member knows, is heavily weighted to enrolment and enrolment increases, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I've made some comments publicly over the last little while about looking at the formula. We have a review committee that's looking at it, Mr. Speaker.

But as we go forward and talk about innovation in funding, not only talk about innovation in funding, Mr. Speaker, but talk about innovation in education delivery, Mr. Speaker, these are important conversations that we need to have, Mr. Speaker. This government's committed to having them. We want to make sure

that we're supporting school divisions across the province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the North East School Division will see a bit more money than Chinook, but their director of education says that the extra 224,000 is nowhere near enough to make up for past losses. He said that the division will dip into its reserves this coming year to help fill a \$2.5 million deficit. We know that they can't run a deficit forever and that it will likely mean staff reductions and even larger class sizes. Does the minister really not understand the damage that was done when his government hacked and slashed education funding in rural Saskatchewan? Why is this government taking rural education for granted?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure . . . Mr. Speaker, record investments in public education, not only on the operating side but on the capital side.

And as I've said as we've been out talking to school divisions, Mr. Speaker, we understand the importance of supporting classrooms, Mr. Speaker, not only in rural Saskatchewan but in urban Saskatchewan. And that's why we're moving forward, Mr. Speaker, to have a conversation with our partners in education about innovation, about how we deliver services in classrooms, about how we fund those classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

Members opposite have made public comments saying, it's not all about money, Mr. Speaker; it's about results. And I couldn't agree more, Mr. Speaker. So we're going to continue to have these conversations with our school divisions to make sure, as we move forward, as we talk about innovation, that we're properly resourcing our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. The record of this government since we formed government is clear in terms of our support of public education. The last two budgets demonstrate that.

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

Access to Prescription Drug and Members' Views on Abortion

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, a few years ago the Minister for Rural and Remote Health conceded that when it came to comments he'd made to a grieving mother, “. . . I'm the minister; so the whole conversation I'm the minister . . .” and “. . . you bear the words you speak. And I do represent the government . . .”

That minister still represents this government when he speaks, but last week he tried to justify his remarks to an anti-abortion group where he vowed to do what he could in his professional capacity to support their work, saying he was only referring to his capacity as an MLA.

To the minister: which is it? Does he represent the government when he speaks or doesn't he?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I represent the government when I speak, and let me put this on record, Mr. Speaker. Questions were raised in the House last week about rural coverage of Mifegymiso. And although Mifegymiso is a formulary issue — it's led by the Minister of Health; we split our duties and that's one of his leads, is the formulary — but I'm still happy to answer this question on behalf of the government and on behalf of myself.

Mr. Speaker, we realize that access to abortion is a federal issue. It's been ruled on by the Supreme Court of Canada and it's the rule of law in our country. Our government's position is we respect the rule of law. We support women's reproductive rights. And I support our government's position, Mr. Speaker.

The Ministry of Health is currently conducting that review of Mifegymiso, and we expect those results to come back in the near future. And that's been done by the request of the Minister of Health and myself. My personal views have not and will not affect this review, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — When medical students were here recently advocating for Mifegymiso coverage, the minister said that he tried to “keep his personal beliefs out of the job” and that “you can't legislate people's morality or their choices.” Only days later he sent a very different message to the SPLA [Saskatchewan Pro-Life Association] gathering. He said he only met with the medical students because he's “obligated to meet with groups.” He encouraged those in attendance to continue with their “battle,” and he committed to doing what he could in his professional capacity to help. These messages are not just inconsistent; they are contradictory.

So which is it: can the minister keep his personal beliefs out of his job as he says, or is he in fact working in his professional capacity to restrict access and decrease reproductive health options?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Rural and Remote Health has just said, he has not let any personal beliefs get in the way of appropriately doing his job as Rural and Remote Health minister, Mr. Speaker.

To the issue that the member opposite raises on Mifegymiso, as I said many times in the House over the last couple weeks, I had the opportunity to meet with the medical students. They made a very good presentation, Mr. Speaker. I offered to them and I followed up with that. They have an opportunity to meet with officials from the ministry. I believe that's set for, I think, next week or the week after, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime I've asked officials, with the support of the Rural and Remote Health minister, to conduct a review as we would in any of these cases, Mr. Speaker, as we did when we decided to provide universal coverage for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] medication.

Mr. Speaker, let me make this perfectly clear, the only issue that's left to deal with this is whether tax dollars are going to pay the entire cost of the people that use Mifegymiso, or whether we would stay with the current program where the most vulnerable are protected, and in emergency situations, people are also protected, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, a one-time emergency fund that's only accessible by the lowest income people after they have no other options — one-time accessibility fund — that's not a plan for access. The minister says this isn't an access issue. Try telling that to a young woman in Ile-a-la-Crosse or Carnduff who can't afford to travel for a procedure and can't afford the \$300 medication. Availability and affordability are still very real issues for access to this medication. And as a result, patients are left with an option that is less safe and more expensive to the public system, and outside of Saskatoon and Regina isn't an option at all.

The clearest message this government can send that it is not seeking to limit access to care is to announce today that Mifegymiso will be covered. Will the minister make that commitment today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, first the members opposite accuse the Minister of Rural and Remote Health of somehow inappropriately slowing down this process and not dealing with it appropriately. And then the member opposite says you should just throw the whole process away that you always follow and just do what they say right now.

Mr. Speaker, we're not going to do either of those things. Mr. Speaker, we're going to follow the normal process we do. The point I was making about the emergency assistance is in the meantime until a decision's arrived at, people are covered for that pharmaceutical, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we should not be following the same process we always follow, because this is not the same as every other prescription. Every other prescription that gets covered doesn't completely replace a surgical procedure that's already on the books for the government.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue for people of this province. Since Friday, 1,000 people have signed our online petition requesting for full funding of Mifegymiso. Clearly there's public support, and we're the last province once again. When will the minister commit to funding Mifegymiso?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, once again I need to correct the record. Mifegymiso does not, I think the words she used were, "completely replace" a surgical procedure. It doesn't. There's a window during pregnancy that that drug can be used, Mr.

Speaker, not the entire window.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'm not understanding what part of yes those members can't accept. We are reviewing this. We will make a decision in due course. In the meantime, the most vulnerable are protected, Mr. Speaker, and in emergent situations those people are protected as well.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this medication has the potential to fully replace a surgical procedure up to nine weeks' gestation. So there is an important access piece here, and this is something that the minister should be looking at funding immediately. There's no excuse for the fact that this delay has happened, and we're the last province.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday the *StarPhoenix* reported:

Asked whether he agrees with Canadian law allowing access to abortions, or whether he thinks it goes too far, Ottenbreit responded: "I don't know if a person can even comment on that. It is the law."

But from his comments to the SPLA, one can only conclude that he wants to see the law changed. How can Saskatchewan people trust a minister to facilitate access to a service that he has vowed to work at undermining?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago the Minister of Rural and Remote Health in this Assembly said, and I quote, our government's position is that we support women's reproductive rights, and I support the position of the government.

Mr. Speaker, again I don't know how much more clear I can make this. The abortion issue has been settled a long time ago. That ship has sailed. Mifegymiso is available in this province. Mr. Speaker, the only issue left to determine is whether we make a change to the way it's funded. Mr. Speaker, as I said many times last week, Mr. Speaker, that's under review and we will arrive at a decision and as promptly as possible.

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

[14:15]

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are three things the Minister of Rural and Remote Health needs to say to Saskatchewan people: one, that he will stop speaking at anti-abortion events; two, that he will work in his professional capacity to ensure access to constitutionally protected medical services; and three, that he will stop the slow-walking of the single most important decision he can make to ensure access to abortion and commit today to fully covering Mifegymiso in Saskatchewan.

Will the minister make these commitments today? And if not, on what basis does he believe he is qualified to continue in his role as Minister of Rural and Remote Health?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, once again the accusation that the Minister of Rural and Remote Health is somehow slow-walking this is just simply not true. It's not the case, Mr. Speaker. I directed ministry staff, along with the support of the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, to do a review.

Mr. Speaker, once again as I've said many times — last week, today — here's the situation. Mr. Speaker, abortion is legal in this country. It's the job of the government to ensure those services are available, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're doing. Mr. Speaker, Mifegymiso is available in the province. It's a matter of simply getting a prescription from a doctor, Mr. Speaker. The only issue left to determine is who actually pays for it, Mr. Speaker, whether or not we use tax dollars to pay for this across the board, Mr. Speaker. We will make that decision in due course once the ministry has completed a review.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, who is responsible for this file and whose public comments have been called into question in this particular situation. The statement the minister makes must be more than that the Supreme Court has made this decision. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve better.

The minister must provide some assurance that he is willing and able to do his job fully. The minister's own words have left serious doubts as to whether that's the case. So he can use his own words now to put those doubts to rest. Will he stop speaking at anti-abortion events? Will he work to ensure access to constitutionally protected medical services? And will he commit today to fully funding Mifegymiso?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I just stated, we respect the rule of law in Canada. The Supreme Court has ruled that abortion is legal in this country. Our government respects that law. I respect the law of the government, the policy of our government. And I support that policy, Mr. Speaker. We support reproductive rights for women in this country. It's a matter of law and I support that policy, Mr. Speaker.

You know, when it comes to representing my constituents, you know, I'll always represent my constituents. But, Mr. Speaker, again I said my views have not and will not affect any part of my file when it comes to representing women's rights and reproductive rights in this province. And I'll continue to do that.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve better than this. The minister has failed to provide any assurance that he is willing and able to do his job. Since the minister has proven himself incapable of doing his job, will the Premier find a minister of Rural and Remote Health who can?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, on a couple of occasions today the minister very clearly laid out that he supports the position of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, let me make that position perfectly clear. Abortion services are legal in this country and it's an expectation under the *Canada Health Act* that they're provided. Mr. Speaker, we ensure that they are provided. The drug Mifegymiso, Mr. Speaker, is available in Saskatchewan. As I've said repeatedly, over and over, Mr. Speaker, the only issue left to decide is whether tax dollars will pay for that drug in its entirety or not. Mr. Speaker, we've asked the ministry to do a review. Once they come back with the review, we'll make a decision at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll give the Minister of Rural and Remote Health another opportunity to answer some of these questions more clearly. Will he stop speaking at anti-abortion events? Will he work to ensure access to constitutionally protected medical services? And will he commit today to fully funding Mifegymiso?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Rural and Remote Health mentioned a little bit earlier today that on a number of areas, while we work closely together, we split up some duties because Health of course is a huge file, Mr. Speaker. The member, in her earlier question, had asked who is responsible for this. Mr. Speaker, this is a formulary question. All the other questions have been answered. And I'm the lead minister for the formulary, Mr. Speaker, so I'm happy to take this question.

Mr. Speaker, once again, as I've said numerous times, the only question left to answer is how we're going to . . . whether we're going to fund Mifegymiso in its entirety or whether it will continue to be funded like other drugs, Mr. Speaker. That's under review. In due course we'll make that decision.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's unwillingness to answer anything about future opportunities to speak at anti-abortion events raises serious concerns for the people of this province. To the Premier: what message does this send to the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I think the message that it sends to the people of Saskatchewan is there's a very diverse group on this side of the House with a diversity of opinions, which we welcome, Mr. Speaker. But at the end of the day, all members on this side, once a decision has been made, we all support it.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health has made

it abundantly clear that he supports the position of this government. He supports the position of this government on abortion. He supports the position of this government on Mifegymiso, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite can keep asking the same question several different ways, Mr. Speaker, but the answer remains the same.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was directed to the Premier. What message does this send to the people of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health has said, I'm the lead minister on the file for the formulary, Mr. Speaker, so I will take that question. Mr. Speaker, once again the issue on abortion is very clear. The service is provided. Mifegymiso is made available.

Mr. Speaker, while the members opposite like to heckle and they like to accuse the minister of not following process, but yet they don't want us to follow process. Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with this drug as we would with any other. We're dealing with it the same way that we did a couple years ago with the medication for HIV, Mr. Speaker. We did a review, had a discussion, and we arrived at where we're at today, Mr. Speaker, with universal coverage. Mr. Speaker, we're going to follow the same process in this case and in due course will make our decision.

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

Protection of Water Supply From Effects of Climate Change

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the government released their first climate change resilience report. But it's been met with skepticism by many, and for good reason. Because in addition to lacking overall tracking and individual emissions, it's also missing a key ingredient — water.

Mr. Speaker, as climate change worsens, our weather jumps from one extreme to another. From increased flooding to droughts and wildfires, our province needs to be prepared for the worst. This includes our agriculture industry. Irrigation consumes almost 40 per cent of our water, but there's no plan in this report to address projected water scarcity.

To the minister: what is the plan to protect our agriculture sector as water resources become more scarce?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to stand on my feet and talk about the Prairie Resilience framework, the results of that, Mr. Speaker. This is a commitment that we've made on this side of the House that each and every year we're going to report on 25 measurements, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that this is a living document, those 25 may change over time, Mr. Speaker. I would note though, that while there are 25 measurements that we are

measuring, Mr. Speaker, we know that they don't capture every single measure that you potentially could measure.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to water and irrigation and the importance of water, Mr. Speaker, obviously the Water Security Agency as well as other ministries — Agriculture mainly, but others — work hard to ensure that there is a large availability of water, Mr. Speaker, knowing that we have to be resilient to the ongoing effects of climate change and the effects that that can have on water availability, Mr. Speaker.

So I want to stress that while that may not be one of the 25 that we're measuring, Mr. Speaker, it's something that is a priority for this government each and every day.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister can claim that they are working to protect our producers, but the reality is there's no plan. Despite overwhelming data sounding the alarm about water security, the government's climate resilience report had nothing to say about risks to agriculture.

The government wouldn't have had to look far for expertise if it had tried. The Global Institute for Water Security, based at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], is raising the alarm on Canada's emerging water crisis, pointing out that prairie droughts cost us \$6 billion between '99 and 2004, while flooding just in 2014 alone cost us \$1.5 billion. Intensifying floods and droughts are what unmitigated climate change looks like for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister rectify his mistake and include a plan to protect Saskatchewan agriculture from these threats?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's important to know that resilience is the ability to cope with, adapt to, and recover from stress and change, Mr. Speaker. I think this resiliency measurement and framework, Mr. Speaker, is an important document for the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we'd be happy to do a resilience report for the members opposite because of the amount of stress and change that the NDP have been through over the last 12 years in this province.

Mr. Speaker, obviously as a part of our plan we're looking at improving the amount of flood plain mapping around provinces to ensure that our communities are resilient to the effects of potential flooding, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Water Security Agency, working with other ministries, including Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, are working very hard to ensure that we have an ample supply of water to support communities as well as agriculture and will continue to do that work.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 168

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 168 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur les juges de paix*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon to enter into the debate around Bill No. 168, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill includes all justices of the peace in the public employees pension plan, an important piece for the government to do. The justices of the peace do very important work within our justice system.

Mr. Speaker, it also introduces some housekeeping amendments and outlines the benefits to which justices of the peace should be entitled to. It also confirms the validity of pension plan payments under previous Acts following the amendment of *The Justices of the Peace Act*.

Mr. Speaker, essentially this is a very small piece of legislation before us, but it does do some very important things in terms of providing supports and benefits for our justices of the peace who, like I said, do very important work in our justice system throughout the entire province, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to have some questions to ask officials about this bill at committee, so to facilitate that process, I'm prepared to allow this bill to move forward onto its next stage.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 168 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 168, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 169

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 169 — *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise on this bill that's arising out of the budget, the Public Safety Agency, and I read with interest the minister's comments and they were pretty extensive. And of course this is a major issue when we come to some of the challenges that we've come to face in Saskatchewan, whether it be wildfires or floods. The change in our climate clearly is having an impact — some people would call it a climate crisis — and this something that we really need to be prepared for.

[14:30]

So this is a model I understand that only Yukon has actually done, and so we'll be looking for some ways to make sure that this is appropriate. You know, it's always this question of unintended consequences and has the government actually thought through this process. They've talked about, you know, making sure unionized employees are dealt with accordingly and appropriately, that this is a way to coordinate activities between Government Relations, who looks after the emergency situations now, and with Environment for one. I imagine also Social Services. They are the folks who coordinate the evacuations, and the number of those have been significant in the past 10 years.

So this is an issue that is very, very timely. And we'll be looking at this to see if it is the most effective way because I mean one hand you have to think short term. What's happening in Saskatchewan now? What will happen in Saskatchewan this summer because of the climate? What about the winter? Are we prepared for other kinds of ways that the climate will present itself in terms of crisis?

We've seen now one of the coldest Februarys that we've ever experienced in quite a while. It was breaking all sorts of records. Now on one hand we are very, very prepared for that, I mean because we are a tough group, a bunch of us. And I see the folks who look after our skating rinks and things like that were here. We have a way of dealing with that. But you know, it will be interesting to see how the climate crisis presents itself in a place like Saskatchewan. So we think in the short term, which is the emergency relief and preparedness and making sure that we are ready for that.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, as you know we are having guests from Australia visit us. Any moment they are arriving in the building. I think it was . . . Well they might be here right now. I think 2:30 was the time they were coming. But Australia has seen some of these things. Some of the wildfires, some of the heat waves that they've seen, have been incredible, incredible. And so it would be very interesting to hear their insight into how they're dealing with climate change and their perspective. And so I'm looking forward to meeting with them and hearing some of their thoughts, you know, and their experiences.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, a very important piece of legislation. Clearly there will be more specific questions in committee. It's important to get on this and get going. You know, fire season is pretty much upon us any time now, if not already. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 169 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 169, *The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act* be committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Bill No. 170

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 170 — *The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 2019*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to enter into the debate on this budget bill. It's a short bill and it seems to be trying to accomplish a little more clarity when it comes to uncertified mineral titles that are actually quite rife in the land titles system.

I've had some experience working in this field when I was . . . early 2000s, I was seconded to the land titles system to work on some of the mineral titles that were in question, and many of these were uncertified.

So I think to begin with, the minister's speech actually left a lot to be said on this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I think really doesn't address the changes at all that are being proposed. So we're certainly going to have to ask a lot of questions of her in committee. And that's unfortunate, because we often look to the second reading speech to give us some indication as to what the impact of the legislation will be.

She did spend a lot of time talking about Alberta corporations, Saskatchewan corporations and what contribution they make to the mineral rights, Mr. Speaker, and the mineral rights tax revenue. But the changes that are happening are to section 18 of *The Mineral Taxation Act*, which really is about arrears of taxes and actually the government taking title to some of these uncertified mineral titles that the tax bills aren't being paid for, Mr. Speaker. So I think it's important to look at section 18 of *The Mineral Taxation Act*, which is the clause that's being amended, and the minister's comments don't address this whatsoever.

In the "Arrears of Taxes" section, it's section 18, there's a process that's set out. Now let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, there's a difference between having mineral rights, which is the ability to go in and drill. You get that from the title holder. So we're not talking about mineral rights here, we're talking about mineral titles and the taxation system that applies to people who have freehold mineral titles. There are thousands and thousands of

people who have freehold mineral titles.

Again the minister only spoke about corporations that have freehold titles, but the vast majority of freehold titles that I've seen in my work, Mr. Speaker, are actually in the names of individuals, quite often descendants of the original homesteader who . . . The way the mineral titles were issued in Saskatchewan was a little bit ad hoc in the first years. When you got your homestead, you got the mineral rights. Then as time went on laws were changed and you would only get the surface rights, Mr. Speaker, and the mineral rights would remain in the Crown, and many of those titles would show minerals in the Crown.

But some of these freehold titles, when estates were dealt with, they only dealt with the farm land. They only dealt with the surface and many of those mineral titles, I've seen ones that haven't been changed since 1908. Obviously that gentlemen is gone, his estate has been wound up and these titles are just hanging out there. If they have production value, then there are taxes that are due and owing on that particular title, and it's very difficult actually for oil companies to get the mineral rights to do the drilling on those lost titles, I guess you could call them, or you could call them orphan titles. They have no owner. There's no process in law other than a very expensive process that the Crown could go under to receive that mineral title because there is no estate to which that title can attach.

So section 18, the "Arrears of Taxes" section in *The Mineral Taxation Act*, talks about what happens if there are freehold titles that have taxes due and owing and they're not being paid. Well the first thing you do is you register a tax lien, which we know how those work. You send a notice to the address that's on the title. If that comes back as undeliverable, the idea is that there should be some effort made by the Crown to find a second address and quite often you can. If people have moved on through social media and the internet, there are ways of finding people. So you make that effort.

If you still can't find them, in subsection (5) says, "after all reasonable efforts have been made to ascertain . . . the address," then the next step goes on. And that is a notice to actually take the title. So this is a forfeiture process that we're talking about here. Again you go through the same process. You register your notice of forfeiture. You try to find the address once again, and then the proceeding goes forward. So in subsection (11) it says, "On receipt of application by the minister that meets the requirements of this section, the Registrar of Titles shall issue a mineral title to the Crown for the parcel of land affected . . ."

So, Mr. Speaker, this section is about getting these freehold mineral titles in the name of the Crown when taxes aren't being paid. It's like if you don't pay your city taxes, Mr. Speaker, there's a lien, and then you lose your title.

The amendments that are being made here are particularly a new subsection that's being added. And this deals with something called this "uncertified mineral title." So this is a new layer that's being added, and it has never been dealt with properly in the law. And I think this change is long overdue actually. But in many cases back in the 1950s and '60s when mineral titles were changing hands, the registrar of the particular land titles office didn't bother to certify the mineral title. They would only certify the surface title. So in addition to these orphan freehold mineral

titles, there are many, many mineral titles that are uncertified. The registrar of the day . . . It wasn't the practice of the registrars to actually certify mineral titles, especially if they were seen as not valuable.

Well as you know, Mr. Speaker, what seems unvaluable one day may become very valuable the next day and may actually have some taxes accruing to it. So what this new change — if I understand it correctly and the minister certainly didn't give any explanation in her speech — this says, "If . . . an uncertified mineral title is issued to the Crown, section 13 of *The Land Titles Act* applies with any necessary modification."

There's nothing in her speech that explains why this is being done, and I think the people of Saskatchewan really need that explanation. This is going to affect probably any number of uncertified mineral titles. There's tens of thousands of them that exists in Saskatchewan today. And when the Crown moves to forfeiture I think it behooves the Crown to provide a clear, thorough, and layperson's explanation as to exactly what they're doing in this bill, and the minister failed to do that in her second reading speech.

So we have lots of questions for the minister in committee and hopefully on the record then we could get some explanation for these changes. So, Mr. Speaker, that's the extent of my comments on this bill.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 170 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill 170, *The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 2019* be committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 171

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 171** — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to participate in the debate on this bill. As I'm sure you can appreciate, Mr. Speaker, any legislation dealing with taxes tends to be fairly dry legislation, so I'm not going to spend a great deal of time commenting on, you know, where the periods and the semicolons and the particular choice of words are for this

particular bill, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, what this bill does do is it adds some credits for volunteer firefighters, and it adds some credits for volunteer search and rescue people, and some tax credits for volunteer emergency medical first responders. And, Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few moments to talk about the importance of those volunteers to our province.

I'm sure many of us can relate to the terror of having a loved one go missing. And sometimes there's a perfectly legitimate reason for that and you just don't know where they are and they haven't checked in. And sometimes, you know, it's a much more serious situation. But in any case, Mr. Speaker, when a loved one goes missing, you know, the first responders dealing with, the volunteers dealing with search and rescue are absolutely essential. I'm sure anybody who's in that situation, you know, is tremendously grateful for the hours of volunteer service that those people put in.

And the same goes for medical and fire first responders. Mr. Speaker, I think back to when I was a teenager and we had a couple of fires on our farm, and one of those required the volunteer fire department from the closest town to come. And, Mr. Speaker, without their effort, without the equipment and the hours of training and service that they put in, Mr. Speaker, the outcome would have been tremendously different. As it was, that fire had a pretty significant impact on our family's financial well-being. But we were thankful, extremely grateful to the volunteer fire department from Cut Knife for the work that they did because they were able to stop the fire and put it out and limit that fire so that it was only a hardship and not a tragedy, Mr. Speaker.

[14:45]

And so with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to conclude my remarks on this bill and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this debate.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 171 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 171, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019* be committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, so the committees may

continue their good work, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:46.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe	5797
Beck	5797
Reiter	5797
Mowat	5798
Beaudry-Mellor	5798
Chartier	5798
Makowsky	5798
Forbes	5798
Duncan	5798
Nerlien	5799

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Sproule	5799
Weekes	5799
Forbes	5799
Sarauer	5799
Pedersen	5800

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

2019 Tansley Lecture	
Beck	5800
Saskatchewan Joins Court Challenge	
Francis	5800
Prince Albert Women Receive Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal	
Rancourt	5801
Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Competition	
Steele	5801
Midget Broncos Win Provincials	
Hindley	5801
Celebrating Saskatchewan's Wild Rice Industry	
Wilson	5801
Clear Choice for Voters	
Heppner	5802

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Early Childhood Educators	
Beck	5802
Wyant	5802
Funding for Rural School Divisions	
Beck	5802
Wyant	5802
Access to Prescription Drug and Members' Views on Abortion	
Mowat	5803
Ottenbreit	5803
Reiter	5803
Protection of Water Supply From Effects of Climate Change	
Pedersen	5806
Duncan	5806

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 168 — <i>The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur les juges de paix</i>	
Sarauer	5807
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	5807
Bill No. 169 — <i>The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Act</i>	
Forbes	5807
Brkich (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	5808
Bill No. 170 — <i>The Mineral Taxation Amendment Act, 2019</i>	
Sproule	5808
Brkich (referral to Economy Committee)	5809
Bill No. 171 — <i>The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019</i>	
Pedersen	5809
Brkich (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)	5809

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