



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

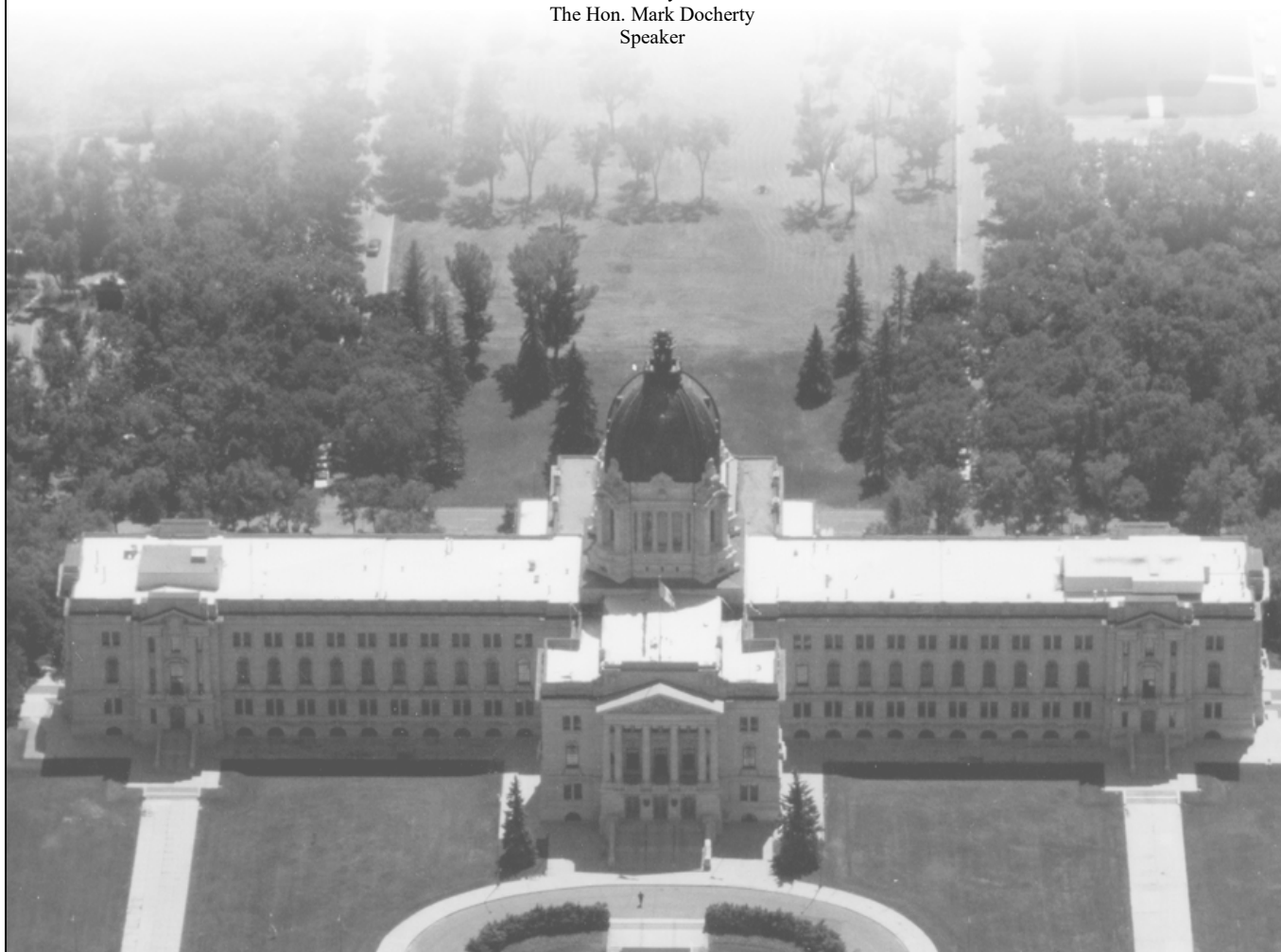
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Mark Docherty  
Speaker



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

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

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

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery I'm very pleased to introduce 47 grade 7 and 8 students from St. Angela School in Saskatoon from the great constituency of Saskatoon Northwest, Mr. Speaker. Accompanying them, Mr. Speaker, are their teachers, Olya Kowaluk, Dylan Boehm, and Augustine Shewchuk. Mr. Speaker, there are some parent chaperones that are with us as well today: Michele Bossear, Jackie Gray, and Donna Abraham, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to meeting with the students after question period, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure they're going to enjoy the activities on the floor of the legislature today, and I'm looking forward to answering their questions after question period, Mr. Speaker. So I'd ask all members of the legislature to welcome these fine students and their parents and their chaperones and their teachers to our Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for extended introductions.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave for extended introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much. This morning, Mr. Speaker, we have two important sectors within our province here today, the French community and the publishing community. I notice in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Mr. Denis Simard, president of the ACF [l'Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise]. And as well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce in the gallery today, Laurier Gareau, Martine Noël-Maw, Judith Silverthorne, and Heather Nickel.

They all had a hand in Saskatchewan's French publishing house, la nouvelle plume, signing their first agreement for international sales. This achievement comes on the 35th anniversary of la nouvelle plume. A German publisher, Mr. Speaker, recently bought the translation rights for *Hommage au bison*, originally published as *Honouring the Buffalo: A Plains Cree Legend*.

Mr. Gareau is currently the president of la nouvelle plume. He was recently awarded the Order of Canada for his contribution to the promotion and development of Fransaskois culture and heritage.

Martine is an author of many books and a number of short historical plays for adults and youth, as well as an editor and translator, and has earned many honours including two Saskatchewan Books Awards. In October of 2018 Martine represented la nouvelle plume at the Frankfurt Book Fair thanks to funding provided by Creative Saskatchewan.

Judith Silverthorne has a long resumé as an art curator, explorer, television producer, writer, researcher, and consultant who has written several books. And Heather Nickel is owner and operator of Your Nickel's Worth Publishing and is the original publisher of *Honouring the Buffalo*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members, please join me in congratulating these authors for their contributions to the international success of *Hommage au bison* and all their work in advocating and work in the French language sector, and as well obviously the publishing area as well that's so important to our economy, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to help me welcome this group here to their legislature today.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Merci beaucoup, monsieur le Président. Je voudrais dire des mots en français pour les deux groupes qui sont ici aujourd'hui, et je m'excuse pour mes fautes de grammaire.

Alors bienvenue à l'ACF, un groupe très important pour la préservation de français dans notre province, et tout le travail que vous faites. Et aussi je voudrais dire bienvenue et félicitations des auteurs et la maison de publication des livres en français et leur succès international. C'est très bien pour notre province et aussi pour la langue française en Saskatchewan. Alors je voudrais dire bonjour et bienvenue à tous et toutes dans votre maison de législature.

[Translation: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say some words in French for the two groups who are here today, and I apologize for my grammatical errors.]

So welcome to the ACF, a group that is very important to the preservation of French in our province, and all the work that you do. And also I would like to say welcome and congratulations to the authors and the French publishing house and their international success. It's very good for our province and also for the French language in Saskatchewan. So I would like to say hello and welcome to all of you to your Legislative Assembly.]

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you, through you to all the members of this Assembly, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Cheryl Ginter. Cheryl Ginter is sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. She is the store manager of Lowe's in south Regina since that store opened in my constituency of Regina Pasqua. Mr. Speaker, last month at the Paragon Awards, Cheryl and her team were recognized for nurturing a culture that encourages diversity in the workplace. Mr. Speaker, their commitment to positive attitudes, openness, and acceptance aligns with our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength."

I ask all the members to please join me in congratulating Lowe's South Regina on receiving this award, and welcoming Cheryl to her Legislative Assembly today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome Cheryl here as well and recognize her leadership and the entire team at Lowe's South Regina. Certainly receiving a Paragon Award is a real accomplishment, so best wishes, congratulations, and thanks for the leadership in our business community. Recently I had an issue with the new door handle that I had purchased from Lowe's, Mr. Speaker. I went to the north location. They were decent but not real helpful so I went to the south one and I got it solved, Mr. Speaker. So anyways I want to thank Cheryl and her entire team for all they do within our local economy, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Kaeding:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and all members of the Legislative Assembly, seated in your gallery, I'd like to introduce Duane McKay who is one of our assistant deputy ministers and also the provincial fire commissioner. Duane is the name and the face, the person behind the great implementation of our provincial emergency preparedness, but he's also the main force behind all of the coordinated responses to the incidents and emergencies that we seem to face yearly in this province. And I'd like to thank him for his contributions to keeping our citizens and our province safe, and also to thank Duane for his service and welcome Duane to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to join with the minister and welcome Fire Commissioner Duane McKay to his Assembly. He's an exceptional leader within our province, Mr. Speaker, and organizes an incredible group of public servants and volunteers and local organizations that step up at a time we need it most. We saw recently, of course, with the Biggar grass fires, Mr. Speaker.

And in a province with extreme weather by way of . . . whether it's wind or water or all the fire risk or, you know, resulting from drought as well, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of risks within the province. And it's the leadership of Duane McKay and all those that he works with in coordinating that response, Mr. Speaker, that gives all of us peace of mind across Saskatchewan. So on behalf of the official opposition, we say thank you to Fire Commissioner Duane McKay.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer as follows:

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 of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from North Battleford, Battleford, Lloydminster, Wilkie, Arelee, Saskatoon, Cando, and Regina. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present a petition opposing the Sask Party government's 2017 cuts to spiritual care which continue to hurt folks, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners point out that spiritual care helps patients and residents in long-term care and their families toward achieving holistic wellness, and that Saskatchewan is the only province within Canada to not fund the support for its citizens.

They point out that spiritual care provides a compassionate listening presence in times of crisis and the ability to respond to the spiritual and emotional needs of patients and residents. They point out that spiritual care supports families and patients and residents in making difficult decisions. They point out as well that spiritual care meets the needs of traditional First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people; as well that professional, non-denominational, non-faith-specific spiritual care practitioners facilitate patients and residents in obtaining comfort and support from within their own faith traditions as well as those without a faith tradition, Mr. Speaker.

They also point out that local clergy and volunteers are only able to minister to patients and residents from their own congregations or denominations, and that without professional, non-denominational, non-faith-specific spiritual care practitioners, some patients and residents have no one to meet their spiritual care needs, 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 reinstate funding and support for spiritual care programs in this province's health care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition today is signed by citizens from Warman, Osler, Coronach, Gravelbourg, and Saskatoon, to name a few. I so present.

**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, businesses, and communities all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour. Of course this was part of what represented the biggest tax increase in Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Speaker, coming shortly after an election where they

promised there would be no tax increases to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And the tax on construction labour really is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, and the results, sadly, speak for themselves. Permits are down all across Saskatchewan. Important projects have been shelved. Thousands of hard-working tradespeople have lost their livelihoods, have lost their employment, Mr. Speaker, and so many of those have been forced far out of Saskatchewan in the pursuit of employment. This is certainly a real hit on them, but it's a real hit on our province and hurts our economy.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Regina and Zehner. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on the Regina bypass project.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Saskatchewan who have written this petition would like to bring to our attention the following: very few details about the Regina bypass project are publicly available, despite it being the costliest infrastructure project funded by taxpayers in the province's history; ministry officials identified and documented thousands of deficiencies in the project that were in an email and in particular some of those deficiencies were identified as "major," Mr. Speaker; and the ministry in the Assembly, the previous minister of Highways, referred to the breach of an aquifer in Wascana Creek as an example of one of those "major deficiencies." However, our current Minister of Highways has always said there are no major deficiencies on this bypass. And, Mr. Speaker, she's really just hiding behind the fact that the minor deficiencies were completely listed and some of them were identified as major deficiencies.

Saskatchewan people are going to be paying for this piece of infrastructure for the next 30 years, and instead of . . . In the interests of government transparency, which we talk about a lot in this House these days, Mr. Speaker, these contradictory statements require immediate clarification.

[10:15]

And for those that are anxious, I would like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately release a full, unredacted copy of records detailing all minor deficiencies identified in the Regina bypass project to date.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today are from the city of Regina. I so submit.

**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.

[Applause]

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, 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, and, Mr. Speaker, even those living outside Saskatchewan, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties; and we know 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 out of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan politics should belong to Saskatchewan people. And we know that the federal government, 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.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition today come from Assiniboia and Maple Creek. 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 present a petition calling on the government to reverse the cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan cut the budget for the Aboriginal court worker program in the 2016-2017 provincial budget. Those on this side of the House know that Aboriginal court workers play an important role in helping Indigenous people in criminal and child apprehension cases, that Indigenous peoples are disproportionately represented in Saskatchewan's correctional centres, and Aboriginal court workers successfully help to make our communities safer through reduced recidivism rates.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan reverse its short-sighted and counterproductive cuts to the Aboriginal court worker program.

Mr. Speaker, despite this cut being made in 2016, the government has yet to reinstate the funding, which has resulted in significant

delays and undue problems within our justice system, in particular in our rural and remote court locations, Mr. Speaker. This is a problem for our justice system. It's creating more problems as a result, resulting in higher costs than what reinstating this cut would actually do, Mr. Speaker.

The individuals who've signed this petition — and I have pages and pages of this petition — come from many locations in the province, some of which include Warman, White City, Saskatoon, and Regina. 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 from some of the students who gathered on the steps of our legislature a few weeks ago to strike their attendance in school to draw attention to climate change and their call for action for us to take real action to fight climate change.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners want to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada. Mr. Speaker, they want to bring to our attention that this government has failed to tackle climate change. They've failed to reduce emissions, and they've failed to put in place a real plan to protect our environment.

Mr. Speaker, they want to draw to our attention that this government slashed programs and funding for the environment and put our province on a backwards course. Mr. Speaker, they want to bring to our attention that under this government's tenure, payments under the provincial disaster assistance program, as a direct result of climate change, have increased more than 100 times since the early 2000s.

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, by helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, the students signing this petition are from this city of Regina, and I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Air Tankers Help to Battle Blaze

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the southern part of the province was threatened by a wildfire. With dry conditions and the high winds, it was inevitable something would spark up. Fortunately the blaze was contained because in part of the hard-working firefighters on the ground and the pilots that took to the sky.

Mr. Speaker, the fire officials in Biggar decided to utilize an agricultural aircraft to help battle the blaze from above. We have

many professional aerial applicators in this province that fly to exacting standards, and all the aircraft have tanks used to carry crop-care products. These aircraft also have dump doors that when necessary can be used to fight fires.

That is why our government introduced the SEAT [single engine air tanker] program. The single engine aircraft tanker program currently enables two Transport Canada approved operators, Provincial Airways and Accumark Airspray, to battle wild land fires using water, foam, or a mixture of both. Our government led the way to properly train the pilots by retaining an instructor with extensive experience in training SEAT pilots to assist with situations like the one in Biggar.

Mr. Speaker, the SEAT program is just one of the many innovative solutions this government has created for the people of Saskatchewan, something that would never have taken flight under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Yom HaShoah

**Mr. McCall:** — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Hebrew.]

From sundown last night to sundown tonight, we have come to Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day. Yom HaShoah provides an opportunity to reflect on the catastrophic atrocities of the Holocaust and to remember the victims and to remember the countless acts of heroism that took place during the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember those impacted by the Holocaust, we must commit to never let history repeat itself. And in these days, Mr. Speaker, and in this place, it's with significant alarm that we note the rise of anti-Semitic acts in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They have jumped by 142 per cent year over year, Mr. Speaker. That's terrifying. And with the events of last year with shootings and murders in synagogues here in North America, we must recommit ourselves to stand against hate, to work for tikkun olam, the healing and repairing of this fractured world.

And as we witness further acts of murder and terrorism targeting places of worship, Mr. Speaker, with heinous acts occurring in churches, in mosques, as leaders we all have a responsibility to stand up for, to fight for, to work for a Saskatchewan that is welcoming to all people, a Saskatchewan that draws its strength from many people.

I ask that all members join me in observing Yom HaShoah and in remembering and honouring those who perished in the Holocaust. Shalom Alechem.

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

#### People of Moose Jaw Support Health Foundation

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was announced that as of last month the Moose Jaw Health Foundation has officially received \$2.5 million in donations from the people of

our city over the past few years.

Mr. Speaker, Health Foundation board Chair James Murdock was quoted saying, “It just goes to show you that Moose Jaw truly does have the best donors around. And time and time again, they provide.” I couldn’t agree with him more, Mr. Speaker, and I couldn’t be any prouder of my community’s efforts over the years to provide the very needed funds for this foundation.

Mr. Speaker, the funds that have been raised over the years are going to high-quality equipment and special services, providing our community and the rest of Saskatchewan with the quality of care that they deserve. Funds have been raised through unique efforts like the Festival of Trees, to the Little Princess Ball. And, Mr. Speaker, the 13th annual CHAB Family First Radiothon started today, and organizers are hoping to raise \$150,000 over 36 hours for new equipment in the new lithotripsy unit and anesthetic machines for the operating rooms.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask members to join me in thanking the good people of Moose Jaw and surrounding areas for their support of the Moose Jaw Hospital foundation. Thank you.

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

#### Victoria Hospital Foundation Doctor’s Gala

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 6th I had the pleasure of attending the Victoria Hospital Foundation’s 4th Annual Doctor’s Gala. This year the gala honoured Dr. Stan Oleksinski for his contributions to Prince Albert and to our medical community. The money raised from the gala will go towards the purchase of new equipment for Victoria Hospital.

Dr. Oleksinski moved to Prince Albert in 1985. He had just graduated and was beginning his career as a doctor. He has spent the past 34 years dedicating himself to his patients and his colleagues. Dr. Oleksinski served as the president of Prince Albert medical association and the Saskatchewan Medical Association.

Dr. Oleksinski is also well known in the sports community, a fact he eluded to in his acceptance speech. He said that the only way the year could improve after being honoured in this manner would be for the Prince Albert Raiders to win the Memorial Cup and the Saskatchewan Riders to win the Grey Cup, sentiments shared by many in Prince Albert, including me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the Victoria Hospital Foundation staff and board members on another successful event and in congratulating Dr. Stan Oleksinski on being this year’s gala honouree. Thank you.

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

#### Beyond the Classroom Helps Protect Children

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last month I attended an event at the Plainsview School called Beyond the Classroom. The program was designed for parents to learn more about their children’s safety, the internet child exploitation unit, and digital awareness.

Constable Cory Patterson from the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and Constable Froh from the Regina Police Service delivered a very powerful message on digital awareness and how to keep your children safe online. They shared tips on how to know when your child may be monitored by a stranger through different apps or websites, and what to do when it happens. The ICE [internet child exploitation] unit, Mr. Speaker, is a program that targets people who are creating or sharing dark images of children online, or that try and lure children over the internet.

Our government provides 1.7 million for seven ICE police positions within the municipal police service across Saskatchewan, as well as additional funding for four RCMP positions, and we thank them and Constable Froh and Constable Patterson for their efforts to combat this issue.

I am thankful for the speakers from Beyond the Classroom, as they delivered a very powerful message to all parents in attendance. I also encourage every person in this House, whether they be a parent or not, to get informed and learn more on how we can better protect our youth from internet exploitation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Speech and Hearing Awareness Month

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, May is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month, and fittingly our government announced yesterday that the universal newborn hearing screening program will be expanding. Newborn babies will now be screened for early signs of hearing loss in all 18 Saskatchewan hospitals that regularly deliver babies.

Communities that offer newborn hearing screening now include Estevan, Fort Qu’Appelle, Humboldt, Kindersley, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Nipawin, North Battleford, Regina, Rosetown, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Yorkton, and Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, our government’s investment in the universal newborn hearing screening program will ensure that children born in Saskatchewan with hearing loss are identified early. This is crucial in eliminating linguistic delays and will help us ensure that proper supports are in place to help those children succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I’d also like to acknowledge the Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services for the work they continue to do on this initiative and all the work they do for the deaf and hard of hearing community. I now ask that all members please join me in recognizing May as Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Habitat for Humanity Build in Saskatoon

**Mr. Tochor:** — Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to rise in the House to talk about a new Habitat for Humanity build that is under way in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, in partnership with the Government of Canada, we are pleased to contribute \$130,000 to support the

build through the Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement. We also contributed \$123,000 from the provincial Summit Action Fund, totalling \$253,000.

[10:30]

Our government believes in standing with the people of Saskatchewan, which includes strengthening the efforts of Saskatchewan families to purchase affordable homes to live and build their dreams in. That is why since 2009 we have dedicated almost \$11 million in funding support to 14 Saskatchewan communities Habitat has impacted across the province.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Saskatchewan government, I congratulate the Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers and partners for creating more housing options for Saskatchewan families. This build and other Habitat projects is continuing to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live, work, and raise a family.

We are proud to support Habitat's efforts to lift families up and change your lives through home ownership. Mr. Speaker, our province's strength is found in the compassion and generosity of its people. This is certainly true with the Habitat for Humanity and their many partners. Thank you.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Funding for Education

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, as we speak, school divisions are planning and setting their budgets for the next year. These divisions do their best to manage their budgets and deliver for students, but this government hasn't made that easy.

The minister has stated that he doesn't want to see school closures in our province, but he hasn't been nearly as clear about teachers losing their jobs. Can the minister guarantee that there won't be any job losses as a result of the shortfalls that he is forcing onto school divisions through underfunding?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, I'll reiterate for the House as I've done on many occasions: this is the largest education operating budget in the history of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I'd point out to the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, that there's 900 new teachers in Saskatchewan serving the diverse needs of the children in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned before, not only our record education budget, but we're having many conversations with school divisions about how we can better serve children in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker. We have great respect for the teachers in this province, Mr. Speaker. School divisions are responsible for their own budgets, Mr. Speaker.

And as I've said before, with our record investments in public education and our continued conversations with how we can better support children in classrooms, Mr. Speaker, the record of

this government stands on its own, Mr. Speaker, not just with respect to operating but with respect to capital investments. We'll continue to have those conversations. We'll continue to advocate for this sector, Mr. Speaker, as we go through our budget development process in the upcoming year.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well that his government holds the purse strings, and what has been provided to school divisions has been inadequate for years. We know that there are more students in our classrooms and we know that there are more students with complex needs. With more than 70 schools in this province over capacity, the strain on our classrooms has never been more obvious. Teachers are under stress and our education system is simply at a breaking point. Students need more from this government, not less, and sooner, not later. When will this government finally get the message and make education the priority that it needs to be today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear. Mr. Speaker, in last year's budget, \$30 million added to the operating formula, Mr. Speaker. This year, Mr. Speaker, a continued increase, \$26.2 million that's been added, Mr. Speaker. So a total of over \$55 million over the last couple of years into public education, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, we continue to make these commitments, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to have conversations with school divisions to make sure that school divisions have the resources that they need to be able to provide the services to the classroom. Mr. Speaker, as I go out and talk to teachers and talk to school divisions, Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of some of the complex needs that are in our classrooms. And it's our aim as a government, Mr. Speaker, and through the Ministry of Education to address those needs. And we're going to continue to have those conversations.

I said on the floor of this House on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, that we have half a million dollars in this year's budget to talk precisely about innovation, to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we can continue to deliver the high-quality services in our classrooms and find new methods. New processes to ensure that we're meeting the needs of not only other children in our classrooms but those with complex needs, because we've heard those stories, Mr. Speaker. We're well aware of them.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, if school divisions could pay their bills with conversations, they'd be set. But they can't . . . [inaudible] . . . Both rural and urban school divisions have already raised concerns about underfunding in our classrooms. Many divisions now have to dip into their reserves just to cover operations. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, this can't go on forever, but what other choice has this government given school divisions? My question to the minister is this: will he finally restore fully the money that this government snatched away from classrooms over the last three years and fund for the growth that we see in



classrooms today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, over \$56 million has been added to the operating budget for school divisions over the last two years, Mr. Speaker. We continue to have dialogue with school divisions, Mr. Speaker, but as I mentioned before, as we move forward to have conversations around innovation as to how we deliver educational services in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, as to how we fund education in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, we're fully committed to having these conversations to make sure that we're doing the right thing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has always asked, and she always asks about adding more resources, Mr. Speaker. Well I would ask her this: in the context of a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker, we've done a pretty good job with respect to funding public education, not only on the operating side, Mr. Speaker, but on the capital side. And if you look at the record that the New Democrats had when they were on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, our record stands by itself, Mr. Speaker. So we're continuing to commit to properly funding public education and continue to have conversations on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, in terms of how we can do better, how we can move forward with these conversations with school divisions.

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

#### Equalization Agreement With Federal Government

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the other day the Finance minister talked about the cost of a court case as the latest excuse to justify the Sask Party's retreat on equalization. That's pretty rich. When we asked how much the fight against workers' rights that went to the Supreme Court cost, they told us there was no cost because the lawyers that work for . . . they work for government whether they're going to court or not. This is just another excuse to justify the fact that they're really not very interested in getting a better deal for Saskatchewan, just distracting from their record — a record of caving on this important front. Why won't the Sask Party drop the charade on equalization and actually do something meaningful and take this case for fairness to the courts?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, this is vintage NDP. If they don't know what to do, pass a law or go to court, one or the other. Well, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of other things you can do. You can negotiate. You can work through. And you can legislate where it is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, the members will make a lot of noise from their seats. But, Mr. Speaker, we're going to work through and we're going to resolve things. The situation with equalization in our country right now is absolutely unacceptable. We've proposed an alternative. We are expecting the federal government to look carefully at that one, and we're not right at this point in time looking at legislation or taking it on or off the table, Mr. Speaker. It's a process we're going to go through, and we're going to look very carefully at it. And we're expecting the federal government, as they are on the eve of an election, to sit down and to come up

with some realistic alternatives that help not just the citizens of Saskatchewan but the citizens throughout Canada, Mr. Speaker.

The members opposite don't like that idea because they don't like anybody else having credit for anything. Mr. Speaker, we'd like to give the federal government credit for doing the right thing.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it wasn't long ago that the member for Meadow Lake was standing up in the House of Commons talking about equalization. I quote:

Anyone in the chamber and anyone watching at home has to realize that the equalization formula is not treating Saskatchewan fairly. millions and millions of dollars are being taken from the pockets of Saskatchewan taxpayers . . .

He went on:

. . . every elected official in Saskatchewan is on the same page on this issue, everyone except one. That one is the Minister of Finance . . .

Well at least that MP [Member of Parliament] has been consistent in his position. It's the member from Meadow Lake and that Sask Party government that has flip-flopped and caved and sold out on this front. They're the ones who caved under pressure from Stephen Harper and dropped the lawsuit for a better deal.

How can the Sask Party justify waving a white flag on this front? Will they drop the charade and actually fight for Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the members opposite sit down and take the time to read federal *Hansard*. And I'm glad as well that they read the member from Meadow Lake, because there's a lot of wisdom that comes out of that particular individual, as we've learned many times on this side of the House.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would say this to the members opposite: the position that the member from Meadow Lake took is the right position. There are inequities in the equalization formula. During the time when the province had record revenue from royalties from across the resource sector, Mr. Speaker, we didn't have to deal with it. But now, Mr. Speaker, our royalties are not what they once were. We're going to have to deal with this. And, Mr. Speaker, we've posed alternatives to the federal government, and we're going to continue to work with the federal government.

I'd like to urge the members opposite to continue reading *Hansard*, studying not just what the member from Meadow Lake says, but there are a number of members on this side of the House that probably will have something that would be of significant benefit to the members on that side of the House.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, they dropped the court case, threw in the white towel, and now 10 years on since, a sternly worded email it sounds to the federal government, Mr. Speaker.

It's not exactly standing up for Saskatchewan.

But the hypocrisy of the member from Meadow Lake runs deep. And the list of quotes from the member when he lives in Ottawa is long. Back when he was an MP, he said, "We all know that Saskatchewan is treated more unfairly than probably any other province in the country. Non-renewable natural resources are included in the formula for Saskatchewan." And, quote, he went on: "... my home province would receive approximately a billion dollars more a year in equalization payments. That would make an incredibly huge difference for the people in my province."

He was right then, but he's wrong today to be throwing in the towel. How can the Sask Party justify backing away from a fight for Saskatchewan, a fight for fairness? Why won't they drop this charade? Why won't they step up and fight for Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I'm astounded by the members opposite. These are the same group of people that . . . When we launched a carbon tax challenge against the federal government, we launched this thing in good faith. There will be a decision on that by the way tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite say, wave the white towel. Let's get behind Justin Trudeau. Let's not do this. Well that's where they were then. Why are they taking a different position on it today? Why can they say, with carbon tax, we'll wave the white flag?

Mr. Speaker, we're working our way through this issue. We'll continue to do that. But what I would like to do is give the members today the opportunity to get up and thank the government for having undertaken the carbon tax challenge. And next week, Mr. Speaker, if we're successful, I'd like to urge the members to stand up and thank the good folks at the Ministry of Justice that did it. If we're not successful, I hope that the members opposite will say, we hope you appeal it to the Supreme Court of Canada. We hope you take this matter further. This is something of the utmost importance to the citizens of this province. We absolutely cannot go forward with the carbon tax that will be an unnecessary drag on our province.

So if the members opposite want to get consistent, they can talk about hypocrisy, but look in a mirror.

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

### Opioid-Substitution Program Physicians

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that two physicians providing opioid-substitution therapies in Regina are no longer doing so, and we learned in committee that their caseload included 700 patients. A lone physician has been hired to fill this gap. And we know there are problems in Saskatoon too. While the loss of these physicians could not be anticipated, they're a significant concern in the community that this will lead to long waits for necessary care, and individuals managing their opioid-use disorders will have difficulty accessing methadone.

What immediate measures is this government considering to fill the gap?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite mentioned, we discussed this in committee the other night. The SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] is extremely concerned about this. The action they've taken . . . The physician that she mentions has been hired, is not only to pick up the case files, Mr. Speaker, but it's also to help with recruiting additional prescribing physicians in Regina, Mr. Speaker. That'll be very important.

Also the SHA is providing addictions counsellor and nursing supports for these patients, Mr. Speaker, and we're also aware that pharmacists have been granted temporary prescribing authority for a period of months to assist with this as well, Mr. Speaker. The SHA is taking this very seriously. This obviously caught them off guard. This wasn't expected, Mr. Speaker, but they're making every effort to assist in the interim.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — People working in this field and relying on this support are concerned 700 is simply too many patients for a single physician to manage, even with the support of pharmacists. It's also concerning that the physician is expected to be splitting her time between managing this caseload and recruiting physicians to replace those who were lost.

Recruitment of specialists is becoming a persistent issue in the province. Is it not possible for the ministry, the authority, or Saskdocs to be spearheading this work, especially in light of how difficult it is to recruit into addictions medicine? Is it reasonable to expect her to assist 700 patients and be trying to recruit as well?

[10:45]

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, that's the whole point of this. That physician won't be looking after 700 patients. She'll be assisting in some of the cases that need more immediate assistance, Mr. Speaker, and she'll be recruiting additional prescribing physicians in Regina, Mr. Speaker. They won't be necessarily full-time positions on this. She'll be recruiting physicians to help with that caseload.

Again, Mr. Speaker, because of the circumstances around this, this certainly wasn't expected. We expect that the pharmacists will help recruit this, Mr. Speaker. I'll follow up with the SHA CEO [chief executive officer] to see what other opportunities that they have to assist with this. But, Mr. Speaker, in the interim they're going to make every effort to assess these 700 patients.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — There are valid concerns in the community that in the short term, 700 people is frankly unmanageable. And the

consequences are dire, Mr. Speaker. If individuals aren't able to access timely support, there is significant risk that they may start to use opioids again rather than their medications, which could result in people getting off their road to recovery.

Has the ministry considered bringing in additional physician support, locums or otherwise, or finding other ways to incent physicians into addictions medicine to ensure these gaps in service don't lead to people regressing in their recoveries?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, they immediately had a physician to help with some of the case files and to recruit other physicians to help, Mr. Speaker. The pharmacists are also helping in this, Mr. Speaker, and we've taken other steps to build capacity around the province as well.

But to the more immediate, serious situation in Regina, a more direct answer to her question, Mr. Speaker. Again, I spoke to the SHA. I'll follow up with the CEO again. I've been assured that they're looking at all possible options to assist in this. I'm sure that they've looked at locums and other physicians as well. I'll be glad to follow up with them to see where they've arrived at.

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

#### **Inquiry Regarding Village of Pinehouse**

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, openness, transparency, and accountability should not be too much to ask for. But whenever this government has a mess to cover up, accountability goes out the window. Just ask Laurie Pushor, if you can find him.

Let's be clear. The investigation — now inquiry — into Pinehouse northern village is a symptom of a much larger problem of accountability under this government. The inspector himself made this clear in his report that prompted the inquiry. He said that we cannot dismiss the Pinehouse case as an isolated aberration. The issues raised here, and I quote, "may and likely do occur in other municipalities," he warned.

Will the Minister of Justice do the right thing, provide Saskatchewan people the accountability they're looking for, and grant the Privacy Commissioner the authority to order documents to be made public?

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

**Hon. Mr. Kaeding:** — Mr. Speaker, in regards to Pinehouse, certainly after our initial inspection report, we found some issues that we needed to have further follow-up on. So therefore we've commissioned Mr. Robertson to do a further inquiry into the affairs and some of the issues that we see outstanding in Pinehouse, and we are anxiously awaiting his report to determine our further actions.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, every time we ask

about it, it doesn't seem what we ask . . . We get the same canned response. What we're asking for is not difficult. We're doing our job as the loyal opposition. We didn't just identify a problem, we're also proposing a solution here, Mr. Speaker.

Now it's the government's turn to do their job. Will the Minister of Justice commit to granting the Privacy Commissioner the authority to order documents to be made public?

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

**Hon. Mr. Kaeding:** — Mr. Speaker, in response to some of the issues that were identified by the Privacy Commissioner, we initiated our initial inspection. And what we're doing now is just continuing to follow up on some of those concerns that were initiated by the Privacy Commissioner.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, the close personal friendships between the leadership of the northern village of Pinehouse and the members on that side are well known. The village and the village-owned construction company have both donated to the Sask Party. The member from Regina Rochdale heaped praise on the mayor and council when they visited the Assembly. And the Finance minister belatedly recused herself of cabinet dealings with Pinehouse because of her personal friendships there.

Through all of this, the Sask Party government failed to act as the village repeatedly broke the law. What communications, including emails and texts if any, have the Sask Party MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] had with the mayor and council about these FOI [freedom of information] problems? And will they make those records public today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the concerns that the members opposite express with regard to Pinehouse are legitimate concerns. If they exist in other municipalities, they have to be dealt with as well.

Mr. Speaker, there is the process under way with Neil Robertson. We will wait until that process is complete. We'll look at the recommendations that he's made. And whether the recommendations deal with Pinehouse specifically or they're broader recommendations, they'll certainly be made public so the members opposite and everyone else in the province will have the opportunity to look at them and make some informed decisions as to how we go forward.

As always, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite say, sue somebody; pass a law. Mr. Speaker, what the members have done is gutter politics. They've once again raised the competence, credibility, and ethics and integrity of the Minister of Finance, and I take strong exception to that and like to ask the member opposite to withdraw his comments and the inferences that he's making.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Justice has finally found his feet, I want to tell him and all that government, we're very proud of our role over here in terms of accountability and transparency that they ran on. And here he is, and them, running as far as they can. Will he now commit, making sure any emails, texts that have gone on, be made public? And he will ensure that the request from the Privacy Commissioner to make those documents public — and he has the ability to order that — will he do that now, now that he has found his feet?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, if the member opposite want to talk to Mr. Robertson as well as the member from Humboldt, he's welcome to do that. But, Mr. Speaker, I'd encourage him not to do that. I'd encourage him to find a little bit of class.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has stated she did not know at the time the accommodations had been paid for. When the issue first came up, what did she do promptly? She reimbursed the village of Pinehouse for the accommodations. She referred the matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for review. The commissioner . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — The matter was referred to the conflict of interest . . . The commissioner determined she was not in a conflict. She had done absolutely the right thing. The minister took the appropriate steps. The commissioner is satisfied with that response, and the members in this House should, and the member opposite ought not continue damaging her reputation. And what he should do is stand in his place, apologize, and withdraw for the comments and the inferences that he has made about an hon. member on this side of the House.

The member opposite and all of the members on that side can do so much better. There are real issues to deal with, with Pinehouse. And, Mr. Speaker, what we'll do on this side of the House is we'll wait until Mr. Robertson has completed his work. And, Mr. Speaker, we will share that information with the members opposite and with the members of the province, and we will do the right thing, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Mental Health Care for Young People**

**Ms. Rancourt:** — This week we learned from the Children's Advocate that thousands of young people across our province don't have timely access to mental health supports. The report says, "The staggering suicide rates and ongoing suicide crisis in northern Saskatchewan is indicative of the lack of readily available mental health resources in these communities."

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time that this government act to reduce youth suicides in our province. My colleague from Cumberland has moved a private member's bill to do just that. When will the Sask Party deliver on a comprehensive plan to

prevent suicide and save lives?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I think any member in this Assembly would agree, the loss of any life to suicide is terrible, even one life — especially our youth, Mr. Speaker. That's why we are focusing on mental health and addictions even more in this budget, Mr. Speaker, with a \$30 million increase.

If we look at some of the initiatives that have been done through the SHA over the last little while, specifically in finances, I pointed out yesterday I believe that if you look at the budgets of the SHA, when we look at the northern areas, they've actually gotten about 10 per cent higher on average than the southern regions when it comes to our northern regions, Mr. Speaker. A lot of that is focusing on mental health.

We look throughout the region, 96 per cent of suicide prevention protocols have been put in place. We look at the Roots of Hope initiative through Meadow Lake and La Ronge, initiatives in Buffalo Narrows, the Embracing Life Committee. Mr. Speaker, we've actually developed the northern training and resource registry so that northern communities can find mental health and suicide prevention supports in one area that isn't so onerous, Mr. Speaker.

We've got additional supports. In fact, I just recently spoke to one of the leaders from Ile-a-la-Crosse who was encouraged to see that a lot of the mental health positions that would have been vacant previously are now being filled. And of course we've talked about in this budget that we're going to commit, and we have committed through the SHA, to keep increasing some of these mental health supports throughout our northern areas.

### **PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

#### **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 133, *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 133 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### **Bill No. 133 — *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018/Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'Assemblée législative (dates d'élection)***

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 133 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 10:58 until 11:00.]

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — I believe the ayes have it. All those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 38]

Moe	Beaudry-Mellor	Merriman
Ottenbreit	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Harpauer	Marit
Hargrave	D'Autremont	Heppner
Kaeding	Makowsky	Tell
Eyre	Brkich	Harrison
Carr	Cheveldayoff	Stewart
Hart	Kirsch	Bradshaw
Weekes	Lawrence	Ross
McMorris	Michelson	Bonk
Steinley	Hindley	Dennis
Nerlien	Tochor	Goudy
Fiaz	Francis	

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 10]

Chartier	Wotherspoon	Beck
Sproule	Forbes	Belanger
Sarauer	McCall	Pedersen
Rancourt		

**Procedural Clerk (Ms. Ursulescu):** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 38; those opposed, 10.

**The Speaker:** — I declare the motion carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 152, *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018* with amendments.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 152 and that the bill and its amendments be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the minister.

### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

#### **Bill No. 152 — *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018***

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

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 152 — *The Builders' Lien (Prompt Payment) Amendment Act, 2018*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 152 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 141, *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act* without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 141, that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 141 — *The Interpersonal Violence Disclosure Protocol (Clare's Law) Act*

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

time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 141 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 168, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 168, that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 168 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur les juges de paix*

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

**The Speaker:** — Moved by the minister that Bill No. 168 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### 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 85 through 90.

**The Speaker:** — Ordered 85 through 90.

### SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

#### Showing Leadership on Climate Change

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, climate change is the single most important and urgent issue facing our planet and our species today. Mr. Speaker, recent scientific reports suggest that we have only about five years, maybe as many as 10, to get this right and to fix this problem that will be a problem, as we've left it right now, for hundreds of years. But, Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity now to fix it so that it's not a problem for millennia.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow hundreds of students will be striking from their attendance in class, gathering here in front of this building, in front of this legislature, to demand action on climate change. Mr. Speaker, I invite the Premier, I invite the cabinet, I invite the Minister of the Environment to show up tomorrow to address these students and to tell them what this government is doing to fix climate change in this province.

Mr. Speaker, in the time that I've been an adult, we have seen our greenhouse gas emissions in this province, in this planet, increase. In fact, Mr. Speaker, half, roughly half of the greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere right now have been produced during my adulthood in the last 20 years. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a shameful fact, because during that entire time, we've known about the problem as a species.

Mr. Speaker, the greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere right now will last in our atmosphere of this planet for a thousand years. So every additional kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane will last in the atmosphere for a thousand years. Mr. Speaker, that's a problem.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a problem when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. Our greenhouse gas emissions in this province are nine times higher than the global average. Mr. Speaker, if we were a country, if Saskatchewan was a country, we'd be the second-highest greenhouse gas emitter per capita in the world. And, Mr. Speaker, our greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to rise by 50 per cent by 2030. So we're not on track to fix our problem, to fix our footprint.

In the time that I've been an adult, we drive more. We drive bigger vehicles. We spend more time idling in drive-throughs.

We drive more than we walk. Our houses are bigger. Our cities and our towns sprawl. We cover more agricultural land with concrete and pavement. We drain more wetlands and we till more grassland and we cut down more forests. This is a global problem, Mr. Speaker, but we are part of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, there are things that greenhouse gases do and that climate change does that impact on Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, droughts have long been a problem for this semi-arid part of the world, but what we're predicted to have happen with climate change — what we've already seen happening — is that those droughts will be more severe.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has always experienced instances of flooding. But, Mr. Speaker, with climate change that flooding will become more severe and more frequent. Mr. Speaker, with climate change we will see greater instance of invasive insects, invasive plant species affecting our agricultural economy and our comfort and our health: insects like the pine bark beetle, which will have a devastating impact on our boreal forest; Mr. Speaker, insects like the tick bringing Lyme disease to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is vulnerable to climate change, and as this government's inaction and foot-dragging, our economy will not only be vulnerable to these natural problems but will be vulnerable to other countries, to consumers in other parts of the world pointing their fingers at us, saying that we haven't done enough to address this very real problem.

Mr. Speaker, the former government in Alberta realized that this was a problem for their industry. They're a significant oil exporter, and they realized that they needed to do something to clean up their image. And it wasn't just the government in Alberta that recognized that this was a problem; it was the industry itself that recognized that this was a problem. They recognized that they had an image problem, and so they were on board with the changes introduced by the former government to clean up their image because we can't afford to have international customers, international countries pointing their fingers at us saying, we don't want your dirty products. We don't want to be giving them excuses to not buy what we have to sell. We can't afford to be leaving our economy vulnerable to these type of concerns.

Mr. Speaker, climate change impacts our province with greater forest fires. And this is nowhere more borne out, Mr. Speaker, than when you look at the provincial disaster assistance program that we have in this province. Mr. Speaker, when you look at the payments under that program in the early 2000s, they were averaging less than a million dollars a year. Less than a million dollars a year, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in 2015, what was our payments under the provincial disaster assistance program? \$110 million, Mr. Speaker. 2016, \$61 million; 2017, \$32 million. Mr. Speaker, this is just one piece of evidence pointing to the very real problem and very real challenge that our economy has when it comes to climate change.

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker, there are things that we could be doing in this province. There's things we could be doing to conserve the

amount of energy that we use when it comes to buildings, Mr. Speaker. I'm a Gen Xer, Mr. Speaker, and I had the fairly unique experience at that time to grow up in a passive solar house. Mr. Speaker, that house retained almost all of the heat energy that was used to keep it warm in the wintertime. Mr. Speaker, it only relied on a small wood stove to heat the entire house because it had passive solar windows in the front.

I was pleased, Mr. Speaker, to get a tour very recently of the new Souls Harbour facility in Regina, where a 27,000-square-foot building with 17 suites, large kitchen, clothing store, dining room, drive-in bays for dropping off donations, offices, a child care . . . Mr. Speaker, in that very large commercial facility there are only two residential-sized furnaces to heat the entire building because it was built according to that passive standard.

Mr. Speaker, this technology has been available for decades, and yet this province continues to drag its feet. And it's only by consumers and individuals and organizations like Souls Harbour pushing ahead to demonstrate that these ways of addressing this problem are feasible.

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate enough to tour a passive house built in Saskatoon just a couple of months ago. Again a normal residential house, normal size, but it was built so well, with such good insulation and so airtight, that it had a unit that was barely more, not even a cubic foot in diameter, Mr. Speaker, worth the draw of two electric hair dryers. That was enough to heat the entire house and keep it comfortable throughout our cold winters.

Mr. Speaker, there are things that we can be doing, that are easy for us to be doing, to address climate change. We could be driving slower, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a mechanical engineer I know recently told me that the relationship between energy consumption and our speed is what he called a cubic relationship. So, Mr. Speaker, if you drive 10 per cent faster, it actually takes 33 per cent more fuel. And if you drive 20 per cent more faster, it's almost three-quarters more fuel to go that much faster.

Mr. Speaker, there are easy, cheap things that we could be doing to lower our footprint. We could be taking fewer trips by air travel. We could be investing in public transportation and getting more efficiency out of our vehicles. We could be preserving our wetlands. We could be preserving our grasslands.

We could be looking at the tremendous amount of electricity that we use not just in our homes but also in our businesses, in our industry. Instead of simply offering our biggest consumers of electricity a bargain basement price on electricity, we could be implementing a pricing plan to encourage them to be undertaking conservation programs that work for their businesses.

We could be looking at energy-efficient vehicles. As this Assembly knows, Mr. Speaker, I recently purchased an electric vehicle. And the electric vehicles are incredibly more efficient than the internal combustion engine, Mr. Speaker, but what was this government's response? This government's response was to scoff at electric vehicles and the rollout of those in our province.

Mr. Speaker, it was sad and shameful when our premier announced that he would not put a price on pollution — his exact words. Mr. Speaker, the challenge for our species, the challenge for our province is not a technical one. It's a political one. Mr.

Speaker, we know technically, we know scientifically how to reduce our greenhouse gases. The challenge is how to do it politically, how to convince our population to get on board, and how to do it in a fair and compassionate way.

Mr. Speaker, we need efficient steel mills like Evraz. We need efficient industries, like some of ours that still emit heavy amounts of greenhouse gases, but are lower greenhouse gas emitters than when you look around the world. We need those industries and we need to help them stay competitive globally. But, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't excuse us from doing nothing. When we look back in history, Mr. Speaker, we will be judged by how we responded to this most important problem.

When you look back to the 1930s, Mr. Speaker, in hindsight they called it the Great Depression. And, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the last decade in this province, when you look at the political capital that this government had to convince people to actually act on climate change, Mr. Speaker, it's shameful that that political capital, instead of being used to convince people to do more to address climate change, that that political capital was used to convince people that they not only could do less, but they should do less. Mr. Speaker, that's shameful. Mr. Speaker, when we look back in history, I think what we will see is that this past decade will be called the great cowardice, for the failures to act.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the wording of the motion:

That this Assembly recognizes that climate change is the result of human activity and requires meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan; and

That this Assembly condemns the Sask Party government for failing to show climate leadership and for failing to seize the opportunity to create thousands of green jobs and strengthen Saskatchewan's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Northeast:

That this Assembly recognizes that climate change is the result of human activity and requires meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan; and

That this Assembly condemns the Sask Party government for failing to show climate leadership and for failing to seize the opportunity to create thousands of green jobs and strengthen Saskatchewan's economy.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, global warming continues to be the greatest existential threat of our time. There is unfortunately a lot of poor science around that problem, but there's even more good science from which we can learn and begin to tackle the dilemma that we can't leave for our children to solve.

We have plenty of stark facts. The global population is expected to reach 10 billion. Globally we have land that is turning to desert



and we have climate change. Mr. Speaker, no one can refute that we can only solve the problem of replacing fossil fuels with technology. But fossil fuels — carbon, coal, and gas — are by no means the only things that are causing climate change.

I propose to you today, Mr. Speaker, that what is happening globally in agriculture is causing climate change as much as burning fossil fuels, maybe more. It is estimated that the average person today needs about half a tonne of food per year, yet we are creating 10 tonnes of eroding soil for every person alive on the planet today. This is causing global desertification and land degradation at an alarming rate.

But Saskatchewan, with our knowledge and experience in regenerative agriculture, can offer more hope than you can imagine. Mr. Speaker, desertification or biodiversity loss is what happens when you create bare soil. There is no other cause. And this is what I intend to focus on today.

In many parts of the world that are humid year-round, it is almost impossible to create bare ground. Nature just covers it up so quickly. But where we see desertification occurring is in the seasonal rainfall areas that have periods of humidity followed by periods of prolonged dry spells. These tend to be the seasonal grasslands of the world — the North American prairies, the central Asian steppe, for example. When soil is left bare and you receive rainfall, most of that moisture is left to run off, causing flash floods and erosion, or it is simply lost to evaporation just as it would in your driveway after a rain.

Now, Mr. Speaker, water and carbon are linked to soil organic matter, and when soils are damaged they release both carbon and water back to the atmosphere, causing more bare eroding soil and perpetuating the problem. As we're beginning to understand nature's complexity, we have adopted management techniques that mimic nature. By keeping livestock bunched and moving as a proxy for former herds of wild animals and by the use of specific planning processes, we are able to account for the variables that are inherent in agriculture and in nature.

We have also developed technology in crop production that regenerates the soil instead of depleting it. By incorporating organic matter back into the soil, protecting micro-organisms in the soil by minimal soil disturbance, and increasing moisture retention we can rejuvenate and build healthy soils.

In this province, we are world leaders in this effort. There have been huge strides made in adopting management techniques and technology. Many of these techniques and technologies have been pioneered and developed right here in Saskatchewan.

Take 1 metre of bare soil. I promise you that it will be much cooler in the morning and much hotter at midday than another square metre of soil that is covered with plant litter. If you were to water those two plots and come back a day later, you would see that the water from the bare ground would have evaporated, but the ground covered with plant litter would still be holding moisture. You have effectively changed the microclimate. When we multiply this by the area of the world's grasslands, which cover 40 per cent of the surface . . . of the earth and are the planet's largest ecosystems, we have effectively changed the macroclimate. Soil restoration may be our greatest ally in countering climate change and creating a liveable future.

The benefits of restoring soil are many. In addition to providing safe haven for atmospheric carbon, soil restoration provides localized cooling, builds resilience to droughts and floods, and helps produce nutritious food. Our prairie grasslands co-evolved with vast herds of herbivores over millions of years. These herds were kept bunched and moving by pack-hunting predators. This action of keeping herds bunched and moving is what created our deep, rich prairie soils. The grazing animals would remove some plant material and trample the remaining material to be in close contact with the soil. This close contact precipitated the biological decay process to take place. This allowed a healthy flush of plants the next season and increased and promoted biodiversity.

With varying root depths and different plant species, it also supported the nutrient cycle and water cycle. As the foliage from the surface was eaten, the root mass below the surface dies back. The dead root material turns carbon in the soil into capillaries, which in turn allows soil to act as a giant sponge, absorbing and retaining water. As this cycle continues, it creates layer after layer of new soil — imagine pages of a book, one on top of each other. This increases both production of plants and animals, building healthy soils that are able to break down methane and store carbon.

Remember the stories of 10 feet of black topsoil that the settlers found when they arrived here. Well this is how these soils were created. To further highlight the potential of creating soils, at the Paris climate talks the former minister of Agriculture of France, Stéphane Le Foll, proposed a declaration called 4 in 1,000. Its mandate is to increase the organic matter in the world's arable lands by 0.4 per cent per year. It states, if this is achieved, it would bring us back to pre-industrial levels of carbon in the atmosphere. The stated goal of this initiative is to engage stakeholders in a transition towards productive, resilient agriculture based on sustainable soil management by generating jobs and incomes, hence ensuring sustainable development.

Boosting soil organic matter does more than just sequester heat-trapping CO<sub>2</sub>. It improves crop yields, increases biodiversity, and importantly holds more water, preventing flooding and enhancing resiliency to floods. With drought identified as a contributing factor to social unrest, the issue is not just about climate. It's about reversing desertification that has been destabilizing civilizations for millennia.

Mr. Speaker, about 30 countries are now signatories to this declaration. Saskatchewan is absolutely a world leader in this effort. We are poised to play a leading role globally, and yet our federal government never signed this declaration.

[11:30]

Proper grazing management stimulates growth and carbon sequestration. And three farms in Saskatchewan illustrate this point: the Hjertaas farm at Redvers, for every kilogram emitted, 17 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> were sequestered; the McNeil's at Alameda, for every kilogram emitted, 25 kilograms were sequestered; and the Corcoran's at Langbank in Moosomin constituency, for every kilogram emitted, 39 kilograms were sequestered.

I spent a lot of my career working in seasonal rainfall grasslands all over the globe. Many of these ecosystems are on the verge of

collapse and desertifying at an alarming rate. Many of these areas of the world struggle with food security and political instability. Soil degradation is rampant, and the amount of carbon lost to the atmosphere is staggering.

Mr. Speaker, believe me when I tell you that the technology and management techniques that we are employing here in Saskatchewan are not only sorely needed but are in high demand all over the world. We have the opportunity to help heal the planet while producing food, employing people, and preserving cultures. In fact this may be the only option left to many parts of the world. Here in Saskatchewan, we have the tools and the knowledge that the world is looking for.

Mr. Speaker, innovation that has happened here in Saskatchewan needs to be rewarded, not penalized, by a short-sighted carbon tax that disproportionately penalizes the very people who are arguably doing the most for our environment. These people are the most ardent environmentalists we have in this country. They understand the land. Their livelihood depends on it. It depends on the health of the land. The Vancouver Declaration states that we should:

Work together to enhance carbon sinks, including in agriculture and forestry, taking into account international best practices and accounting standards, to recognize their contribution to mitigating GHG emissions, and toward the establishment of a pan-Canadian offset protocols framework and verified carbon credits that can be traded internationally.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are enhancing carbon sinks. We are using and developing international best practices, and we believe we should be given credit for the good work that we are doing in this province. Are we being penalized for being too far ahead of the game?

Each Canadian has a carbon footprint of 18.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Now keep in mind that Canada has 65 million hectares of farm land. At a sequestration rate of 27.8 tonnes per hectare of CO<sub>2</sub> per year — the average of the farms tested in Saskatchewan — each hectare farmed regeneratively will sequester more than each Canadian's carbon footprint.

The thrust of the climate change activism has prominently been negative. It tends to come out against something. It's sometimes hard for us to articulate what we're for. We believe that we have a significant and dynamic story of success in this province in regards to carbon sequestration that's worth sharing, and a story we should get credit for. Our Prairie Resilience plan does just that. I can't think of anything that offers more hope for our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into the debate today talking about the urgent and global crisis that we are facing today with climate change.

And certainly I think this is manifesting itself in many ways, not just in the physical effects that we see happening across the globe and certainly in Saskatchewan as well, but I worry about the

psychological effects that climate change is having with mental health for particularly my children's generation, and a lot of fear and uncertainty as they go forward to develop their adult lives and decide whether or not to have families, and the concerns that are being raised by my children, my son in particular, about our lack of action.

Because everyone, I think, agrees climate change is happening. There may be less agreement about how it's happening and there may be less agreement on what to do but, Mr. Speaker, I think, as a citizen of the globe, a citizen of Canada, and a citizen of this province, I think it behooves us to do more to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that we are facing in our world today.

I've been doing some research a little bit, and I want to talk specifically today about methane and the impact of methane emissions in the upstream oil and gas sector. But overall we know that this province has actually seen two very specific types of carbon pricing to date. We've seen it through the carbon capture sequestration plant in the energy sector, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to reducing emissions in the energy sector, and particularly coal-fired energy. And that was an expensive project — it was over one and a half billion dollars — and, Mr. Speaker, I think many of the wrinkles have been worked out but it was still and remains to be an incredibly expensive process. We're still in lawsuits with SNC-Lavalin about the construction of the main holding tank for the effluent that's used to clean the carbon smoke coming out of the coal-fired-burning power plants.

So, Mr. Speaker, the energy sector actually has been making some changes, and in fact if you look at any of the reports that are coming out, most of the work in climate change has been effected in the energy sector. So we're looking at a move away from coal in a number of provinces, certainly across the world. Carbon capture and sequestration utilization has a small part to play in that, and we know it's reduced emissions in Saskatchewan, I think, around 1 per cent. That means there's 99 per cent of emissions that haven't been reduced yet.

So then this government moves in and agreed with the federal government and actually reached an equivalency agreement on heavy emitters, and effectively what this government has done is they have placed a carbon tax on heavy emitters. And that's very clear in the Prairie Resilience plan, that there is now a carbon tax in Saskatchewan on heavy emitters. And that was work done in compliance with the federal government, working with the federal government and making sure that there is some effort to reduce emissions in the heavy-emitter sector, which is one of the larger sectors that does generate greenhouse gas emissions. So we see some movement there.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the emissions achievements from that plan over the next 12 years, I think, is another 1 per cent of emissions reductions overall. So we'll still be definitely highest in Canada when it comes to per capita emissions. And it's a move in the right direction. It's good to see this government working with the federal government and ensuring that we are meeting the targets that are being set nationally on the heavy-emitters sector.

The other sector that the federal government has introduced regulations on is on the upstream oil and gas sector when it comes to methane emissions. And these were released, I think, either 2017 or last year, and this government announced in January that

they will be introducing regulations to start addressing the methane issue that we see.

Now I'm just going to talk a little bit about what methane is and how it's a very, very important greenhouse gas that needs to be dealt with. And this is from a report from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society when they were talking about the regulation of methane emissions. It's estimated that about one fifth of human-caused global warming can be attributed to methane. So that's 20 per cent of our emissions that are created by human activity come from the methane gas. This is a hydrocarbon gas and its chemical acronym, I guess, is CH<sub>4</sub>. It's the major component of natural gas. Methane is produced from decaying vegetation and other organic matter from ruminant animals' digestive tracts as well as an unwanted by-product of oil extraction from underground. So the one I'm going to focus on today isn't what cows do, Mr. Speaker, but I am going to focus on the by-product of oil and gas production here in the province.

In Canada, government reports say that 26 per cent of our national greenhouse gas emissions are from the upstream oil and gas industry. But for Saskatchewan the figure is 32 per cent. Mr. Speaker, that's virtually one-third of our greenhouse gas emissions are from the upstream oil and gas industry.

And the good news, Mr. Speaker, is that methane actually has commercial value, in that there is an economic argument to stop burning it off or venting it into the air, but that we can actually capture it and use it as a fuel or you can pump it back underground, Mr. Speaker. Very few countries have actually committed to controlling methane emissions, but Canada is now one of them. And I believe what's happening under Prairie Resilience will be a reflection of that direction.

In fact I'll just talk a little bit about the methane action plan that this government released in January 2019. What they're going to introduce is a new made-in-Saskatchewan, results-based regulation to reduce methane-based GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions by 40 to 45 per cent of 2015 levels, or between four and five . . . 4.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Now that's on an annual basis, Mr. Speaker, so if you look at our emissions at around 80 carbon-dioxide-equivalent tonnes, that means that we would be reducing it, if my math is correct, by maybe another 5 per cent. But that's only when these regulations come into force, Mr. Speaker. And my concern is that we have been waiting too long and I think the oil and gas industry is certainly waiting to find out how this is going to happen across the industry and across other countries as well.

So you might ask yourself, what are other countries doing? And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's encouraging to see that in North Dakota and in California there have been regulations in place for quite some time to deal with methane emissions and requiring them to be captured and economized, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan tried something in 2012. They introduced some government-style regulations. They were referred to as standards, and they're called directive S-10 and directive S-20. And this came in in 2012 and 2015. Now, Mr. Speaker, we don't hear any talk about those two directives because the problem with those two directives is that they were entirely voluntary. There was no requirement for anyone to actually take those directives and start economizing and making the capital investments that

are necessary to make an economic argument for methane production. So that's a concern.

And I guess what I'm worried about is that the United Nations statement on climate change came about in 1992. So we are looking at over 20 years really, Mr. Speaker, or I guess about 19, 17 years since the United Nations said we have to start doing something about this. It took the federal government until last year . . . I think it was April 2018 where they published their methane emissions regulations.

And now we have the intention of this government to do something forward-looking. But this has been an issue that has been known . . . It's actually low-hanging fruit, Mr. Speaker, in many ways because methane emissions are known to be very serious greenhouse gas contributors because of the formation of the chemicals. And I guess my biggest concern . . . And I don't see this government doing enough, and I don't see them recognizing the absolute urgency of this crisis because it's like frogs in hot water. You may have heard that story before, Mr. Speaker, where as we heat up the planet, we don't see it on a daily basis and therefore it doesn't seem as urgent and critical as it is.

I urge this government to take action on methane emissions, particularly in the upstream oil and gas sector. And the time to do that is now, Mr. Speaker. The time to do it was in 1992, but we've lost a lot of ground. We've lost a lot of time. Our greenhouse gas emissions in this sector are growing exponentially, therefore I will support this motion made today. And I think it's something this government needs to take very seriously.

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

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Very important to rise today to speak to this motion. And I don't think that anyone would disagree that climate change is a result of human activity, as it is a result of virtually any activity in the world. And does it require meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Saskatchewan? Of course it does, as it does anywhere else in the world, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But when we come to addressing the balance of this motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we have a lot of issues that we can talk about. First of all, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member from Regina Northeast clearly thinks the world is coming to an end in a very short period of time. The sky is falling, which is a fairly typical attitude of the members opposite. The sky is falling, the world is coming to an end, and clearly no one on this side of the aisle knows what they're doing at all.

So I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the things that we are in fact doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but more importantly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to talk at some length about the incredible work that is being done by the private sector in this area.

But before I get to that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do want to point out to the member from Regina Northeast that there were catastrophes and significant events that occurred prior to and in the very earliest days of the Industrial Revolution, that he might want to take into account in his consideration of the impact of

various things.

[11:45]

So for example, in 1825 the Miramichi fire in New Brunswick — there was a loss of 3 million acres. We don't really hear about those kinds of things anymore, simply because of some of the technologies that have been used in fighting fires that are new developments that are helping to preserve our environment. 1845, a great fire in Oregon — 1.5 million acres lost. 1853, the Yaquina fire in Oregon — 450,000 acres lost.

I could go on and on about those kinds of things but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these really massive events that affected the climate in many different ways no longer happen because of the innovation of science and technology that is being developed around the world, and in particular with some of the innovation that we're doing right here in Saskatchewan. And the member from Carrot River Valley talked, for example, in member statements today about the SEAT program, perfect example of the kind of innovation that happens within this province that actually deals in a very realistic, tangible way with managing the influences on our environment.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to just mention that members opposite clearly don't recognize and are completely out of touch with the various industries of Saskatchewan. So as an example, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and my colleague from Moosomin spoke earlier about the incredible innovations in agriculture, and I think that the 40,000 — 43,000, I believe it is, roughly — ag producers in the province are each and every one of them creators of green jobs and have been forever. So I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, members opposite should fully recognize that those 43,000 people are creating jobs across the green economy. And I think that's important.

I wonder if the members opposite would like to go out and speak to their union members out in various parts of SaskPower, for example, all of those people that are creating green jobs, whether it's the CCS [carbon capture and storage] project or whether it's solar or wind power projects. Those are all green jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and clearly they don't believe that those are some of the things that we're doing.

We've got the forest industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that has for years been innovators in regeneration of forest in the province, and I think that we should recognize those green jobs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the members opposite would certainly recognize, I'm sure, the number of organic farmers that have come up in the province of Saskatchewan that are doing incredible work and providing food products to their local markets and to the world, frankly.

I wonder if the members opposite would like to explain why the innovation that's being done at the universities and in organizations like PAMI [Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute] and the science centres, why are they not green jobs? It strikes me that they certainly are. They're creating all of the innovation that we rely on in terms of moving to the new sciences and new technologies to make our world a better place.

And you know, I think one of the members mentioned the housing industry. And I think we've shown incredible innovation

in developing new technologies and new methods of construction in the housing industry that are certainly working towards improved retention of heat units within that area.

But I do, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to speak specifically about the ag industry and more particularly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about the ag manufacturing industry. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the ag manufacturing industry in Saskatchewan is well, well noted for its innovation and development of science and technology that is helping not only on the environmental side but creating much more efficient ag practices. And we are exporting that technology and that science around the world all the time. In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the current numbers as provided by the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, I think we had \$1.09 billion in agricultural machinery sales in 2014, and it's increased ever since then.

But some of the companies that I think I should just highlight briefly. Farm Progress Show — not a company, but a show — I think that's roughly 45,000 people from across Canada and around the world come to Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to learn about science and technology and agriculture and innovation in terms of the kinds of things that we are doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the major international shows that generate or that have a half a million people show up at them. Saskatchewan Trade and Export does a trade presentation there, and they believe that it results in somewhere around \$100 million in sales annually from the province of Saskatchewan in innovative technology and agriculture. And I think we really must recognize those kinds of things.

I'm just going to leaf quickly through some of the companies that are performing in Saskatchewan, and just highlight a few things. Bergen Industries' — been around forever — research and development department has worked hard in defining the cutting edge of products that they're involved in. We know that they're developing, have developed over the years some of the technology that's important to where we're going with agriculture.

Agtron — cutting-edge agriculture electronics in Saskatoon. We know about Bourgault Industries, of course, and the work that they do in developing innovative products. Brandt generates a billion dollars in sales, but a lot of their products are innovative creation of products that are efficient use of resources. And I think that's an important part of this whole discussion. We talk about Degelman Industries. We talk about companies like Dutch Industries. Dutch is particularly . . . specializes in design and manufacture of marketing innovative products for earth-friendly agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I could go on and on, but I see my time is very quickly running out. But I do want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we absolutely must recognize the incredible contribution of our private sector in this matter, and I will not be supporting the member from Regina Northeast's motion. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure

to enter into this debate here today. It would be a pleasure if we didn't have to enter into this debate today. I certainly thank the member from Regina Northeast for bringing forward the motion calling on us to act in a meaningful way on climate change, which is man-made, Mr. Speaker, and which presents a very serious threat to the world, of course, but to our province, Mr. Speaker, and to livelihoods and businesses and farms within our province. And it's a challenge that we need to be stepping up for, Mr. Speaker, when we think of the next generation that we owe it to and when we look at the imminent challenges that so many are facing.

Of course in this province folks certainly know well the impacts of climate change, Mr. Speaker, and the worsening impacts of climate change. They see it through the extreme weather that we face, dramatic weather changes, Mr. Speaker, from certainly harsh cold and insignificant and inadequate moisture, Mr. Speaker, drought and the risk of fire and grass fires and northern fires. But the impact as well for agricultural producers that have to weather those harsh droughts, Mr. Speaker, having a direct impact on their bottom lines — the cost to feed cattle through to the productivity of our crops, Mr. Speaker.

And we know the costs of things like flooding and water. Communities like Yorkton, you know, know this well and people know the impact when they're under water. We see that right now and our thoughts and our support go out to all those in Eastern Canada right now facing extraordinary flooding that's really damaging property and lives and putting people at extraordinary risk as well.

So the risks are real. The costs are real. Now the good thing, Mr. Speaker, is that we have the know-how. We have the ability to step up and respond to climate change in a very practical way in our province. There's many things that so many within this province are already doing. What we're lacking is leadership from our provincial government on this front. We already have agricultural producers going out of their way and doing their part and more, Mr. Speaker, as stewards of the land: sequestering carbon, Mr. Speaker, doing their part to manage water. They of course know the impacts of climate change in a very real way. We know that industry as well is at the table and making investments and leading the way, again with a government that's not fulfilling its role on this front.

But I think of that steel mill that's so important, Mr. Speaker, in north Regina that is one of the most efficient steel mills around the world, Mr. Speaker. That's a good thing for us to be able to produce steel and build pipeline, Mr. Speaker, with an efficient mill like Evraz.

I see it as well with our potash producers who, if you look at where their competition is, Mr. Speaker, they're often much closer to where the customer base is. But here in Saskatchewan, we have a world-class resource, world-class companies and an incredible transportation system that are managed by those potash companies to get that world-class product to the world. And those are the most efficient potash operations globally, Mr. Speaker. Certainly way more efficient than their competitors, Mr. Speaker, you know, the Russian and Belorussian competitors, Mr. Speaker.

So we have industry and people that are certainly ready to do

their jobs. We've got young people, they're calling for the urgency, and they are going to be here to live the consequences, Mr. Speaker. And we have the know-how to go at this. What we have is a government that's failed to step up.

You know, I've been in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, for a few years. I was elected in 2007, Mr. Speaker, into the official opposition. And at that point, Mr. Speaker, a new government was elected, and I was hopeful that they might step up and respond to some of the opportunities that were presented, as well as the responsibility when it comes to climate change. Instead what we've seen is a government that couldn't have cared less, Mr. Speaker. It went from leaders to laggard on front after front, Mr. Speaker.

I'll highlight a couple of pieces on this. You know, I think of in 2007, there was the sale of the shares in the refinery, an exceptional refinery that's so important to this province and to our economy and to this community. And the shares that the government had were sold. Those shares then provided \$320 million to the province of Saskatchewan, and Premier Lorne Calvert invested those into a Green Future Fund that was to be transformational and to leave a legacy, Mr. Speaker, for generations to come.

Well elect a new government, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government comes in, and of course like they've been on so many fronts with the finances, Mr. Speaker, they just couldn't get the job done and they went looking for money at every turn. And they of course found a pretty big pool of dollars with very important intentions, Mr. Speaker, that they drained, Mr. Speaker. Lost opportunity, wasted opportunity, Mr. Speaker, that could have been allowing us to retrofit homes all across the province and business and industry and farms that could have been allowing us to continue to advance technologies and renewable power in a very affordable way, Mr. Speaker. But instead gutted and eliminated, drained by a government that's failed to balance the budget time and time again, Mr. Speaker, leaving another debt for future generations as well.

We were a leader in Canada when it came to renewable power, Mr. Speaker, in '07. Enter the Sask Party government, their big majority, well they weren't having any of that, Mr. Speaker. And they shifted us into reverse and now we're laggards. We're behind the rest of Canada while we have a plethora of resources there to be tapped and to be done so in a way that creates jobs and very affordable power for the people of this province and businesses across the province.

I think of budget after budget, Mr. Speaker, where I saw very practical programs in the Go Green initiative, Mr. Speaker, that were cut, cut, cut, and cut year after year, Mr. Speaker, very affordable, practical initiatives that again would be reducing emissions and creating jobs and putting Saskatchewan people and businesses in better places cut and walked back, Mr. Speaker.

[12:00]

And we saw the wasted opportunity when it came to water management, Mr. Speaker, of course quality and quantity, but also the protection of things like wetlands and grasslands, that have been damaged and lost, Mr. Speaker, by the direct actions of this government. And those wetlands and those grasslands,

they sequester carbon, Mr. Speaker. They're a very important part of the water management strategy, and they're very important as well in reducing emissions in a very practical way.

Mr. Speaker, there's tremendous opportunity in our province to step up and address climate change in a meaningful way. It's exceedingly frustrating to see this government sit on its hands when they could be doing something to reduce emissions and be creating thousands of jobs across Saskatchewan.

We've laid forward a plan called Renew Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that would transform power generation in this province, Mr. Speaker, shifting it to renewable power generation for a large component of that power generation. And we could get at this today, Mr. Speaker, because the technologies are proven, they're affordable. We have the ability to transform our grid, and doing so in a way through Renew Saskatchewan, that puts families and households and businesses and farms and First Nations and communities in a better position today and in a strengthened position tomorrow from a perspective of reduced power bills and affordability and financial control for all that I speak of, Mr. Speaker, of course at the same time as reducing emissions in an incredibly important way, Mr. Speaker.

The jobs that would be created in this transformation would be enormous, direct jobs that would be generated, but also those jobs in manufacturing and for small businesses that would be involved in install and in maintenance, Mr. Speaker.

We could fire up this stagnant economy today in a very affordable way, Mr. Speaker. But instead we see the actions of a government that would rather sit on their hands, Mr. Speaker, possibly try to play some political games and not take the practical steps that are needed for our province and waste opportunity and dollar after dollar, a government that would rather put \$1.5 billion into a carbon capture debacle to produce a measly hundred megawatts of power, Mr. Speaker, some of the most expensive power you could possibly generate, instead of investing those dollars to create far more power than that plant and putting the benefits directly back to the people of the province.

It's incumbent on us to step up on climate change. That's our responsibility. We have the know-how. We know the benefits are real even today economically, and we can do it in prudent and practical ways that benefit all people today and for future generations. So I certainly support the motion brought forward by the member from Northeast.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege and a challenge actually to stand today and speak on this motion, Mr. Speaker. I want to comment and compliment actually the two members from this side, the member from Moosomin and the member from Kelvington-Wadena, on excellent speeches delivered, different certainly that I'll probably deliver. And I also want to comment just briefly. I'll have more to say about the speeches from the member from Regina Northeast, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, and this most recent one, the member from Regina Rosemont.

I would say that Saskatoon Nutana and Regina Rosemont didn't add a whole lot of solutions. They criticized, and that's certainly part of the opposition. I would commend the member from Regina Northeast for bringing forward some solutions, all be them maybe not that terribly practical — like, everybody just slow down and that would certainly solve the problem. But I will talk a little bit more about what they had to say and certainly what our government has done, because we have done a lot when it comes to this file.

And I would agree with members opposite that it is a very important file to our province as we move forward. That would probably be where I would end my agreement with some of the things that they said. I don't think I could be as alarmist as the member from Regina Northeast, saying that we've got 5 to 10 years, otherwise the ghost is up and we're done. I don't think I could be quite that alarmist, Mr. Speaker.

But when I look at this motion in itself, it says, "That this Assembly recognizes that climate change is the result of human activity . . ." Now I think most everybody in the province . . . not everyone, and I certainly respect people that don't necessarily agree with the point on climate change. I wouldn't go as far as the Leader of the Opposition and tie that viewpoint to yellow vests directly and everything that yellow vests stand for, and I'm going to certainly talk a lot more about that rally that happened on April the 6th and where the opposition stood on that near the end of my speech.

But I do want to talk about climate change and the fact that it has changed. There is no doubt that climate has changed over the last five years, over the last 10 years, over the last hundred years, over the last thousand years, over the last million years. I would say climate has changed for as long as we have kept records, and climate has changed well before we were ever around to keep records. Climate change has been an issue for the globe forever. If it wasn't a change, we'd still be in the ice age.

I mean, climate has changed all the way through the time that this Earth has been around, Mr. Speaker, and I know the member from Cannington Wadena would know that, Mr. Speaker. But climate has changed for centuries and for millions of years, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I would say though is, when it comes to just blaming it all on human activity — and I would agree completely that we as humans have had an impact absolutely on climate change — is it the result only of our actions? I don't necessarily believe that, but I do believe that humans have had an impact.

I had the pleasure and opportunity to be the Minister of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] for a few years, and I know the member from Prince Albert who is now the Minister of SGI would be talking to SGI Canada, the officials in SGI Canada. And they will tell you that the incidents, the fact that there are more incidents over a 5-year or a 10-year period.

I do not believe that you can rest your argument that climate is changing on one incident. I do not believe that you can rest your thesis that climate is changing in this province because there was a fire around Biggar. I don't think that's right. I don't think you can rest your idea that the climate is changing because there's a flood in Quebec and around Ottawa in a flood plain. I don't think you can make your point on that.

I think you can make your point when you look at some of the insurance companies. And we're blessed to have SGI Canada that looks over a 5-year, a 10-year, a 20- to 30-year term and say, over that time, climate has changed because we're seeing some of these more, some of the incidents that are impacting insurance companies happening more often. So I would agree with that completely. So you would take that over the last 10 or 15 or 20 years that this is happening more often.

So it's the frequency in which these situations are happening, not the situation itself. And the members opposite will point to any sort of crisis, be it a flood, be it a fire, be it a drought, Mr. Speaker. I mean there's going to be parts of the province that are going to be dry this year. That isn't because of climate change. There are parts of the province that were dry in 1930. In fact the whole province was dry in 1930 to 1940. I don't believe that was necessarily climate change. But what I would say is the frequency of these events certainly would lead a person to believe that climate change is real.

Now meaningful action. The members on this side, both from Moosomin and Kelvington-Wadena, have described very well a number of the things that we've done in this province to address it, and I would just point to my own constituency of Indian Head-Milestone. When I was first elected, a fellow by the name of Doug McKell came up to me and he said, we could use our land as carbon sinks. And I'm going, carbon sinks; I've never heard of it. And they were already well on the path.

The other person I would really mention is Jim Halford. He started Conserva Pak. He was one of the first persons that realized we needed to continually crop. In other words, using our ground as a carbon sink. Mr. Speaker, we have advanced the science of carbon capture within our agriculture. For around the world, people, as was mentioned, come to Saskatchewan to see what we're doing in order to increase production and do it efficiently, and also, Mr. Speaker, help the environment. Be it responsible. The Prairie Resilience plan is a good plan, is a very good plan, and I'd recommend anybody on that opposite side to read it. We have. And it makes perfect sense, Mr. Speaker.

But as I said from the outset, I respect the members opposite for their viewpoints. I may not agree with it, but I respect them for their viewpoint. What I would say to the members opposite though, if a person disagrees with your viewpoint — if a person happens to say that I don't believe climate change is happening, for example; or I believe that climate change is happening but it isn't human driven — don't tie them to a yellow vest. Don't call them anti-Semitic. Don't call them racist, Mr. Speaker.

I know the members that put together that rally on April the 6th, and one of them is Blair Stewart, just an upstanding citizen from Fillmore. A great, great guy. And you tried by association, the members tried by association and especially the Leader of the Opposition tried by association, through virtue of signalling, that these people, because they disagreed maybe . . . And they don't even disagree with most of what the opposition was saying about climate change, but they framed them and they put them in their yellow vest and they're, you know, they're racist. Mr. Speaker, that does no one no good. And I don't believe everybody on that side believed it, Mr. Speaker. In fact I know there were a couple of members — one of them may have got up and spoke today — on that side that didn't feel very comfortable with the position

they took when thousands of people came into Saskatchewan to what? Create thousands of green jobs. You know what they were doing? They were protecting their jobs, and the members of the opposition didn't have the courtesy to show up.

Mr. Speaker, there were thousands of people in the oil industry that would agree with your point and that's why they've taken what they do so very, very seriously. The production of oil today is not like the production of oil 10 years ago or 20 years ago. There have been huge advancements. Why? Because they realize that carbon is an issue, Mr. Speaker, and that's why they've changed the production of what they are doing to maintain jobs into the future, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they're not yellow vesters. They're not racist, Mr. Speaker. They're protecting their jobs. They're doing it here in Saskatchewan. They're taxpayers in this province. And it's an absolute shame that the opposition couldn't find the nerve — because somebody disagreed with them — to show up at a rally to protect their jobs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way I could support a motion like this when it talks about green jobs that don't recognize the benefits that people in this province are doing right now, be it agriculture, be it in the oil industry, Mr. Speaker. I think it does a disservice, and I think it'll keep those members on that side for a very long time.

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

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2009 the former member from Regina Northeast was quoted as saying, and I quote:

We came out of a government for the past 16 years and we hadn't reduced carbon emissions or reduced poverty and we're the socialist party. That's supposed to be our priority and instead emissions and poverty [both] increased.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we had to go back a decade to find a statement from an NDP member that was 100 per cent correct.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the member, the current member from Regina Northeast: do you agree with your former colleague's statements and if so, will you support and acknowledge our plan, the *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*?

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member from Kindersley for his question. Mr. Speaker, the challenge before us today is what are we going to do? This is the most important problem facing our climate, facing our planet, facing our species. The question is what are we going to do today? And I'll take no lessons. I've never been in government. I'm not the one sitting in the opposite side here. The government has been there for 12 years and hasn't reduced emissions for this province. The question, Mr. Speaker, is if we don't agree on science, or if we don't agree, as the member from Indian Head-Milestone says, on questions of opinion, we've turned to

science. Total emissions in this province have not gone down under this government's tenure.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the member from Moosomin for a very thoughtful speech, and much of it we can agree with. Of course, he left out the elephant in the room about water drainage and agriculture practices. We have to talk about that.

[12:15]

But I want to ask him this question: will he talk to the minister of forestry about what he just talked about in here, about clear-cutting, especially to the repairing edge — very important. Now they're clearing right to the river and clearing right to the bare ground. And this is something that the member talked about. Will he talk about this because this is a huge issue in forestry, not just in agriculture, but clearing the land. Will the member make that commitment to talk to the minister because this is an important issue in terms of global warming? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will, to answer your question, because I think that is something that should be brought up. But I do want to address some other things that I heard today. For example, the member from Regina Northeast, he said that . . . He was talking about our dirty products that we produce in this province. And I just can't believe that he actually said that in this Assembly because, as I mentioned in my speech, we are sequestering more in this province than we emit. In fact the agriculture land that's been managed properly because of the innovation and forward-thinking farmers that we have in this province, because of that we are actually sequestering . . . We are storing in our grasslands just in this province three times Canada's annual carbon emissions. For them to think that we are producing dirty products in this, if you were to look at the net balance, it's just unbelievable he could even say that, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has been quoted saying, and I quote, "Putting a price on carbon is really just a practical way of decreasing emissions," and, "We applaud the federal government's recent announcement on a minimum price on carbon."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the member from Regina Northeast. Do you stand with your leader's position on having a carbon tax imposed on the people of Saskatchewan, and do you think this is a really good thing?

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

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, there is a government in Saskatchewan that has imposed a carbon tax, and it's the current government. They imposed a carbon tax and a carbon price on heavy emitters. Mr. Speaker, and I also note that, you know, I thought the leader of the conservative movement in this country by the name of Preston Manning also applauded the idea of a carbon tax. So I'm not sure whether the . . . I'm curious to know what the member thinks of Preston Manning's leadership in this area.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is there's many different ways that we can deal with climate change. We don't have to pick one, but we need to deal with it.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, we heard lots of loud speech coming from the member from Indian Head-Milestone about the importance of rallies. Tomorrow, here on the legislature, there are a bunch of students coming, organized to raise their concerns about climate change. They're going to be here on the steps of the legislature. Will the member from Indian Head-Milestone attend that important rally and will he encourage members of his cabinet to do the same?

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know it's interesting how they will try and avoid the fact that they didn't attend the biggest rally in this province, Mr. Speaker, and then try and put it onto students. Mr. Speaker, if I have the time, I'll certainly be here. I've attended many, many rallies, Mr. Speaker, whether it was SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], Mr. Speaker, years ago when they were rallying against the former government. I've attended many, many rallies, Mr. Speaker, and if I have time to get here, I certainly wouldn't mind.

But it's interesting, Mr. Speaker. I want to read a quote into the *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker, really quickly because they said we haven't done enough over 12 years, but they always hate when we go back into their records.

And there's just one quote here, and I'll just see if anybody wants to put up their hand on that side as to who made this quote:

We came out of a government for the past 16 years and we hadn't reduced carbon emissions or reduced poverty and we're the socialist party. That's supposed to be our priority and instead emissions and poverty increased.

That was 16 years of government. Anybody on that side want to put up their hand and take credit for that?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Next question, please. I recognize the member from Biggar-Sask Valley.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The motion presented today does not reflect the effort and work that this government, as well as many in Saskatchewan, have done to reduce emissions and improve our energy efficiencies. The members opposite have failed to see that, beyond this Assembly,



corporations, businesses, family homes, and communities in general are taking steps to become resilient to climate change in an affordable way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is to the member of Regina Rosemont. Will you stand against your leader and drop your support for the Trudeau carbon tax and support the Prairie Resilience along with the rest of Saskatchewan?

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a lot of respect for that member, and it's always that hard position, I suspect, when he has a printed question handed to him that doesn't reflect the debate that has occurred.

Of course I addressed in my remarks, Mr. Speaker, the incredible things that agricultural producers and industry and homeowners and business and farms and First Nations, what they're doing and what they're prepared to do. What we don't have is any leadership in a practical way, in a meaningful way by that Sask Party government. And of course, you know, our leader has been clear, as have I, that we don't need a federally imposed carbon price on Saskatchewan, as he's been clear that we don't need an economy-wide carbon price across Saskatchewan.

What we do call on this government is to step up and invest in Renew Saskatchewan, clean our power grid, Mr. Speaker, providing affordable power, opportunity, and creating thousands of jobs all across our province.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was disappointed to hear that the member from Indian Head-Milestone won't support 700 school kids on the front steps of the legislature. Very interesting, Mr. Speaker.

But my question is for the member from Kindersley. Your government cut an incentive for green vehicles. So I'm just wondering if the member for Kindersley thinks that ... [inaudible interjection] ... I'm sorry, the member from Kelvington-Wadena. Does he support the cut to energy-efficient vehicles?

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

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think it's a very important question and one that deserves a very meaningful answer. Absolutely, a move towards more energy efficiency in vehicles is incredibly important. But I do want to just very quickly add one thing. The member opposite ... Thank you.

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

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

##### Motion No. 3 — Prairie Resilience Climate Change Strategy

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Hindley.]

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a great honour to enter into this debate, Mr. Speaker, made-in-Saskatchewan climate change strategy. Saskatchewan is the province that historically never depends on others. People of Saskatchewan are pragmatic and resourceful. We are not only a self-dependent, innovative community, but we have the record to support economic and industrial growth across Canada.

Today we face the global challenge of climate change, and once again our province is motivated to develop an effective response. Our industries are heavily dependent on fossil fuels to produce energy, food, fertilizer products and commodities. Despite the fact that our opposition knows that throughout our history we have faced complex, challenging problems imposed on us by geography and climate, they are supporting a carbon tax and anti-pipeline instead of standing for people of Saskatchewan.

Our population spread, vast land has taught us self-reliance and resilience. We have learned when we are faced with the challenges it is up to us to solve it. Mr. Speaker, we are very genuinely and with great enthusiasm supporting the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But those efforts must be effective and they must not disadvantage one region of Canada more than another.

A federal carbon tax is an infiltration in our economic and industrial growth and our opposition is clobbering our people and smashing our employment by helping the federal government's carbon tax. Rather it is recognition that we must act, and act decisively with all economic ... [inaudible] ... focus the climate adaptation and resilience in order to be effective. Mr. Speaker, a strong economy is one with resilience and resources to seek solutions and fund the innovation where they simply must have to respond effectively to climate change.

Mr. Speaker, we are proposing an approach that allows Saskatchewan to continue to grow and prosper while contributing to Canada's efforts to address climate change. Saskatchewan people and businesses have already begun this monumental task. Their actions range from world-leading innovation and technology development in agriculture and power generation to community and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, in this strategy, the Government of Saskatchewan builds upon the action we have already taken and introduces the measures to strengthen our province and build resilience to climate change. Our plan is bold, broad, and made for Saskatchewan. It is the best way for our province to harness our valuable resources while contributing solutions to an issue that affects the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has demonstrated long-standing commitment to action on climate change. Between 2008 to 2015,

the Government of Saskatchewan invested \$60 million in Go Green funding through public-private partnerships to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance biodiversity, and educate the public about the effects of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan continues to be a leader in technologies and knowledge about carbon capture use and storage. We have applied that expertise to our provincial electricity generation system since 2014, further reducing our emissions by more than 1.75 million tonnes of carbon, which is the equivalent of 440,000 cars off the road, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 2015 our provincial utility, SaskPower, set a target of doubling its percentage of electricity capacity for our renewable energy sources. The ultimate goal is to get 50 per cent of our power from renewable by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan did not sign the subsequent *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* in large part because the framework promotes a carbon tax as the central approach to reducing emissions. A carbon tax would not significantly reduce emissions in our province, where our economy and geography do not allow for easy alternatives. In fact, the carbon tax would make it more difficult for our province to respond effectively to climate change because the simple tax will not result in the innovations required to actually reduce emissions. We believe the challenges we face are complex and will not yield to simple measures. The conversation about climate change must be broader than carbon pricing. It must encompass how we as Canadians prepare, mitigate, and adapt.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada announced a carbon tax of \$10 per tonne that was introduced in 2018, rising \$10 per tonne annually to \$50 per tonne in 2022. Provinces that do not introduce a tax of their own are expected to have a tax imposed upon them by the federal government. Mr. Speaker, this is seizing to our economic and industrial growth. This will be smashing our employment. This will affect our international trade.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's approach to climate change is more sustainable. Resilience is a much stronger indicator of effective climate action than simply mirroring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, because it mirrors our overall ability to adapt, innovate, and even thrive.

[12:30]

Mr. Speaker, the NDP approach is different. This is what they are promoting publicly about Saskatchewan. The member for Northeast was presenting a petition on April 29th, 2019 and was saying Saskatchewan produced highest gas emission per capita. Mr. Speaker, our approach is on a factual basis. Saskatchewan continues to sequester significant amounts of soil organic matter, an indicator of soil productivity and carbon sequestered in provincial soil.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to take action solving these climate challenges and the province has developed climate resilience policy in several areas, including nature systems, physical infrastructure, economic sustainability, and community preparedness. These policies cover the ways climate change is affecting Saskatchewan, although many policies have implementation for more than one area of focus. They are

identified under the area of best fit.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to stewardship and responsible development for our province's remarkable abundance of natural resources. How we grow our crops, harvest our forest, and protect our vital water system will be critically important to how we prepare, respond, and adapt to changing this climate.

Mr. Speaker, in agriculture the province is a global leader in low emissions practice. Our soil is an important carbon sink, sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Since 1980 our growers have been developing, refining, and implementing zero- and low-tillage practices, increasing the ability of our soil to sequester carbon. Farmers have diversified their crops to enhance soil health and managing pests and diseases, Mr. Speaker.

I adjourn the debate, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Regina Pasqua has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:33.]



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