



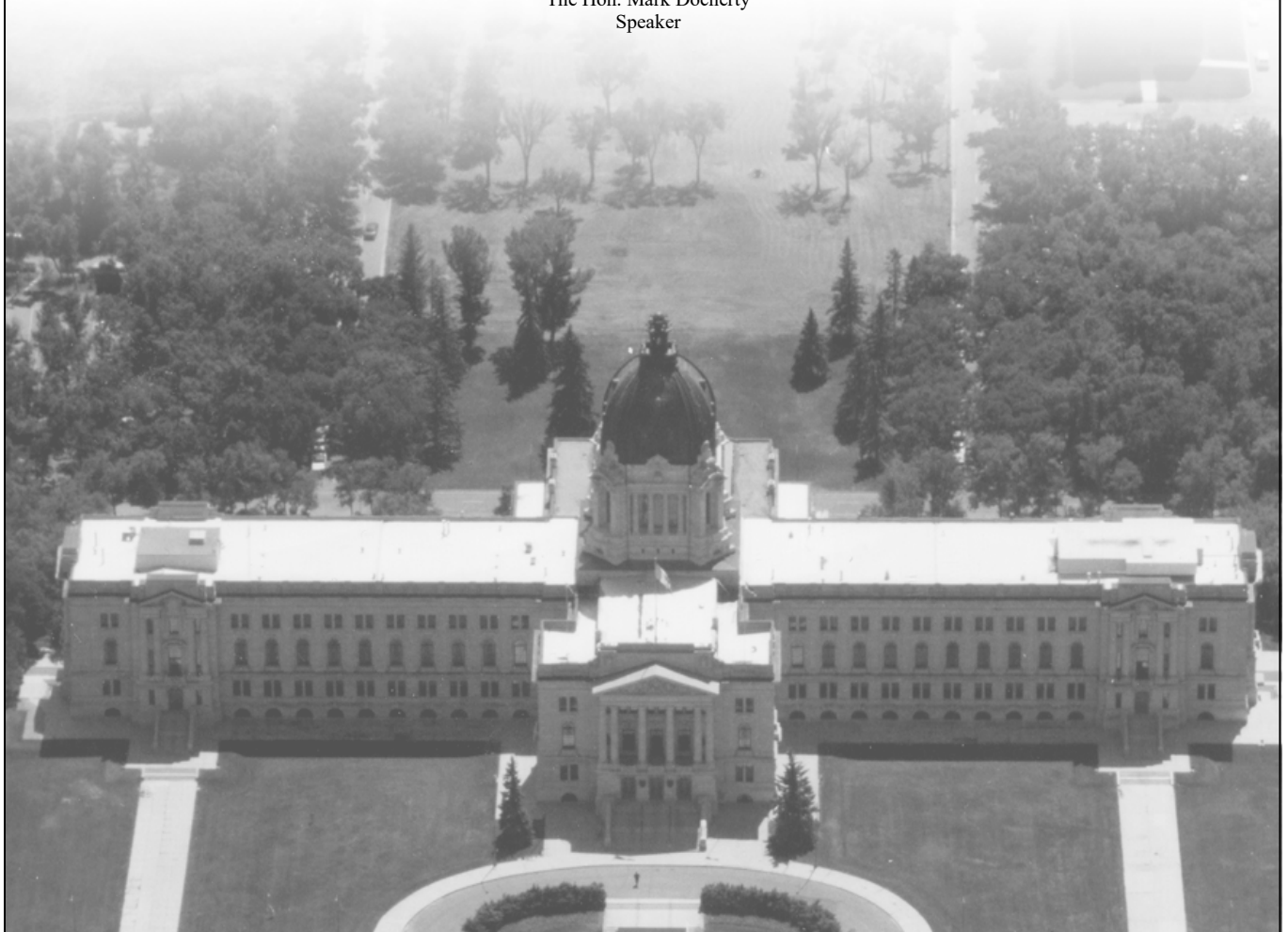
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



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3rd Session — 28th Legislature

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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure today to introduce to you, and through you to all members of this Assembly, some very special guests. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are Mr. Byung-won Chung, the consul general of the Republic of Korea in Vancouver. Mr. Speaker, accompanying him is Ms. Yongwook Na, the deputy consul general.

Mr. Speaker, this is the consul general's first official visit to our province of Saskatchewan, and he has a very busy schedule during his stay here. The consul general will be meeting with representatives obviously from government but also from industry as well as our post-secondary institutions. I look forward to meeting with the consul general later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Korea is one of the most remarkable nations on earth. In many ways, South Korea is an example for the rest of us in this world. It's a nation that has been described as the miracle of our time, and when you look at the numbers, it's hard to argue that description. Mr. Speaker, in just 50 years, South Korea has seen its GDP [gross domestic product] double nine times. The value of its exports have grown more than 3,000 per cent. The economic progress has been simply astonishing.

But South Korea's impact goes far beyond commerce; it goes far beyond trade, Mr. Speaker. South Korea's a force for good, a force for good across the globe, actively supporting world security by participating in UN [United Nations] peacekeeping missions. Soldiers from South Korea served alongside our Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, defending freedom and defending democracy.

Mr. Speaker, South Korea is an ally, they are a friend, and of course they are an important trading partner of Saskatchewan. In 2018 Saskatchewan exported more than \$100 million worth of goods to South Korea, including canola oil, including wheat, malt, and oats. These were among the exports that we sent to South Korea.

Saskatchewan is also so very fortunate to have Korean companies as investors right here in our province. Korea Electric Power Corporation, for example, has uranium interests in Saskatchewan. The Korea National Oil Corporation has participated in the Aquistore CO₂ storage demonstration project. And there are also numerous educational partnerships between our two jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, our relationship with South Korea is getting stronger by the day and for that we are thankful. We have a deep and abiding friendship and we look forward to strengthening that friendship in the days ahead. So I would ask all members to join me in welcoming our distinguished guests to the Saskatchewan

legislature here today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a tremendous honour to join with the Premier here today to welcome this delegation to the Saskatchewan Assembly from the Republic of Korea. It's an incredible honour to have you within Saskatchewan. We value this relationship. It's an honour to welcome Mr. Byung-won Chung, the consul general of the Republic of Korea in Vancouver, as well as Ms. Yongwook Na to the Saskatchewan Assembly. I understand it's the consul general's first visit to Saskatchewan. We wish you a wonderful time here. I know it will be busy.

We value that relationship on so many fronts. Certainly South Korea is a strong, stable force within the world, a force for good and an important force and actor within the region. Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, we value South Korea, the Republic of Korea, as an ally and as a friend from a trade perspective, from an education perspective, but also by way of investment, Mr. Speaker, and as well as the fact that many Korean-Canadians have chosen to build their lives here in Canada, here in Saskatchewan, and in so doing building and bettering our province and our country together, Mr. Speaker.

We value the trade agreement that's in place and expanding the important trade with respect to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, and our products. I'll note that the very proud saskatoon berry is one of those items within that agreement, Mr. Speaker, and we value the trade with respect to canola oil and wheat and malt and oats. And I believe the trade . . . We actually sell the most oats to South Korea than anyone else in the world. So thank you so very much on that front.

We wish you well in your stay and we thank you as well for the partnerships with the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. We'll recognize as well that the president of the University of Regina is the consul general of Saskatchewan to Korea, Mr. Speaker, and we thank President Vianne Timmons for that as well. And on behalf of the official opposition, it's a tremendous honour to welcome this delegation and these leaders to our Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And while still on my feet, it's an honour to welcome a group of students to their Assembly and teachers that have joined us here today in the east gallery. We have a large group, 60 visitors here today, grade 6s and 7s from Lakeview School. I'd ask them to give us a wave. These students are a remarkable bunch, Mr. Speaker, bright, strong, young leaders. I've witnessed their work in action over at Lakeview School. They've taken on climate change leadership, Mr. Speaker. And they actually put together a documentary, *The Solar Generation*, that's remarkable and should inspire us all into action.

So it's an honour to welcome them here today as well as their teachers, Rachele Anderson, who I believe has been serving for, I'm told, 28 years. And that's a remarkable service and we thank her for that service. I know her as an incredible teacher. And I'd also like to welcome Mr. Jared Clarke that's here as well. Jared is a good friend and a good adviser, Mr. Speaker. He's a farmer,

along with his family, in the Edenwold area, Mr. Speaker. He's a hunter. He's a fisher. He's a paddler. He's a biologist. He's a birder. He's a conservationist. I had the pleasure of joining him this last weekend at the Ducks Unlimited dinner in Indian Head. We had a wonderful evening. But I welcome Jared here as a teacher, Rachelle here as a teacher, and these friends to their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even with leave for an extended introduction, I'm sure that I will not be nearly as long as the member for Regina Rosemont in his introductions. However, Mr. Speaker, having said that, as one of the many recovering lawyers that are in this building right now, I am pleased to introduce several visitors who are seated in the gallery this afternoon.

Here today are the law students who will be completing their articles this year with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, the Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Appeal in Saskatchewan. Earlier today I had a chance to meet and speak with them. I am impressed by their enthusiasm, intelligence, and ambition. They are a clear indication of the bright future that lies ahead for Saskatchewan's legal profession.

Mr. Speaker, our following guests are completing their articles with us at the Ministry of Justice. Dipo Ziwa is an alumnus of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. He graduated from the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. Dipo is the founder of a non-profit that engages young professionals and raises funds and awareness for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Liam Fitzgerald has lived all over our province, completing his undergrad at the University of Regina and attending law school at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. Currently he is posted in La Ronge where he looks forward to continuing his career with the Ministry of Justice in public prosecutions.

Dustin Link enjoys international travel and spent a year teaching high school in a rural Chinese village. He studied law at the University of Saskatchewan and will be joining the legal services division at the Ministry of Justice when he completes his articles.

Aly Sparks comes to us from the University of Saskatchewan. While in law school, Aly had the opportunity to attend the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. When not working, she is an active volunteer in the community. She looks forward to continuing her career in the Regina prosecutions office.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce our articling students from the Court of Appeal. Aaron Fritzler was born and raised in the beautiful Lumsden valley. As a student he was awarded most

distinguished graduate for both his undergraduate and Juris Doctor. This fall, Aaron will be pursuing an LL.M. [Master of Laws] at Cambridge on a full-ride scholarship. Following that he will return to Saskatchewan to work for MLT Aikins in Regina.

Originally hailing from . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I think the former minister of Justice is making some derogatory remarks about some of the other law firms. And I know which firm the former minister came from. And I'm quite willing to stick up for MLT Aikins, Mr. Speaker, just having said the name.

Mr. Speaker, originally hailing from Medicine Hat, Matthew Barnes attended law school here in our province. After finishing his articles, he will continue his career with MLT Aikins. He will also continue to surprise his family by proudly wearing Roughrider green instead of Stampeder red. And he better promise.

Firuz Rahimi came to Canada with his family in 2001. He is a proud refugee and a member of a strong and supportive Afghan-Canadian family. Following his clerkship he plans to move to Calgary to begin a corporate practice; however, he will always maintain strong ties to and affection for Saskatchewan. And earlier today he committed to coming back relatively soon.

Jeremy Barber has attended both of our province's fine universities, Mr. Speaker. He spent some time working for the *StarPhoenix* in Saskatoon where he happened to meet his wife, Kaitlin. Jeremy plans to pursue a career in private practice, focusing on the law as it relates to technology.

Mr. Speaker, from the Court of Queen's Bench I would like to introduce our final two articling students. Lara Bonokoski had an undergraduate in women and gender studies and attended law school at the University of Saskatchewan. She enjoys spending her spare time with her 18-month-old son. Moving ahead, Lara intends to establish a career in public interest law.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, during her studies Desirée Steele was elected as the University of Saskatchewan's Students' Union vice-president of academic affairs. She participated in the 2018 Dean's Forum on Access to Justice. She would also like to pass along the comment that she appreciates today's chance to observe the legislature's work. So would all the members . . . I'm sure they will want to be on their very best behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I can say to Desirée and indeed to all of the articling students that are here today, we appreciate them and their dedication to our justice system. It was a pleasure to meet all of them earlier today. I look forward to great things from them in the days to come and years to come, and there are seats on the legislature floor for some of them on both sides of the House.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming this fresh crop of nearly completed articling students and welcome them, first of all, to the profession and welcome them also to this Legislative Assembly. It's always inspiring to see the new batch of lawyers join the bar, whether or not they're staying in the province or otherwise. We always like to see them stay in Saskatchewan and hope that those that have

chosen to move to another province come back, come back home soon.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that their experience within the ministry or whether or not they were clerking at the Queen's Bench or Court of Appeal was a positive experience for them, and I'm sure they gained a lot of insights and knowledge that they'll be taking on for the rest of their careers. Mr. Speaker, I wish them all the best.

I always find every year the batch of articling students that come through more and more intimidating, with their CVs [curriculum vitae], Mr. Speaker, being significantly longer than mine was when I was their vintage. It's very exciting and inspiring for the profession, and I know they'll do great things moving forward, whether they're staying within the ministry or private practice or non-profits. There's lots of great opportunities when you have that sort of degree, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

I'd like to ask all members to join me again in welcoming these incredible group of professionals to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to introduce through you and to all members of the Assembly, 39 fabulous students from the Humboldt Collegiate Institute in Humboldt. Accompanying them is their teachers, David Millette and David Rowe. And I don't know, sometime I'm going to have to ask Mr. Millette how often he has brought classes here because he is a frequent visitor here at the Assembly.

It's great to see them and I had a good visit with them earlier today. And I want everyone to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it's indeed my great pleasure to introduce one of the articling students here today, Ms. Desirée Steele. I've known Desirée for a long, long time in a much different context. Desirée is an amazing musician and plays the piano and the fiddle. She's accompanied her brother James, who's also a lawyer, for many, many years in fiddle contests.

And Desirée comes from an incredible family that is very generous in their community and with kind and loving hearts. And I think anyone who knows the Steele family would say that wholeheartedly. They're the most amazing family, and Desirée is definitely a product of that family. So I would like everyone to welcome Desirée Steele to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the members also and introduce one of the articling students who happens to be my second cousin, Dustin Link. Hi.

We don't usually see each other at these kind of formal events. We have a large family; Dustin's part of the Rancourt family. And we have a golf tournament every year and so oftentimes I

get to see Dustin there, if he's not travelling like the minister indicated that he's done some extensive travelling. We're very proud of him. And I believe you might be the first lawyer in our family, so that's exciting to hear. So that'll be wonderful to have. So I'm so happy to see Dustin here, and we're so incredibly proud of all your accomplishments. I'd ask that all the members welcome Dustin to his legislature.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce someone very special to me in your gallery, Mr. Grayson Beaudin who is my spouse, who has joined us here today.

We know that elections are not individual undertakings and they are family affairs, and this is very true in our situation. I don't think either of us knew that we were signing up for two elections over the span of a year and a half, but we've made it through. And Grayson was right there by my side pounding the pavement with me and knocking on doors. I think he ran into some of the members opposite in those settings as well.

But aside from being my number one door knocker, he is also a huge support person in all aspects of my life as well. I've thanked him many times in this Assembly but he's never been here to hear it. So I want to thank him for all of the support that he's provided, not just getting me here, but also supporting things from the home front while I'm away as well, which we know takes a significant toll.

Grayson is a 5/6 French immersion teacher, grade 5/6, from École Victoria School in Saskatoon. He's very dedicated to his students. He's involved in the Saskatoon Teachers' Association; he's a master's student at the same time. And he finds ways to have hobbies and be a handyman as well, a jack of all trades. And so I would ask all members to join me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 do 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 Regina and citizens of Moose Jaw. I do so submit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again

today to present petitions on behalf of concerned people, local businesses, and communities right across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party government's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, at a time where we need to be creating jobs and welcoming investment, Mr. Speaker.

We called on this government to reverse this when they brought it in. What the Sask Party government did is they saw a slowing economy and they slammed on the brakes, Mr. Speaker. And sadly what we see is permits down all across Saskatchewan, thousands of Saskatchewan tradespeople who have been put out of work, so many of those tradespeople that have been forced to move outside Saskatchewan in pursuit of employment, Mr. Speaker, and it's really hurting our economy.

We know that households have been hit hard by the PST and that's relating to our very flat economy, Mr. Speaker. The average household in fact is now paying over \$800 more per year in just over a four-year period, Mr. Speaker, a 70 per cent increase in PST, Mr. Speaker, for the average family.

So we continue to call on the government to do the right thing and to make construction exempt and provide some relief, from families that have been hit hard by the PST that they've imposed.

The petition reads as follows:

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising 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 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 land, homes, businesses, access, life's work, health, history, and their future. Land developers were paid up to 80 times more for their land than the long-term land, home, and business owners. The costs of the Regina bypass exploded from \$400 million to over \$2 billion, and Premier Brad Wall signed an order in council to pay \$21.1 million for land that was worth only \$312,000.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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

And the folks who have signed this petition today are from Regina, Maple Creek, Avonhurst, and Markinch. I so submit.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. 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 this province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that 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 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:

People would like us, in the prayer that reads as follows, to 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from the communities of Gravelbourg and Assiniboia. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the province to take real action to fight climate change. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada. They want to bring to our attention that the Saskatchewan Party government slashed programs and funding for the environment; that the Saskatchewan Party government has failed to tackle climate change; and that under the Saskatchewan Party government there has been a steady increase in payments under the provincial disaster assistance program, likely related to climate change.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners in the prayer:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the

environment.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition are from Estevan and Southey, and I so present.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud today to present a petition to increase the funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis. Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed these particular petitions wish to draw the following points to your attention: due to a lack of funding, Prince Albert mobile crisis unit has had to close its doors during daytime hours, resulting in a loss of resource to people in distress; the daytime closure of Prince Albert mobile has put stress on Prince Albert Police Service, Victoria Hospital, and other agencies who may not be trained and/or qualified to provide counselling and intervention services to clients; and, Mr. Speaker, with our high rates of suicide within the northern part of the province, the loss of daytime hours for the Prince Albert mobile crisis has been such a disappointment.

So the individuals who signed this want me to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to increase funding to Prince Albert mobile crisis unit so they may once again offer a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week emergency crisis service.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals that signed these petitions, a lot of them come from Prince Albert but many of them come from other communities in Saskatchewan because they're also concerned. And they come from the city of Saskatoon, Macdowall, and Shellbrook. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Prince Albert Raiders Win Eastern Conference Championship

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a long-time Prince Albert Raiders fan and season ticket holder, I'm ecstatic that yesterday they won the WHL [Western Hockey League] Eastern Conference Championship against the Edmonton Oil Kings and will go on to meet the Vancouver Giants in the best of seven in the WHL championship.

In addition to attending as many games as I can in Prince Albert, I was excited to have the opportunity to travel to Edmonton during the Easter break to watch two of the games the Raiders played there against the Oil Kings.

In true Prince Albert style, when the Raider bus rolled into our city around midnight last night, bands were on hand to greet the return of our champs. When it comes to showing our players our appreciation and support, not one fan minded the late hour. I know that I and all of Prince Albert will be cheering hard as the Raiders play the Giants. Raider fans have waited a long time to earn the eastern championship again. We will be cheering even

harder when the Raiders make it to the Memorial Cup championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members join me in congratulating the Prince Albert Raiders on winning the eastern conference and offer our best wishes as they face the Giants. As well, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the Edmonton Oil Kings on a great series. Go, Raiders, go!

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

Community Response to Wildfire in Biggar Area

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday April 22nd, the RM [rural municipality] of Biggar and the surrounding area were threatened by a large, out-of-control grass fire. The dry conditions and extreme high winds made the area and other parts of western Saskatchewan very susceptible to fire.

Mr. Speaker, the town declared a state of emergency and the Biggar hospital and long-term care home had to be evacuated. Precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all residents was never in jeopardy.

On behalf of the Minister of Health, the hon. member from Rosetown-Elrose, and myself, we wish to thank all of the hard-working firefighters and volunteers who risked everything to help their community. There are not enough words that can be used to express the amount of gratitude we have for each and every single person that shared this experience this past week.

[14:00]

Thank you to Ray Sadler, mayor of Biggar; Jeanne-Marie de Moissac, reeve of the RM of Biggar; Gerry Besse, Biggar fire chief; all of the countless volunteer firefighters from Biggar and the surrounding communities; as well as Duane McKay, provincial Fire Commissioner; and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency for stepping up and showing unparalleled leadership and bravery when the community needed it most.

To all the farmers, ranchers, contractors, Hutterite colonies, RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers, the pilots from the SEAT [single engine air tanker] program, and everyone from the community who offered help in any way they could, our most sincere thanks.

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

All Seniors Care Seniors Games Held in Regina

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, this year from February 4th to 8th, College Park I and II retirement residences held the 10th annual All Seniors Care Seniors Games. The Seniors Games are held at 30 All Seniors Care Living Centres retirement residences and provide the opportunity for thousands of older adults to participate in friendly competition.

The games consist of several events that put the seniors' physical and mental abilities to the test, including shuffleboard, billiards, bocce ball, kaiser, and cribbage. This year's theme celebrated the

joy of dance. This added not only an additional dimension of fun to the events, but resulted in a flash mob dance party during the opening ceremonies at College Park II. It was my pleasure to attend the opening and closing ceremonies and bring greetings along with members from Regina Walsh Acres and Regina Wascana Plains.

This year there were 32 gold medal winners. These medallists will be the first to tell you that the Seniors Games are never about winning medals, but the week of games and festivities are about exercise, participation and, most importantly, friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the gold medallists and all who participated this year, and thank you to those who organized this week of fun events. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thank you.

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

Battlefords North Stars Win Canalta Cup

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's indeed a delight for me to rise today to highlight the success of our local Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League team, The Battlefords North Stars.

The Stars have concluded a great season in this, the 50th year of the SJHL [Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League], by winning the Canalta Cup for the second time in the last three seasons. This playoff run was truly amazing, with wins against Flin Flon in seven games in round 1, a sweep of the Yorkton Terriers in four games in the semifinals. And the final series pitted the Stars against the Melfort Mustangs, and they wrapped that series up in five games.

A solid core of talented veterans and great energy from all members of this team, along with stellar goaltending, has propelled this team through three rounds of SJHL playoffs. And now it's on to the Anavet Cup against the Manitoba champions, the Portage Terriers. I know that all of the SJHL teams, and indeed our whole province, is pulling for our provincial champions to win.

The interprovincial series started in Portage last weekend with a split of the first two games. Now it's back home to North Battleford for games three, four, and five. And I know our fans are anxiously anticipating some great hockey, and our Civic Centre will be packed and it will be loud as we cheer on our team. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating our Battlefords North Stars. Go, Stars!

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

Shaunavon Hockey Legend Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm happy to announce that Shaunavon's own Hayley Wickenheiser will be inducted into the 2019 class of the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Hayley retired from hockey two years ago but her impact on the sport, both nationally and across the world, still remains strong. For many years in her career she impressed the

IIHF [International Ice Hockey Federation] as she represented Canada on many occasions, and is well respected for both her skills and her leadership.

She is the all-time leader in scoring at both the Olympics and the Women's Worlds, and won four Olympic golds during her time playing internationally. To add to her list of successes, she was named the most valuable player at both 2002 and 2006 Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, Hayley has been a dominant athlete since she was a young girl. Just at the age of 12 she was already playing at the U-18 [under 18]-level tournaments, not just as a benchwarmer but as a leading scorer and the MVP [most valuable player] for her team.

After she retired she made NHL [National Hockey League] history when the Toronto Maple Leafs hired her as their assistant director for player development.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hayley Wickenheiser on her introduction into the IIHF Hall of Fame, class of 2019.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Melfort Archery Team Has Strong Showing at Provincial Tournament

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to the Maude Burke archery team on a fantastic run in the school program provincial tournament this year.

In the new 3D [three-dimensional] shoot event, the team took gold with the score of 1,184. Individually in this event, Kaelen Dickson shot a 236, taking home the silver medal, and Raigen Nymann took the bronze. Raigen also went on to win first place in the target competition, winning a custom metallic red Mathews bow, a bow that you can only win and cannot buy, Mr. Speaker.

In the target competition, the team earned a silver provincial medal with a total score of 2,680. Some more winners of the weekend included Ashley Fedorychka winning the elementary girls' silver medal — pretty great for a new grade 4 archer, Mr. Speaker — as well as Dehlia Siwak placed seventh, and Abi Wiseman placed 11th. A special congratulations to the grade 6 students in the senior team who together earned the gold in their divisions.

Mr. Speaker, we have some great talent on this team. And I'd like to thank all the staff and coaches, guys like Randy Steciuk and Garrett Wehrkamp and Kelly Simpson, people who give their life and their time to help these kids achieve their goals athletically, Mr. Speaker.

And I now want to ask all members to please join me in congratulating the Maude Burke archers for another successful tournament this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

New Investment in Respiratory Health in Saskatchewan

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to

announce that the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, or SHRF as they call it, and the Lung Association of Saskatchewan are strengthening their partnership and commitment to health research with a \$1 million investment to address respiratory health in our province.

I was fortunate enough to bring greetings to an event which highlighted this new investment which will support respiratory health in all research areas. These areas include Indigenous peoples' health, respiratory disease control and management, patient-caregiver education, sleep apnea, and other lung health areas.

Mr. Speaker, this is a step toward delivering a future of better breathing for everyone here in Saskatchewan. Through education and research, SHRF and the Lung Association of Saskatchewan can work to turn knowledge into action. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the Lung Association for their long history of service, education, research, and advocacy to prevent lung disease and promote better health.

We know that this collaboration will be helpful to people living with respiratory disease and other conditions, as well as support the important, innovative projects that offer hope and better management of symptoms and improved health.

Mr. Speaker, I'd now ask all colleagues to join me in recognizing SHRF and the Lung Association of Saskatchewan for their dedication to this partnership. Together they are making Saskatchewan a healthier place to live. Thank you.

The Speaker: — All right. With that, question period.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Children in Care and Discussions With Indigenous Leaders

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of Social Services complained that First Nations leaders were at the table for a meeting with the federal government on child welfare. He called them "lobbyists" and dismissed the importance of having Indigenous leaders around the table to address the unacceptable number of children in care in Saskatchewan and then doubled down on his comments by repeating that Indigenous leaders should not be at the table when discussing child welfare.

Why did the minister call these elected leaders lobbyists, and how can he possibly justify excluding them from these essential conversations?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to say for the record, I have the utmost respect for the Indigenous culture, history, and the elected representatives at a local, provincial, and national level. Mr. Speaker, I was wrong to use the word "lobbyist" last week in my interview.

As I stated last week, Mr. Speaker, along with my provincial and

territorial colleagues, we were very glad to have discussions with the federal government and the national Indigenous organizations in the room to discuss Bill C-92 and other items. We had also requested a separate meeting with just the federal minister to discuss the current process such as timelines, current PT [provincial-territorial] agreements, funding. At the end of the day we were denied this meeting, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to update the House. This morning I was able to speak to Minister O'Regan and he has agreed that we should have a conference call with the federal, provincial, and territorials. He confirmed this with me this morning. Mr. Speaker, the NIOs [national Indigenous organization] have had their space to be able to work with the federal government to raise their concerns. It is very important, Mr. Speaker, that we as provincial and territorial organizations have our space to be able to discuss C-92. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, instead of trying to pick fights with elected leaders and trying to divide, the minister should be working to find common ground. What's the minister's plan to repair his relationship with Indigenous leaders, relationships that seem to be getting worse and worse with each passing day?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, as this House well knows, the provincial government is responsible for all children within its jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker, we take this responsibility very seriously. We want to make sure that this new bill that is coming out, C-92, enhances and does not detract from our current agreements that we have, Mr. Speaker. We have recently had an agreement with Saskatoon Tribal Council, Mr. Speaker, where we were able to renegotiate our partnership agreement, as well as other agreements, to be able to make sure that we are looking out for children in care, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to let the House know that those agreements are in place, and we continue to work with our Indigenous leaders to make sure that all of our children are safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, the bill is called *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. How on earth would it be appropriate to discuss a law like this without Indigenous voices at the table?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I outlined in my first . . . we did have that discussion with the national Indigenous organizations. We had two federal ministers in the room, as well as all the provincial and territorial ministers, to be able to have that.

We also had a presentation from Saskatoon Tribal Council on our partnership agreement, our First Contact, and also the Delegation

Agreement, where Saskatoon Tribal Council was very supportive of the way that this ministry and Social Services and our government, in general, was working with the children within the Saskatoon Tribal Council. We've had some early successes with that, Mr. Speaker, and we want to continue to build on that in the future with our local leaders as well as the national Indigenous organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, this is becoming a pattern from the Sask Party government. They called the leadership of the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] the night before the Sixties Scoop apology for an invite. They failed to deliver on any of the recommendations from the Sixties Scoop survivors. And now they're trying to sideline Indigenous leaders who should have a seat at the table when discussing a path towards child welfare.

How can we expect this Sask Party government to make any progress on child welfare when they've shown that their actions . . . that they have zero interest in working respectfully with Indigenous leaders to do so?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll point to our record. We have 18 delegation agreements. We just recently signed our new Delegation Agreement with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, as well as our First Contact. Chief Arcand, talked to me earlier this morning, Mr. Speaker, to be able to discuss that they have had some recent successes. They have, from the First Contact Panel, within 48 hours, Mr. Speaker, they were able to make sure that three children didn't come into care.

This is exactly what we're trying to do, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the prevention side is there. But if there is the circumstance where we do have to temporarily take a child into care, Mr. Speaker, we will backfill that with support for the parents as well as the child to make sure that the reunification can be very short, and we can make sure that that family has the best opportunity to be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — The Sask Party used to talk a good game when it came to fixing our broken child welfare system, but they've totally failed to deliver any meaningful change after more than a decade in power. Back in 2010 the Sask Party promised a comprehensive overhaul of our child welfare system, and there's been no action since. Now the federal government is looking to give more control to Indigenous governments, and this government is dragging its feet and refusing to work with Indigenous leaders.

Now let's talk about their record, Mr. Speaker. There's over 5,000 kids in the province in care today, and over 70 per cent of them are Indigenous. They can't afford to see any more delays. When will we see the needed overhaul of our child welfare system that's so badly overdue?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And directly to the question, that's why we have to have these conversations with our federal counterparts, to see what our local legislation here in Saskatchewan is going to be impacted by federal legislation, Mr. Speaker. There was some areas within that federal legislation that they're working on, some amendments, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that we are putting the child at the centre of this, Mr. Speaker.

We have also increased our funding, Mr. Speaker, to child and family protection officers and community-based organizations since 2007, Mr. Speaker, by 486 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with our children in care, but we also want to make sure that we're supporting the parents, we're supporting the persons of sufficient interest, and we're also supporting the foster families to make sure that that child has best opportunity to be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Children and families deserve so much better than they're getting from this government. We need to reduce the number of children in care today, and there's so much more the government could be doing for families. They could ensure parents have the mental health and addictions supports they need. They could increase the minimum wage to help strengthen vulnerable families. They could restore the rental housing supplement and increase the availability of safe, affordable housing. And they could deliver on their promised overhaul of our child welfare system.

Instead we've seen a decade of inaction while more and more kids have slipped through the cracks. When will the Sask Party get serious about reducing the number of kids in care?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, we are working with all of our community-based organizations and our community partners to make sure that no child comes into care. Mr. Speaker, that's we have our Positive Parenting programs, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that we get into those families and be able to help out before the child needs to come into the custody of Social Services. And even when that happens, Mr. Speaker, when we do have to temporarily take a child into custody, we always look at person of sufficient interest. We look at family members. We look at community. We look at people that are very close to that individual so they can maintain their connection with their family, with their culture, and with their community, Mr. Speaker.

We are working continuously on this. The children that actually are in care in the custody of Social Services, Mr. Speaker, is going down. The children that are with persons of sufficient interest and with family members, where we as well as community members feel that is best for them, is holding solid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Access to Mifegymiso

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we spent a lot of time asking the Minister of Rural and Remote Health to clarify his position on fully funding Mifegymiso, but we have yet to get a real response. As he and the Minister of Health play hot potato with this important decision, real people are being impacted by the delay.

Many pharmacies across Saskatchewan are not stocking Mifegymiso, and this is because it isn't universally covered. Wendy Norman, a professor of Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, a family planning researcher, said, "Pharmacies are unlikely to stock a pricey medication with low demand because it's not available for free."

Will the minister commit to fully funding Mifegymiso, or will he leave people across the province without access?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the news story that the opposition member is referring to speaks about the accessibility of Mifegymiso because in many instances across the province, Mr. Speaker, it's not available on the shelf of pharmacies.

But, Mr. Speaker, that simply doesn't mean that it's not accessible. Mr. Speaker, in many pharmacies in rural Saskatchewan, remote areas of the province, pharmacists order pharmaceuticals on an as-needed basis when it's not ones that are frequently used, Mr. Speaker. In many cases and most cases, I believe, Mr. Speaker, it's couriered there the next day. Mr. Speaker, I've had a number of pharmacists tell me that, Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Mifegymiso, which we've discussed many, many times in this House, Mr. Speaker.

As I've told the member opposite and all members of this Assembly, it's currently under review from the ministry. When they're done, we'll have a discussion about it. We'll decide whether or not it'll be universally funded, Mr. Speaker. That should be done in the next number of weeks.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about that story. Stephanie Taylor of the Canadian Press contacted 83 community pharmacies across Saskatchewan in cities and in rural Saskatchewan. Seventy-nine reported that they did not have it on their shelves. Only four pharmacies reported carrying this important drug, a drug that is less costly than surgical abortions and more accessible for rural and remote residents. This is medicine that's safe and that should be accessible everywhere.

Wendy Norman clarified the link between fully covering Mifegymiso and its availability: "When it's not a business decision, when people can afford the medication, pharmacists stock it."

With the evidence piling up, will the minister stop stalling and

commit to fully funding Mifegymiso today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we're certainly not stalling, as the member opposite called it. Mr. Speaker, we are having ministry officials do a review that should be done in due course. We'll re-evaluate it at that time, Mr. Speaker.

Again as I mentioned, this isn't just about Mifegymiso, Mr. Speaker. It's very common for many pharmaceuticals to not be stocked on the shelves. Pharmaceuticals tend to have an expiry date. The pharmacist, if they're ordering them in and it expires, there's obviously a loss of revenue there, Mr. Speaker.

It's not just Mifegymiso. I know examples in my own family with a biologic that's not frequently prescribed, Mr. Speaker. It's not available in the pharmacy in my home community of Rosetown, but they'll order it in and it's available the next day. It would be the same with Mifegymiso, Mr. Speaker. It's the same with universally covered drugs, the drugs that we use for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] coverage, Mr. Speaker. In many instances pharmacies don't have those available on the shelf. They order them in on an as-needed basis. It's part of the whole spectrum of pharmaceuticals that are available, Mr. Speaker. Pharmacists often do this.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, it's been nearly four years since Health Canada approved Mifegymiso, and now women in rural areas are waiting longer for access. If the evidence, the experts, and common sense aren't enough to convince this government to fully cover Mifegymiso, maybe the words of someone who's used it will. Lise from Saskatoon has said in a Canadian Press story that if the drug was not covered by her insurance plan, she wouldn't have been able to afford Mifegymiso at all: "I'm not in a financial position where I can just whip out \$400."

Lise is not alone. When 56 per cent of Saskatchewan people say they are \$200 or less away from financial insolvency at the end of the month, there's simply no debating that cost is a barrier for accessing this drug. And because of the government's refusal to fully cover Mifegymiso, more people like Lise are left with no good option.

Once again, will the minister commit to fully funding Mifegymiso? And if not, what does he have to say to people like Lise who need to access it but wouldn't qualify for emergency assistance?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, to specifically answer that question, Mr. Speaker, again as I've said many times in this House, there's an emergency assistance plan in place for people who don't have the financial wherewithal to cover their pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Speaker, we're not delaying this decision. Mr. Speaker, as I've told the members opposite, we're doing the review. The ministry is doing the review. When they provide the information,

Mr. Speaker, I'll have the discussion with cabinet. Mr. Speaker, we'll make that decision going forward.

Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in the last number of weeks as we've discussed this many times, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have been criticizing the Minister of Rural and Remote Health that somehow he's causing an obstacle and he's not allowing proper process to be followed, which is not the case, Mr. Speaker. But now in this case again, they say don't follow proper process; just simply cover it because we say so. Mr. Speaker, we're going to do neither of those things. The ministry is going to complete their review. They're going to provide the information. I'm going to have the discussion, Mr. Speaker, and we'll make that decision in due course.

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

Trade Dispute and Supports for Agricultural Producers

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, across the province producers are having to make some tough choices as they prepare for seeding. Canola producers who are already impacted by the trade dispute with China have been watching prices collapse and they're anticipating yet another squeeze on tight margins. We support the calls to ramp up diplomatic and scientific effort, but those efforts could take months, if not years, Mr. Speaker, and farmers can't wait that long.

Last week APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] called for short-term support from the province and from the feds. They want Saskatchewan Crop Insurance to step up and provide additional staff support. They want to see AgriStability coverage enhanced. They want to see 2019 enrolment fees scrapped and they want an option for interim payments. Will the minister commit to offering this support today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this obviously is a very serious issue for the agricultural community here in the province of Saskatchewan. We met with the federal ministers at the end of March in Saskatoon. We put a proposal on the table that we thought was very doable as far as the federal government acting on it. We are still waiting patiently for that, for that answer and that response from them. I do have a call with the federal minister tomorrow to have a discussion about this, Mr. Speaker.

It is a very serious problem. We know there's farmers out there with cash-flow problems, and that's why we put the cash advance proposal to the federal government, interest free to the farmers. It's a good proposal. It's a good perspective. And we'd hope that the federal government will act on it very soon.

He's right, Mr. Speaker. This is long overdue. This problem should have been solved and our proposal should have been acted on a lot sooner, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That sounds like a lot more talk but not a lot of action. Mr. Speaker, if this

government wants to actually stand up for Saskatchewan, it takes more than pointing fingers at Ottawa. It takes more than talk. It takes actually stepping up to help producers with actual measures.

Today it's been reported that Canadian pork, soybeans, and peas have been held up now in Chinese ports. This trade war with China is escalating and the dispute could be devastating to Saskatchewan exporters. And there's no end in sight; in the Premier's own words, producers are running out of time.

So my question to the minister: what is the strategy to address this crisis? What's the minister doing besides talking? What will the province be doing to support impacted producers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, this is a very serious issue for the producers here in the province of Saskatchewan agriculture with the issues we're having with China. We've offered full support to the federal government. We've offered to be part of a technical team to get over to China and have a discussion with them. We are still waiting for an answer from China to see whether a technical team will be allowed to go over there, Mr. Speaker. There's the other side of this thing, and it's, is China letting us in to have that discussion with them, Mr. Speaker? And that's the problem we're dealing right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Seed Royalty System

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeding is a very uncertain time of year for farmers. And while we're on the topic of farm margins getting squeezed on top of the impacts of carbon pricing, inclement weather, and trade disputes, there's a proposal now by the federal government to change the seed regulations that would enable big seed companies to collect additional royalties on seed grown and saved by farmers. Producers have already signalled that they strongly opposed these proposals . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, producers have already signalled that they strongly oppose these proposals by the federal government, but we're still waiting to hear what the province's position is. The last time I asked the minister, he hadn't made up his mind, even though Saskatchewan farmers still have. Will the Saskatchewan Party government be standing with APAS, Sask Wheat, SaskBarley Development Commission, prairie oats, and the National Farmers Union — all of whom do not want to see these proposed changes go ahead?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to hear the member opposite say that farmers are impacted by a carbon tax. He's right, they're impacted by a carbon tax hugely, Mr. Speaker, and it's not just the exemption on fuel.

There'll be a carbon tax on every nut, bolt, and washer that they purchase on their farm, Mr. Speaker. We already know that trucking costs are going up, Mr. Speaker. There's all kinds of challenges around the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

In his question on the seed thing, Mr. Speaker, we know the federal government is going to do another round of consultation, Mr. Speaker. They haven't announced when they're going to do that. We will meet with industry leaders after that second round of consultation is put forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the online consultations that the minister refers to were supposed to begin in March. They've now been pushed back till June, and despite months of consultations, farmers are wondering why this provincial government is silent.

[14:30]

Farmers need this provincial government's help in opposing these changes. Farmers and farm groups have been clear about what they want. They want the right to grow and save their own seed. They don't want additional royalties charged when the crop is sold. They do want guarantees that the research that they pay for be controlled and directed by farmers.

Does the government support the right of farmers to save and use their own seed? Does the government oppose trailing royalties on farmer-saved seed? And will this government guarantee that farmers will control and direct the seed research that they pay through check-offs and royalties? What's this government's position?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said in this Assembly before and I'll say it again, we will consult with the industry when the consultation process is under way again by the federal government. It might not be either one of the two recommendations that have been put forward by the federal government. It might be a third recommendation that'll come from the industry, Mr. Speaker.

We will, unlike the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, we will consult with industry. We will have that meeting with them and we will come forward with a recommendation . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. The minister can finish his answer.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will consult with the industry leaders when we bring them to the table. We'll have that discussion, and we will put forward a recommendation based on the impact that those industries have made to us as a government, Mr. Speaker. We will listen to the industry here in the province, unlike the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, I always think it's telling when

you ask a simple answer and you don't get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, the question for the minister, just to refresh his memory: does the government support the right of farmers to save and use their own seed? Does the government oppose trailing royalties and farmer-saved seed? And will this government guarantee that farmers will control and direct the seed research that they pay through check-offs and royalties?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — As I've said before and I will continue to say it again, Mr. Speaker, we are going to consult with the industry leaders, with the farm organizations here in the province of Saskatchewan when that second round of federal consultation starts. We don't know when it's going to start. We know it's been postponed again until June. It could be postponed even later than that, Mr. Speaker.

Once that second round of consultations will . . . I've met with many industry organizations here in the province and I've assured them that, Mr. Speaker, that when we see those recommendations coming out we will get together as farm organizations and the provincial government and we will take a recommendation to the federal government at that time. But we will be consulting with industry leaders, unlike the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, farmers have already been consulted with this. They were consulted in December. They were consulted in January. They were consulted in February. Mr. Speaker, the provincial government was at those meetings. Mr. Speaker, the minister says he's been at those meetings.

The question is simple, Mr. Speaker. Does the government support the right of farmers to save and use their own seed? Does the government oppose trailing royalties on farmer-saved seed? And will this government guarantee that farmers will get to control and direct the seed research that they pay through check-offs and royalties?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting day where the opposition has raised a number of important topics, Mr. Speaker, with respect to seed royalties. As the minister has said time and time again in this House, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue to work with the agricultural organizations across this province to ensure that we are moving forward and standing up for the great agriculture industry that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue in exactly the same way working with those agricultural organizations on the seed royalty system as we move forward, as we have on the trade file, the ever-so-important trade file here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And we'll continue to stand up, not only with our agriculture industry when it comes to engaging with China, of which we have put proposals forward to the federal government, and we have asked them to respond, Mr.

Speaker.

What we have not seen is any proposed solution from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. In the same way, when it comes to Bill C-69, we see proposals being put forward by this government, Mr. Speaker. Nothing from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to Bill C-48, we'll see the Minister of Energy and Resources testifying on that bill, Mr. Speaker.

And when it comes to a federally imposed carbon tax on the hard-working families of this province, Mr. Speaker, we see this government standing with the people of the province, Mr. Speaker, contrary to the member from Regina Northeast who thinks, and I quote, "People don't vote using their heads." Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we most certainly think they do.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 77 through 84.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 77 through 84. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved that the 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 14:37.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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

Hon. 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