



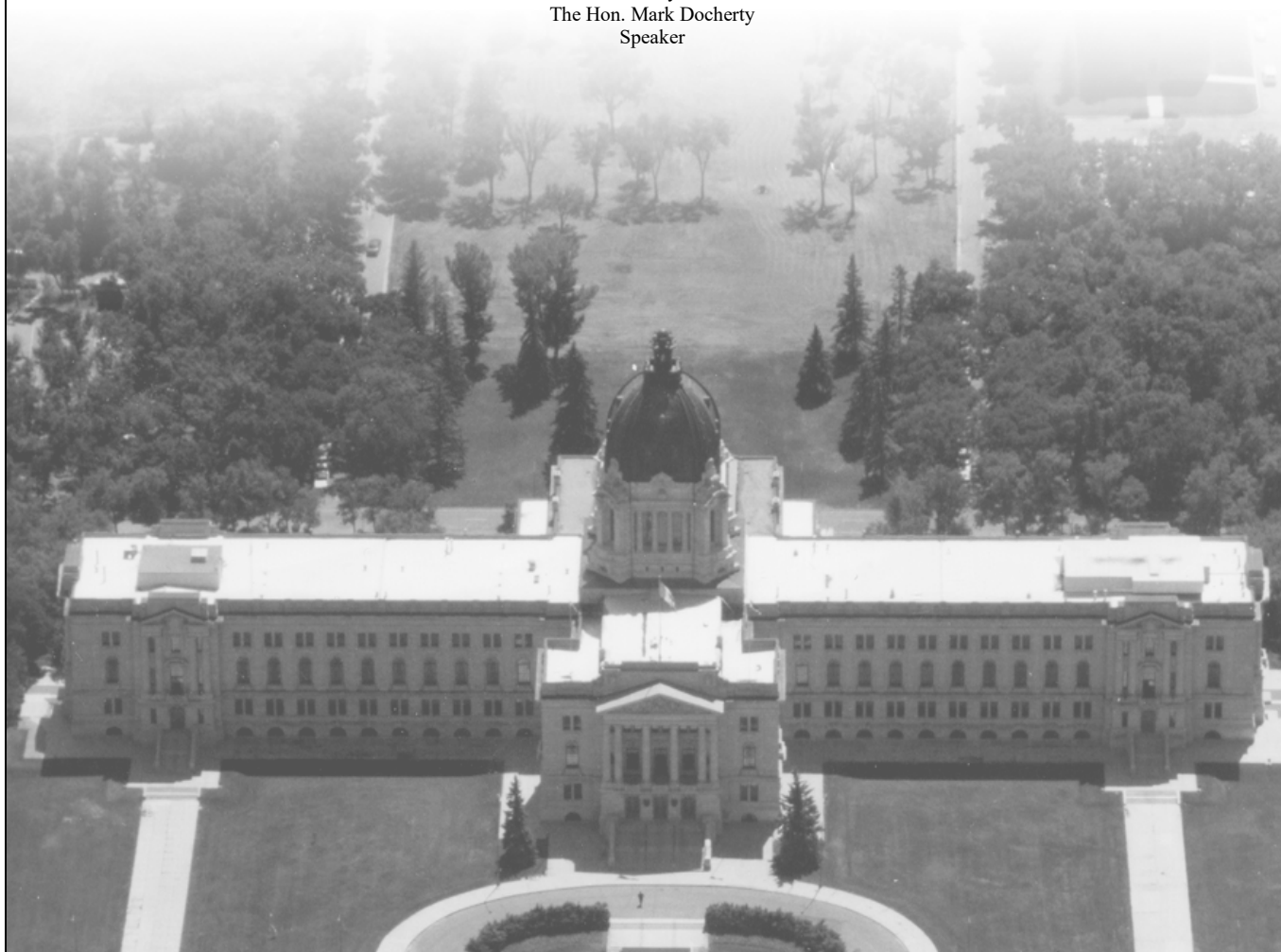
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

Beaudry-Mellor, Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)
Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Brkich, Hon. Greg — Arm River (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)
Chartier, Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
Cox, Herb — The Battlefords (SP)
D'Autremont, Dan — Cannington (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Docherty, Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)
Doke, Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)
Forbes, David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)
Hargrave, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hart, Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Heppner, Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)
Hindley, Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
McCall, Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
McMorris, Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Michelson, Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Olauson, Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Pedersen, Yens — Regina Northeast (NDP)
Rancourt, Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ross, Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Sproule, Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Steinley, Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Stewart, Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Tochor, Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the Internet

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

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

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave for a bunch, maybe three. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — All good things come in threes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to introduce to you, to all members of this Saskatchewan Assembly, Mr. Speaker, some very special guests that have joined us here today. With us are a number of people who have a connection to an incredible story that received a lot of media coverage not too long ago. Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking of the recovery of a Government of Saskatchewan float plane that crashed into Peter Pond Lake nearly 60 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, with us today are Linda Rae Gran Kapusta and her husband, Don Kapusta. Mr. Speaker, Linda Rae is the daughter of the late Raymond Gran, who was the pilot of the airplane on that fatal day in 1959. Martin Gran, a nephew of Raymond Gran, joins us as well.

We also welcome Charlotte Heapy, Perry Thompson Heapy, Thomas Heapy, Ernest Heapy, and his two children, Charlotte and James, all of whom are family members of the late Harold Thompson. Harold Thompson was a conservation officer. He was the only passenger on the plane that was travelling from Buffalo Narrows to La Loche when it crashed.

And, Mr. Speaker, accompanying the family members are Dorin Wallace, the president of the Saskatchewan Aviation Museum and Learning Centre, as well as Brent Janvier, the mayor of Michel Village, and his wife, Allison Woods-Janvier. Mr. Speaker, Michel Village is located on the shores of Peter Pond Lake.

Finally we welcome Doug Chisholm, a renowned pilot, author, and historian. As well, Mr. Speaker, joining these individuals today is Harold Fast, who is no stranger to this Assembly. Harold is a successful Saskatchewan business person as well as an avid pilot.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Crown Investments will speak in more detail about the accident and the effort that they underwent to retrieve the airplane in a few moments, but members may know that the aircraft went down in bad weather in August of 1959 and it was never found.

Mr. Speaker, the past few years have been an emotional journey for the families as they worked to recover the remains and personal effects of their loved ones. On March 26th of this year, they managed to do just that. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the coordinated effort led by the families — the effort that involved divers, volunteers from Michel Village, Dillon, and St. George's, museum volunteers, and thanks to all of them — the aircraft was raised to the surface of Peter Pond Lake. Today it's on display at the Saskatchewan Aviation Museum in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly an amazing Saskatchewan story, and we are so pleased to be joined by the members of the families that were able to join us here today. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone following question period, as I had the opportunity previously to meet a number of these individuals. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming these very special guests to their Saskatchewan legislature.

For number two, Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to just welcome — I know she'll be formally introduced in a few moments but — a previous member of this Assembly, a friend to so many, the previous member and MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Kelvington-Wadena, June Draude. Welcome to your Assembly here today.

And with me, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to be joined with three of my close friends, I would call them, Mr. Speaker. I have my nephew Carson Ledding with us today, Mr. Speaker. Carson is a grade 8 student at W.P. Sandin, a high school in Shellbrook, the home of the Aardvarks, Mr. Speaker — a very threatening animal if you're an ant. Mr. Speaker, Carson is an avid Elk, Shellbrook Elk, in the community as well. He's a goalie for their bantam team and becoming quite a good hockey player and goalie, Mr. Speaker, as well as a softball pitcher, a fastball pitcher. And he's my snowmobiling partner when I have the opportunity to get home, Mr. Speaker.

With Carson is his sister, younger sister Abby who's a grade 7 student at the same school, a formidable softball pitcher in her own right as well as a hockey player, and quickly becoming likely, maybe even a little stronger curler than her brother at times, I think if they . . . No? No? Mr. Speaker, Carson and Abby are my sister's children, and they are joined by my brother's daughter Anik Moe, who is a grade 8 student at École Valois in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, also a ball player, a hockey player. And they've had the opportunity to join with their — their words, not mine — their coolest uncle, Mr. Speaker, here today and they'll be heading home for the remainder of the week of school in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these three family members of mine, June, and everyone else that has joined us here today.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll be questioning those family members about that coolest uncle comment, checking the veracity of that and how much, you know, bribery was involved.

I just want to join the Premier in welcoming the family members of the folks who were involved in the aviation crash and everyone who worked — the historians, the family members, and the local community leaders — who worked to tell this story, to raise the plane, make sure that the plane is raised from the lake, and that awareness is raised about that important story.

And it gives us a lot to think about, reflect about on aviation in this province, especially in the North. Still today, lots of communities reached frequently by small planes. It gives us all some pause for reflection as you think about the dangers that people have taken on to settle our province, to reach different communities, to bring health care and business and other connections throughout the province. So once again I'd like to join the Premier and ask everyone to welcome these fine folks to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — I would like to ask leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce, in your gallery, a larger than life personality who really needs no introduction, a constituent of mine, Mr. Don Atchison, who is joined today by his wife, Mardele. For 13 years as the mayor of Saskatoon, Atch was the city's most ardent promoter and champion. During his time as mayor, 10,000 community events he attended. He never missed a council meeting. He spearheaded the new police station, the Remail art gallery, River Landing, three new bridges, the Shaw Centre, and an indoor soccer field. And he oversaw a population jump in the city from 180,000 to 250,000.

In my former life as a journalist, I wasn't always uncritical of some of Mr. Atchison's initiatives, but when we would meet he was consummately magnanimous and gracious, surely the sign of a most generous personality. One thing, one image of him, sticks in my mind. It was the opening of the Louis Riel Trail in my constituency. There was a round dance and His Worship joined in and he looked so happy, so engaged, so completely unself-consciously in the moment — and that's him, who he is. That's why he was called the people's mayor, a mayor who is also so deserving of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit 2019, which he is set to receive next month.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming Mr. Atchison and his wife, Mardele, to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to join with the minister to welcome Don Atchison to his Assembly and to welcome Mardele to her Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Certainly as Municipal Affairs critic for the opposition and just as in public service, I got to know Don and how he

approached his work. And I'd certainly thank him for that public service. He was always gracious. He was always thoughtful and always very hardworking. And it's a pleasure to have him here today and to thank him for that service. So on behalf of the official opposition, I ask all members to welcome Don Atchison and Mardele to their Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While on my feet, I want to join with the Premier to welcome June Draude to her Assembly. It's nice to have her warm presence in the Assembly here today. This is somebody that I had the honour of serving with and somebody who did a lot of good for the province that I know she loves, a lot of focus around FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder] for many years, something that's important to me, important to our province. And she continues to serve many, Mr. Speaker, through the Autism Resource Centre and providing supports for many. So it's a pleasure to welcome June Draude to her Assembly.

While still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the Deputy Premier for the orange shoelaces that he sent across to me here today, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate it.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, it comes as no surprise to the member opposite that I had no use for orange shoelaces, so I thought he might. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, or green.

Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't also welcome Don Atchison and his wife, Mardele, to the legislature today. Mr. Speaker, in 2003 I was elected as a city councillor for Ward 5 and that was the night that Don was elected the mayor of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you that, I can tell you first hand, Mr. Speaker, that much of the success, if not the majority of the success, over the city of Saskatoon over the past years while he was the mayor goes to Don's credit and Don's vision, Mr. Speaker. I point to south downtown, Mr. Speaker, which was an urban wasteland before Don became the mayor and you can see the significant progress that we've had down there, Mr. Speaker.

In over the course of history in Saskatoon, we typically build a bridge about every 35 years. But in Don's tenure, Mr. Speaker, three bridges were planned while he was the mayor of Saskatoon — one was opened and two recently, Mr. Speaker. We have a new performing arts centre, a new art gallery, Mr. Speaker, and my colleague had already indicated a number of the other things, Mr. Speaker. Thankfully no bike lanes when Don was the mayor, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank Don for the leadership of the city of Saskatoon over the period of time that he was the mayor. I want to thank him for his guidance and I want to thank him for his leadership. And I really want to acknowledge the fact that I don't think I'd be sitting in my chair today, Mr. Speaker, if it wasn't for the help and the guidance that I got from Don Atchison. He's truly a friend and Mardele as well and, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank them for that. So, Mr. Speaker, I too want to ask the members of the legislature to welcome Don and Mardele to their legislature.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great delight for me this afternoon to introduce a special group seated on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. With us today we have a supported retirement group with Inclusion Regina. We have with us today Joana Valamootoo. Joana is the lead facilitator for Inclusion Regina. We have with her a face from back home, from Lang-Yellow Grass area, Edna Whitrow, a volunteer with this group here today; Joanne Bevan, a senior support staff with Help Homes Regina; and two faces that it's been too long since I've seen but I would recognize anywhere, we have with us today Robert Shepherd and Georgette Audett.

So nice to see you, and I would invite all members to join me in welcoming these very special individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

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, I would like to introduce, seated in your gallery, Chief Roy Petit and Garnet Eyahpaïse. He's an economic development officer of the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. They are here today with Innergex, a renewable energy producer, for a members' reception where they're going to talk about this and many of their other interesting initiatives they've got.

[13:45]

They're here today with Brenda Barootes, who's a principal with Paregoros Incorporated. I'd like to welcome Chief Petit, Garnet, and Brenda to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming Chief Roy Petit from Beardy's and Okemasis to his Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see him here. We look forward to the reception later on this afternoon.

Of course as well to say hello to Garnet and to Ms. Barootes, no stranger to this Assembly. We look forward to hearing more about the exciting opportunities I'm sure they've got to present very soon. But on behalf of the official opposition, we welcome these very important people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister in welcoming the members from Beardy's Okemasis: Chief Roy Petit and Garnet. We have found a mutual interest in history and we've been going through and we'll be spending more time together. But I would ask all members to join me in welcoming because they come from the most successful reserve in the Batoche constituency and they've got a big, bright future ahead. So welcome the members from Beardy's Okemasis.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to welcome the Gran family that are here today to celebrate the retrieval of the aircraft that was missing for a number of decades. I want to commend the mayor, Brent Janvier, for being here in support of that effort.

And certainly, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that coming from the Ile-a-la-Crosse area, we're all familiar with the stories of the flying exploits of the Gran family. There was Maurice Gran. And I understand that Ray Gran also served in the Second World War and that he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, which is something to be very, very proud of.

And I know that the family struggled over the many years trying to find closure for the missing Ray Gran and of course the gentleman accompanying Mr. Gran, Harold Thompson. They both died while they were working and they were doing their duty. And I know that it was a very difficult time for them, Mr. Speaker, over the years to try and find closure, to find conclusion to what happened to their loved ones. And, Mr. Speaker, it's very important to note that we celebrate this day with them as well.

I want to commend Don Kapusta, who married Ray Gran's daughter Linda, for taking the time and the effort to help his in-laws and his wife find closure, and certainly find the sense of peace that is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that in the early years when I was a young lad growing up in Ile-a-la-Crosse, we often heard of the Gran family as they were flying throughout the northwest region of Saskatchewan, in particular Maurice Gran. We heard the legends of Ray Gran and the abilities that he had, and of course the great service of Harold Thompson as well.

We also heard of the exploits of many great pilots in the Northwest, the pioneers of this particular industry — people like Johnny Midgett of Big River, people like Grover Clarke of Meadow Lake; Richard Waite also was a pilot.

Mr. Speaker, my father was also a pilot. He was one of the first Métis pilots. He got his commercial licence after he came back from World War II. And there was always a good connection I had to the Gran family, because we lost our mothers to an aircraft accident. I was five years old when she perished in an airplane accident during a very bad storm. So as you look at the success of today's story, and I hope and pray that the Gran family find their peace, because it was a very tough industry in those days. Often my father would fly, and half an hour later the instruments would thaw out and then we would see we were okay for fuel.

So we were raised and grown up in an aircraft, and so we had a lot of connection to the Gran family. And all I want to say is that I hope you find peace. I wish you the very best, and God bless you all for your continued endurance and your suffering. Finally we have peace and closure. God bless, and thanks for being here

today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to introduce 15 grade 8 students who are seated in the west gallery. These students come from the Ituna School and they are accompanied by their teacher, Cynthia Yanko. Now Ms. Yanko, I should mention, is a graduate or attended the Social Sciences Teachers' Institute a few years back, and she's been bringing classes ever since, but I understand she has brought a number of classes to the legislature prior to that.

It's always good to see the Ituna School group here. They are accompanied by chaperone Ron Kreway. Ron is an engineer who I see occasionally when I stop in at the RM [rural municipality] of Ituna office where Ron rents some office space and does some work, and we discuss the affairs of Ituna and district and of course things that he may or may not be working on at the time.

Also before I ask members to welcome these students, I would just simply make them aware that a former graduate of the Ituna School is one of our table officers, Ms. Kathy Burianyak. Kathy tells me she just graduated a few years before these students and she would certainly like to make them welcome. So I would ask all members to welcome the Ituna School students to their Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of northern Saskatchewan. There is a definite need for a long-term care facility in the La Ronge area, and according to the Croft report of 2009, shows that the area is in code red. There was 500,000 allocated for planning. That was spent, and then the plan has been ready for years. Seniors are waiting 165 days on average for a bed and are being shipped hours away from their loved ones.

And I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Sask Party government treat northern Saskatchewan senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by many residents of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request

that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Whitewood, Saskatoon, and the fine city of Moose Jaw. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, communities from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party government's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour, Mr. Speaker. Of course this is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker. The results, the consequences, the impact speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker.

Since the imposition of the PST onto construction labour, we see a serious drop in permits all across the province. We see projects that have been shelved, Mr. Speaker, at a time where we need investment and at a time where we need projects to be advanced. And we see thousands of hard-working tradespeople losing their employment, their livelihoods as a result, Mr. Speaker. So many of those people have been forced outside of Saskatchewan in the pursuit of employment, a loss for them and their family, but a tremendous loss for our province, Mr. Speaker.

And we know that Saskatchewan households have been hit hard, as has our economy, by the expansion of the PST, Mr. Speaker. In fact the average household is paying almost \$800 more per year than just five years ago, Mr. Speaker. That's a hard hit on households, and we see it directly in our economy where we see things like retail sales completely flat, nominal GDP [gross domestic product] flat, and families struggling.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to present a petition calling on this Assembly to support GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the following items: that Saskatchewan lags behind other jurisdictions in securing the rights of gender- and sexually-diverse students; that gender and sexuality alliances, or GSAs, play a role in providing inclusive, anti-oppressive learning environments, and that these GSAs offer reprieve from bullying and assaults; gender and sexuality alliances offer opportunities to improve attendance and retention rates, generate

meaningful relationships at schools, reduce homophobic and transphobic bullying; and that this government must act so that under no circumstances are gender- and sexually-diverse students denied the right to form GSAs within their schools.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that read as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to take immediate and meaningful action to enshrine in legislation the right of students to form GSAs within their schools in order to deliver equal opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I'm tabling a number of petitions today that have been signed by residents of Regina, Weyburn, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Maple Creek, Aberdeen, Meota, Swift Current, Success, Stewart Valley, Elrose, Conquest, and Prince Albert. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising today to present a petition regarding the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan. The people who have submitted this petition are concerned about the inflows in the Quill lakes and the project, Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project, that would drain saline water from Kutawagan and Pell lakes into Last Mountain Lake.

The Water Security Agency has yet to close a single illegal drain flowing into the Quill lakes watershed as promised, and there was a ruling that the project was not a development under *The Environmental Assessment Act*. There is widespread public concern regarding this drainage diversion because of potential environmental changes that have an effect on unique, rare, and endangered features of the environment.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Minister of Environment and the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan publicly release all documents used to make the determination under *The Environmental Assessment Act*; deem the Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project a development and therefore initiate a full environmental assessment of the project, including public and First Nations consultations; and finally refuse to issue any permits or licences nor fund any activities under the Common Ground Drainage Diversion Project proposal until a comprehensive, impartial environmental impact assessment and public and Indigenous consultations are completed.

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this various number of petitions today are from Broadview, Grenfell, Estevan, Crooked Creek, Grayson, Regina, Bangor, Stockholm, Atwater, Melville, Cowessess First Nation, Sakimay First Nation, Whitewood, Esterhazy, Saskatoon, Broadview, Bienfait, Benson, Lemberg, and Goodeve. I so submit.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on calling for real action to fight climate change. Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition were some of the over 500 students that gathered on the steps of this legislature on Friday to call for real action to fight climate change.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners signing this petition want to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada. They want to bring to our attention that this government has failed to tackle climate change and has failed to reduce emissions, even according to their own weak targets, and they failed to put in place a real plan to protect our natural environment.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners signing this petition want to bring to our attention that this government has slashed programs and funding for the environment and put us on a backwards course, and that all of this is evidenced by the fact that payments under the provincial disaster assistance program have been increasing by hundreds-fold over the last couple of decades.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer, the petitioners:

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

I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Observance of Ramadan

Ms. Sproule: — As salaam alaikum; peace be unto you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Muslims worldwide prepare for the start of Ramadan, which began last night with the spotting of the moon and will continue until June 4th.

This is a holy month for Muslims across Saskatchewan and the world. Ramadan is a time to reflect on and practise self-discipline through a month of fasting, a practice that would be hard to fathom for those of us who are non-Muslim. Muslims fast as an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God, and a way to become more compassionate to those in need. It's also seen as a way to learn patience and break bad habits.

I know the invitations have already started coming in and many members on both sides of this Assembly will be attending Ramadan events: iftar dinners, as well as Eid al-Fitr events to celebrate the breaking of the fast at the end of Ramadan. Often, mosques around the world hold large iftar dinners for the poor and vulnerable in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the start of Ramadan and to thank Muslim communities across

Saskatchewan for the messages of peace and welcoming that they bring to community events.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Midwives Make Valuable Contributions to Maternal Care

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Sunday, May 5th marked the International Day of the Midwife, and today I wish to recognize the valuable contributions midwives make to maternal care in our province. Their profession allows for increased choice and access for delivering mothers by offering obstetrical care in low-risk pregnancies, which allows expectant mothers the option of a home birth. Home births are well regarded by families who have received the service as a more comfortable, calming alternative to a hospital birth.

Mr. Speaker, midwifery became a provincially recognized and self-regulated health profession in 2008 with the proclamation of *The Midwifery Act*. A year later the first midwifery clinic opened in Saskatoon. Since then midwives have participated in the delivery of more than 3,700 babies here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this profession is greatly appreciated by both our government and the clients it serves, which is why we proudly continue to contribute 2.4 million towards midwifery services. This funding supports 15 midwifery positions in Saskatoon, Swift Current, Regina, and All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my thanks to all midwives in our province for the great work they do, and to the midwives who may be in attendance today, thank you. Please join me in recognizing these valuable health professionals.

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

Get Loud for National Mental Health Week

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May 6th to 12th marks the Canadian Mental Health Association's Mental Health Week, an annual event that encourages Canadian people to reflect on all issues related to mental health. However, Mr. Speaker, reflecting is simply not enough. That's why the theme for this year's Mental Health Week is, #GetLoud about what mental health really is. Mr. Speaker, the first annual Mental Health Week was in 1951. This is its 68th year.

The week has focused on reducing the stigma of mental illness and promoting good mental health for all Canadians. Mental health is about more than mental illness. One in five Canadians live with mental health problems, mental illnesses, or substance use disorders, but the reality is five in five of us have mental health, just like we all have physical health. We can all benefit from celebrating, promoting, and acknowledging the role that good mental health plays in living a full and meaningful life. By using our voices we can help create change and build mental health support for people across Canada, and particularly here at home.

I look forward to wrapping up this weekend at the Step Up for

Mental Health Run in Saskatoon. They capped the registration at 2,000 and it's been sold out for weeks, Mr. Speaker, which is always really good to see. So I won't be participating in the run, but I look forward to supporting folks at the water station, and I will be thinking about my nephew Jordan, who my family lost to bipolar disorder.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognition of national Mental Health Week, and in getting loud, raising awareness, and creating change for those suffering with mental health issues here in our province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Indigenous Artist Receives National and International Recognition

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a very talented Indigenous artist, Catherine Blackburn. Catherine was born in Patuanak, Saskatchewan and grew up in Choceland. She is a member of the English River First Nation and is of Dene and European ancestry. Catherine is a bead artist, painter, and jeweller. Family tradition and culture are sewn into every bead of her work.

Catherine's work was recently recognized nationally as a finalist for the Sobey Art Award, and internationally through *Vogue*, as one of the eight Indigenous beaders who are modernizing their craft. In 2017 she was chosen to participate in the renowned Bonavista Biennale as one of only 26 Canadian artists.

Catherine began her jewellery in 2011, and in this short time she has received many awards, including a Governor General's History Award and the 2017 Saskatchewan RBC Emerging Artist Award. Her jewellery design has expanded into fashion, with her work on display at shows in Toronto and Calgary. This government is proud to support her talent through the Saskatchewan Arts Awards and the Saskatchewan Arts Board grants. As well her work is included in the Saskatchewan Arts Board's permanent collection.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in congratulating Catherine for her national and international recognition and to wish her all the best in her future work. Thank you.

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

School Choirs Perform for Music Monday

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today in the rotunda, we were very fortunate to hear the performances by four school choirs, two of which were from my constituency of Regina Rochdale: Winston Knoll and Michael A. Riffel. Balfour and Miller were also there from Regina Douglas Park. They joined us today for Music Monday, a day where millions of teachers and students from coast to coast come together to celebrate music education in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this national event is organized by the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, which is a group of both students, teachers, and professionals. Choirs in classrooms have been

learning and performing the “Hymn to Freedom” for today’s event. This anthem, which was written by Oscar Peterson and lyrics by Harriette Hamilton, express both the desire and respect for equality among everyone here in Canada.

Over 60 years in his career, Oscar Peterson received multiple global recognitions for not only his music gifts, but for his humanitarian efforts. His legacy lives on through Music Monday and the “Hymn to Freedom.”

I now ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking our 200 performers for sharing the talents here in the Legislative Building today and for recognizing Music Monday, this event which celebrates the importance of music in our lives.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River.

Journalist of the Year Remembers Humboldt Broncos

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* sports editor Kevin Mitchell. Kevin was named the 2018 Journalist of the Year at the National Newspaper Awards in the sports writing category for his exceptional coverage of the Humboldt Broncos tragedy. This was not an easy story to cover, but Kevin was very proud of the work that him and his colleagues in the newsroom did to share the stories of those affected by that tragic bus accident.

April 6th was a very dark day in Saskatchewan, and the heartbreak spread across the entire world. But during this time of darkness, we were comforted and connected through the stories of those affected by the bus crash, which helped us mourn as a global community. Kevin did a beautiful job of highlighting this community in a respectful way, honouring both the victims and the families of the crash. Their legacy and memory will live on, and we are grateful for Kevin’s passion and dedication to remembering our Broncos.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kevin Mitchell on winning the 2018 Journalist of the Year for the National Newspaper Award. Thank you.

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

Honouring the Memory of Ray Gran and Harold Thompson

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to rise in the Assembly today to talk a little bit about the amazing story of the recovery of Government Airways Cessna 180 CF-JDO, and the two men who lost their lives August 20th, 1959. Saskatchewan Government Airways pilot Raymond Gran and conservation officer Harold Thompson departed Buffalo Narrows and shortly after takeoff the aircraft was lost in adverse weather conditions. Despite an extensive search, the men in the aircraft were never found.

In July of ’17 an 18-month-long project began to locate the lost aircraft and recover the remains of Raymond and Harold. On July 30th 2018, the aircraft was located. Between August ’18 and January 2019 several other attempts were made to recover the plane. While some personal effects were found by RCMP [Royal

Canadian Mounted Police] divers, they were unable to proceed due to lake conditions.

On March 22nd, 2019, Don Kapusta, Mike Fletcher, Martin Gran, Doug Chisholm, and family members proceeded to the site on Peter Pond lake prepared by Dorrin Wallace and Jim Russell. Mayor Brent Janvier and his wife, Allison, and many people from the communities of Michel Village, Dillon, and St. George’s were so helpful and provided so much support to the success of the recovery and to the families.

And on March 26th, 2019, nearly 60 years after the crash, the remains and personal effects were recovered and the aircraft was brought to the surface. The aircraft will be displayed at the Saskatchewan Aviation Museum as a tribute to Sask Airways pilot Raymond Gran and conservation officer Harold Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly an amazing story. We are pleased that members of the family, friends, and community are here today and have allowed us to share the story and to honour the memory of Raymond Gran and Harold Thompson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Action on Climate Change and Provincial Carbon Tax Challenge

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday hundreds of students in Saskatoon and here in Regina gathered to ask for action on climate change. Now the Premier didn’t want to hear what they had to say, but he should. With floods across the country, with fires and droughts here in Saskatchewan, these are the young people who will be paying for our inaction for decades to come.

Instead we’ve had a decade of inaction, a decade of lip service, a decade in which we’ve seen cuts to the climate change branch — 80 per cent, silencing Saskatchewan scientists — a decade of missed opportunities in renewable energy, a decade of rising emissions.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government realize that climate change is serious? When will they take serious action with clear targets and a means to get there?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On Friday the Premier of this province was busy, Mr. Speaker. He was going through a report with respect to a split decision that came down in our case, Mr. Speaker, in our reference case that we had put forward to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal which was decided on, Mr. Speaker, as I said, in a split decision. And I indicated on Friday that we will be advancing that appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of the people that we represent here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

All people in this nation and in this province, Mr. Speaker, whether they be on the front steps of the legislature, in our communities across Saskatchewan, or working in our industries,

should not confuse taking real action on climate change with a federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. Those two are very, very different, Mr. Speaker.

And in Saskatchewan what has also occurred over the course of the past decade is real action on climate change, Mr. Speaker, in agriculture, when we look at crop agriculture being a carbon-neutral industry; what is happening in manufacturing, most particularly the steel manufacturing industry, Mr. Speaker, where we have a strong record in offsetting our emissions; what's happened in our mining sector; what's happening in our energy sector, Mr. Speaker. We can be very proud of the strong action that has been taken on climate change in this province, Mr. Speaker, without a carbon tax.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Talking about that split decision, something that wasn't split, something that was common across the board: all five justices agreed that climate change is caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and that it's one of the great existential issues of our time, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

My question for the Premier is this: does he agree with that statement? Does he agree with both the cause and the seriousness and the urgency of actions? And if he does, and if he wants to communicate that to the young people of this province, if he couldn't be out there on the steps, why wasn't the deputy premier, the Minister of the Environment, or someone else from this cabinet out there to speak to those students?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House have always indicated that climate change is real, Mr. Speaker. It is a global challenge. And it is caused, Mr. Speaker, by the actions of people, not only in this province, Mr. Speaker, but by all around the world, people in industries, Mr. Speaker. And we need to continue to rely on innovation and science and our world's brightest, Mr. Speaker, if we are to actually make any type of a difference — or also spoken as, taking real action — when it comes to climate change.

Mr. Speaker, this is where we differ, Mr. Speaker, from the members opposite. And I liken, and I'll use the analogy of some occurrences this past weekend, Mr. Speaker, with our provincial team that's in the WHL [Western Hockey League] finals, the P.A. [Prince Albert] Raiders, Mr. Speaker. They didn't have a very good game on Friday night, Mr. Speaker, and if that was the NDP [New Democratic Party] in that game, Mr. Speaker, they would've waved the white flag. They would have immediately ceded the Memorial Cup to the Vancouver Giants, Mr. Speaker.

Well I got into the game on Saturday night, Mr. Speaker, and those Raiders came back with a flawless effort, a 4-0 effort, Mr. Speaker, where they dominated, Mr. Speaker. And they're going on to the next game out in Vancouver and the next game, Mr. Speaker, just like we are in our battle against the federally imposed carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now this Premier has said that this case is going to go all the way to the Supreme Court, a process that could take years and years. And in the meantime, we're waiting. In the meantime we're stuck with a tax designed in Ottawa and imposed upon Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, a tax for which we should've gotten a much better deal. But this government, instead of coming to the table and negotiating a better deal, only wanted to play political games. It's all about political posturing, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order please. Recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, this is never been about us. It's never been about the people of Saskatchewan. It's always been about the Sask Party. And we can see that because they were able, they were able to negotiate a better deal for the heaviest emitters in the province. Now that he knows this is going to be with us for years, when will the Premier get to the table and negotiate a better deal for the rest of us?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, we never left the table. With respect to a plan, the plan of Prairie Resilience that the government of this province has put forward, Mr. Speaker, that plan was actually accepted by the federal government, Mr. Speaker. And we were proud to put forward a plan that was actually supported by the industry in this province, Mr. Speaker, representing all of the hard-working people and communities across this province. Unlike, quite frankly, the Ponzi scheme that the members opposite have put forward, a scheme that would cost SaskPower in excess of a billion dollars with no real reduction in our carbon footprint here in this province. I would put forward that the federal government would not even accept that particular plan, Mr. Speaker.

What we disagree with, with respect to the federal government — and this is where we diverge again from the members opposite to the members of the government, Mr. Speaker — is we put forward a plan that has real emissions reductions. The federal government has chosen to add to that plan a tax on fuel for the hard-working families, the hard-working industries, the small businesses across this province, Mr. Speaker, with no real environmental benefits whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

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

Equalization Formula and Federal Carbon Tax

Mr. Meili: — Never left the table, Mr. Speaker. This Premier, as minister of the Environment, pouted and huffed and puffed and left the rest of us holding the bag, and as a result we're dealing with a tax designed in Ottawa instead of coming up with a plan that works for us, Mr. Speaker.

And this is consistent with this Premier's inconsistency, Mr. Speaker, a Premier who's all over the map on a number of issues including equalization, Mr. Speaker, and we never know from

one day to the next what his position is going to be on equalization.

There's a federal election coming up, Mr. Speaker. We need clarity on this important issue, and we also need clarity from our federal leaders. We as New Democrats have drafted a letter to the leaders of the three major parties asking them to tell us what their positions are today on equalization . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Sorry, I'm having a difficult time hearing the question. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — We've drafted a letter asking for clarity from the leaders of the three main parties when it comes to their plans for equalization, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier join us in signing that letter and getting a clear message from the leaders of the federal parties?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is referencing a meeting of Environment ministers on October the 3rd of 2016, Mr. Speaker, where the federal government has unilaterally imposed a carbon tax on all of the people in this nation, Mr. Speaker, a carbon tax that we disagree with in this province. And he's right, Mr. Speaker; I left that table. I've always been open to discussions since that point in time, Mr. Speaker, but on that particular day I stood with the people of the province, unlike the Leader of the Opposition who had this to say on October 2016. This is a quote, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "We applaud the federal government's recent announcement of a minimum price on carbon," Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to clarity from our federal leaders, maybe the member opposite, the Leader of the provincial NDP, would ask his counterpart at the federal level about his stance on pipelines, Mr. Speaker. And I say, and I quote the federal leader, "I oppose the development of Kinder Morgan, Energy East, and Keystone XL pipelines," Mr. Speaker. He goes on to say a few months later, "I've made it a really clear 'no' to Kinder Morgan and Energy East," Mr. Speaker.

This is the leader of our federal NDP, Mr. Speaker. This is the leader of the Saskatchewan NDP that won't even advocate with his federal leader, won't advocate with his colleague in the province of British Columbia, Mr. Speaker, the Premier of that province, will not stand up and advocate for the people in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, that's patent nonsense from this Premier, Mr. Speaker. We have been 100 per cent clear that we are actually agreed in opposition to the imposition of the federal carbon tax and we are agreed in the need to get our energy products to market.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we also used to be agreed, we used to be agreed when it comes to equalization. There used to be a united front on asking for a better deal. New Democrats, Sask Party, Conservatives, all on the same page. Once upon a time we

agreed, but then something changed. There was a federal election. And the Conservatives changed. The Sask Party changed. New Democrats didn't change, and the need for a better deal on equalization sure as heck didn't change, Mr. Speaker.

And we've heard nothing in the way of consistency from this Premier. Here's a chance to make it clear. Does the Premier actually want a better deal on equalization? Does he want a better deal and will he join us in signing a letter asking for clarity from all of the federal leaders? Or is he too worried about getting Andrew Scheer elected to ask for a better deal for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well we're going to see a ballot question this fall in the federal election, Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to equalization, there is one province that actually has a proposal on the table with the federal government, Mr. Speaker. That's the province of Saskatchewan and that's our 50/50 equalization formula.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I would have a question with respect to, is there something else in this House that has actually changed, Mr. Speaker? On March the 21st of 2018, the Leader of the provincial NDP said this. He said, and I quote, "This government is about to embark on a costly and pointless crusade." He was referencing our court case, Mr. Speaker. The critic for the Ministry of Justice last Friday had indicated that she believes this should go to the Supreme Court for clarification, Mr. Speaker.

I would ask if the Leader of the Opposition actually today wants to stand up and represent the people of this province. Does he still believe, does he still believe that this is a costly and pointless crusade to ensure that we do not have a federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, unilaterally imposed on the hard-working families of this province?

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

Recruitment of eHealth CEO

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Health describe the process undertaken in returning the new . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Could the member for Regina Lakeview and the member from Meadow Lake please come to order. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Health describe the process undertaken in recruiting the new CEO [chief executive officer] of eHealth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, that process was undertaken by the board of directors of eHealth sometime ago now, Mr. Speaker. I believe they hired an outside firm to help with the

recruitment, Mr. Speaker. I assume it went through normal process and the final decision was landed on.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing significant concerns about this appointment, both from within and outside the organization. The new CEO of eHealth returns to Saskatchewan after being forced out of his role as CEO of Brant community health system in the fall of 2017. He, alongside his entire board, was replaced after a comprehensive investigation was ordered by the Ontario Minister of Health and found that under his leadership, the Brant health system faced performance decline, a complete failure in implementing lean, significant financial difficulties, decline in staff and physician morale, exodus of skilled professionals, and what was described as a toxic culture of fear and intimidation.

To the minister: has he read the investigation report that was ordered by Ontario's Minister of Health?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the board of directors of eHealth did their due diligence when deciding on Mr. Hornell to take over as CEO, Mr. Speaker. He was there for a number of years during a great deal of change. It's not unusual in positions for CEOs of large corporations, Mr. Speaker, that when there's a change of direction that there's a parting of the ways, Mr. Speaker. As far as I understand, there was absolutely no wrongdoing or even I think allegations of that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hornell has demonstrated success in the health system in Saskatchewan over a number of years before he left to take the position in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat troubling that a man with a distinguished career such as Mr. Hornell is being used for simply a drive-by smear tactic from the members opposite.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, these are very serious concerns that have been raised. The minister has risen many times in this House to discuss concerns at eHealth, whether it's vendor-sponsored travel, concerns about value-for-money contracts, or this government's own internal investigations into the organization.

It would not be an exaggeration at all to say that eHealth Saskatchewan is an organization in turmoil. The ship needs to be steadied. And there are valid concerns about appointing a CEO who was just investigated and shuffled out of an organization in chaos as a wrong move, and it's a great risk to the organization. To the minister: is he hearing the same concerns we are? How does this move make any sense?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I will agree with one comment that the member opposite made about the ship needing steadying. That's absolutely the case, Mr. Speaker. That's why a little over a year ago a new board of directors was appointed in eHealth,

Mr. Speaker. And to somehow allege that the travel issue or any of those other issues were as a result of Mr. Hornell is just simply wrong, Mr. Speaker. He just started working there, I believe, last October.

Mr. Speaker, he's what the board of directors have landed on as a CEO to help steady the ship, so to speak, Mr. Speaker. Once again it's just incredibly disappointing that for a couple of cheap political points, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite would smear a long-term civil servant.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, in his time as CEO of the organization, there were three separate reports on operations, all damning. Twice the Medical Staff Association wrote calling for investigations into the senior leadership at BCHS [Brant Community Healthcare System]. A letter signed by 80 physicians reads:

Staff engagement and morale are at all-time lows. Physicians who have worked at BCHS for 25 years or more have never experienced this degree of dissatisfaction and disengagement.

In just four short years, leadership squandered \$18 million in cash reserves and failed to balance the books each year until their CEO was replaced. This isn't speculation. These are facts. They call into question this government's choice to hand him the crucial portfolio of eHealth CEO.

What assurances can the minister provide that we won't see history repeat itself? What measures are in place to ensure the leadership at eHealth won't have the same devastating impact it had on the Brant Community Healthcare System?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, it's not unusual in a position as CEO of a major corporation for there to be a desire to go in a different direction, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hornell was also the CEO of Cypress Regional Health Authority for a number of years. By all accounts, I understand, everyone I talked to said he did an exemplary job. Mr. Speaker, he's also a health system accreditation surveyor with Accreditation Canada.

The board of directors, along with the outside consultant that the headhunter, if you will, Mr. Speaker, that did the work, I believe they did their due diligence. I've been assured they have, Mr. Speaker. I have a great deal of faith in the eHealth board of directors and I certainly support their decisions, Mr. Speaker. Everything I've seen from Mr. Hornell so far has been very good, Mr. Speaker. I trust the board of directors of eHealth to make the appropriate decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Access to HIV Drugs

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A recently released

study shows that using antiretroviral therapy can not only suppress HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], the treatments can also prevent sexual transmission of the virus. Unfortunately in Saskatchewan, people living with HIV are not being consistently offered treatment. Saskatchewan doctors are sounding the alarm about lives being lost due to lack of access in rural and remote areas.

What's the ministry's strategy to ensure those living with HIV have better access to antiretrovirals?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Hello, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for . . . Hello, Mr. Speaker? It's been one of those days. It's been a long weekend.

Mr. Speaker, you know, when we look at the impact of HIV and associated diseases in this province, it's of great concern to all of us, Mr. Speaker. That's why through the Ministry of Health and the work that we've been doing on this side of the House, we've increased the testing. In fact since the last, just under 10 years, we've increased testing by over 71 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

It was brought to our attention a couple of years ago through some consultations, I think primarily with medical students — I think it might have been even called upon by the Leader of the Opposition in his time as a physician — universal coverage of HIV medication, Mr. Speaker. And that's a move that we made.

We've recently been aware that there's been some concern with access to these medications maybe in rural and remote areas. The Minister of Health and I just met with representatives of the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] and the ministry this morning, talked about this very issue to make sure that physicians throughout this province are very aware of the availability of that medication and to prescribe it.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These inputs are welcomed, but our infection rate is still 2.4 times higher than the national infection rate. In Saskatchewan nearly 70 per cent of those infected reported injection drugs as the likely cause. This number has been growing since 2015, as have substance abuse issues in our province. This provides additional challenges as these are some of our most vulnerable people who can be homeless, suffer malnutrition, and don't have consistent access to primary health care providers. What's the government's plan to better target and provide front-end support and access to antiretrovirals to vulnerable patients so they aren't seeking help when it's already too late?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I just touched on in my last answer, that's why we're doing more education of physicians throughout the province, more primary health care teams throughout the province, and of course, making the coverage of the HIV medication universal, Mr. Speaker, along with educating

patients as well, Mr. Speaker.

We know that some of these individuals suffering with HIV and associated illnesses have some complex issues at points, Mr. Speaker. That's why it takes all members of the primary health care team to be engaged in these situations to make sure these patients are getting the medications and the treatment that they need. But primarily we have to find who they are initially, and that's why we've increased the point-of-care testing to make sure that we find out, first of all, who these patients are and make sure that they have the resources available to them for treatment of these serious illnesses.

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

Fees in Provincial Parks

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with summer right around the corner, our families right across this province are looking forward to enjoying our beautiful provincial parks. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, fees are going up at our provincial parks this summer. The Sask Party government is raising the cost of park passes, including the annual park entry permits that'll increase from \$10 to \$75, and weekly permits will go up to \$40. And the three-day entry permits are no longer available.

Mr. Speaker, why is this minister so hell-bent on stealing summer from our Saskatchewan families?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, stealing summer from our campers and all our Saskatchewan citizens might be a little bit over the top, Mr. Speaker. We look very much forward to camping season opening here very soon, Mr. Speaker. We've had our online reservation system and, Mr. Speaker, people are coming in droves just as they have in the past number of years, Mr. Speaker. Record attendance, Mr. Speaker, in large part because we have beautiful campers.

We've increased the amount of campsites, Mr. Speaker, and the electrical sites; two new entirely new provincial parks within our province, Mr. Speaker. It's great for our tourism economy, Mr. Speaker. And again we look forward to reinvesting those small increases that we have, that happened under the government opposite as well. Again we've reinvested those into provincial parks for everyone to enjoy this year coming up and for many years into the future.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a little rich coming from this government that hit Saskatchewan people with a doubling of the take from PST, and they know it. And they've increased the take in tax hikes of a billion dollars from Saskatchewan families right here in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And just when you think the Sask Party government couldn't take any more from the people of Saskatchewan, we saw a Christmas announcement of higher costs for visiting our parks. Just for example, Mr. Speaker, seasonal electrical sites are going up from

\$500 to \$2,600. To the minister: how can he justify increases like this? Haven't Saskatchewan families paid enough?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Well again, Mr. Speaker, we've had the seasonal sites opening and the numbers are very similar to previous years, Mr. Speaker, so the public has spoke on that part of it. We know the seasonal site costs had been much lower than the private sector in many years previous; it still is in many cases, Mr. Speaker. Again we're seeing that high demand.

Of course costs continue to go up for the park system, Mr. Speaker. The imposition of the carbon tax is something that has happened through all sectors across our province. Again, Mr. Speaker, the fees to get into the park are still subsidized by a significant aspect, Mr. Speaker. And one thing we certainly won't do, what the members opposite did: tax campfires and wiener roasts, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the committees may continue their good work, I move this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:39.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe	5911
Meili	5911
Eyre	5912
Wotherspoon	5912
Wyant	5912
Beck	5913
Kaeding	5913
McCall	5913
Kirsch	5913
Belanger	5913
Hart	5914

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Vermette	5914
Lawrence	5914
Wotherspoon	5914
Beck	5914
Sproule	5915
Pedersen	5915

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Observance of Ramadan

Sproule	5915
---------------	------

Midwives Make Valuable Contributions to Maternal Care

Young	5916
-------------	------

Get Loud for National Mental Health Week

Chartier	5916
----------------	------

Indigenous Artist Receives National and International Recognition

Lambert	5916
---------------	------

School Choirs Perform for Music Monday

Ross	5916
------------	------

Journalist of the Year Remembers Humboldt Broncos

Brkich	5917
--------------	------

Honouring the Memory of Ray Gran and Harold Thompson

Hargrave	5917
----------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Action on Climate Change and Provincial Carbon Tax Challenge

Meili	5917
-------------	------

Moe	5917
-----------	------

Equalization Formula and Federal Carbon Tax

Meili	5918
-------------	------

Moe	5919
-----------	------

Recruitment of eHealth CEO

Mowat	5919
-------------	------

Reiter	5919
--------------	------

Access to HIV Drugs

Mowat	5920
-------------	------

Ottenbreit	5921
------------------	------

Fees in Provincial Parks

Forbes	5921
--------------	------

Makowsky	5922
----------------	------

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe

Premier

President of the Executive Council

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Minister of Advanced Education

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Lori Carr

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Central Services

Minister Responsible for the Provincial

Capital Commission

Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Environment

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water

Security Agency

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave

Minister of Crown Investments

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Government Insurance

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of Trade and Export Development

Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding

Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis

and Northern Affairs

Hon. Gene Makowsky

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor

and Gaming Authority

Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit

Minister of Agriculture

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop

Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman

Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan

Workers' Compensation Board

Minister Responsible for The Global

Transportation Hub Authority

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Corrections and Policing

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Deputy Premier

Minister of Education

Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and

Priority Saskatchewan