



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

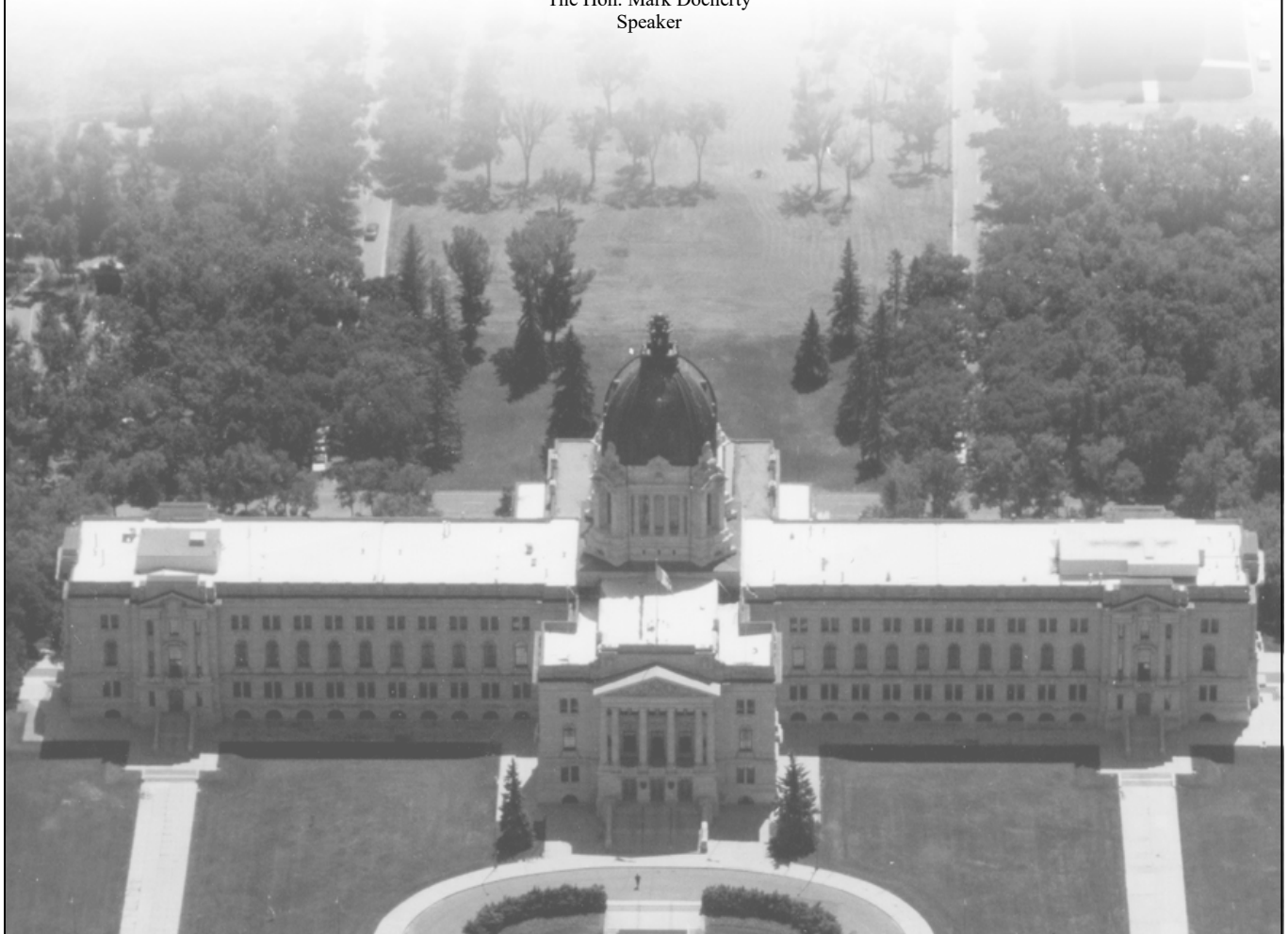
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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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**

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

<b>Beaudry-Mellor</b> , Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)	<b>Makowsky</b> , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
<b>Beck</b> , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	<b>Marit</b> , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
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<b>Bonk</b> , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	<b>McMorris</b> , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
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<b>Buckingham</b> , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>Michelson</b> , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
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<b>Cheveldayoff</b> , Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Mowat</b> , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
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<b>D'Autremont</b> , Dan — Cannington (SP)	<b>Olauson</b> , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
<b>Dennis</b> , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	<b>Ottenbreit</b> , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
<b>Docherty</b> , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	<b>Pedersen, Yens</b> — Regina Northeast (NDP)
<b>Doke</b> , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	<b>Rancourt</b> , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
<b>Duncan</b> , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	<b>Reiter</b> , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
<b>Eyre</b> , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	<b>Ross</b> , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
<b>Fiaz</b> , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	<b>Sarauer</b> , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
<b>Forbes</b> , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	<b>Sproule</b> , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
<b>Francis</b> , Ken — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Steele</b> , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
<b>Goudy</b> , Todd — Melfort (SP)	<b>Steinley</b> , Warren — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
<b>Hargrave</b> , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	<b>Stewart</b> , Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
<b>Harpauer</b> , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	<b>Tell</b> , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
<b>Harrison</b> , Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Tochor</b> , Corey — Saskatoon Eastview (SP)
<b>Hart</b> , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Vermette</b> , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
<b>Heppner</b> , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Weekes</b> , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<b>Hindley</b> , Everett — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Wilson</b> , Hon. Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
<b>Kaeding</b> , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon</b> , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Kirsch</b> , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	<b>Wyant</b> , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Lambert</b> , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Young</b> , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Lawrence</b> , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (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.

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyak

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to request leave for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a moment to introduce some honoured guests seated in the gallery this afternoon. They are volunteer victim support workers, a community board member, and a staff member with victim services. We recognize them today ahead of Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, which starts May 26th, but we thank them for every day that they dedicate to helping people across this great province.

Today our honoured guests are celebrating some milestones — 10, 15, and 20 years doing what they do. With us today we have Neil Deringer from South West Victim Services, who is marking 10 years as a volunteer. The 15-year recipient is Deb Schmidt, a community board member with Parkland Victims Services. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we also have one staff member who is marking 20 years of service, Stephanie O'Soup is with Regina Victim Services.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 205 volunteer victim support workers whose selfless work makes Saskatchewan a better place to live. In 2018-19 volunteer victim support workers gave over 12,194 hours of their time training and volunteering to help 12,668 victims of crime and tragedy.

I was honoured to have lunch with our guests today. I am grateful they were able to mark their achievements with us. And I would ask that all members join me in welcoming them to their legislature today.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it is my pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming these guests and volunteers to their Legislative Assembly. I wanted to say, on behalf of the official opposition, a sincere thank you for the work that you do and continue to do in our communities. We know that that period after someone has experienced a trauma or become the victim of crime is so essential, not only for that moment and the work that you do there, but in terms of their healing long term.

So I want to recognize each of you, welcome you to your Legislative Assembly, and invite all members to say thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the Speaker's gallery I'd like to introduce some winning authors and publishers from the Saskatchewan Book Awards, which took place April 27th. These awards have recognized great authors and publishers in our province for the past 26 years.

In the audience this afternoon, Devin Krukoff. His new novel, *Hummingbird*, won the Regina Public Library Book of the Year Award. James Trettwer is the winner of the City of Regina Book Award for his novel *Thorn-Field*. He also won the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild John V. Hicks Long Manuscript and Short Manuscript Awards. Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber won the Rasmussen and Charowsky Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award for his anthology *kisiskâciwan: Indigenous Voices from Where the River Flows Swiftly*, which includes rich oral narratives from Indigenous and Métis cultures, and other pieces.

Also seated in the gallery today are staff members from the University of Regina Press who won all three publishing awards, which includes the Saskatoon Public Library Indigenous Peoples' Publishing Award, the SaskBooks Publishing in Education Award, and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Publishing Award.

Lastly I'd like to acknowledge and thank Courtney Bates-Hardy, the executive director of the book awards, and Donna Woloshyn, board Chair of the book awards, for all their hard work in this event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to help me and join in congratulating these authors and publishers and organizers for their contributions to Saskatchewan's great literary community. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take a moment on behalf of the loyal opposition here to join the minister in welcoming the folks from the book awards, the authors, and the publishers. We have such a great story to tell in Saskatchewan from all sorts of places and views and, you know, context, so it's a great thing when we have this. So thank you all for coming.

And I want to thank as well the people who put this on and have done for many years. It's not an easy task getting us all together in one place and recognizing and celebrating the stories that we have here in Saskatchewan. I want to thank Donna Woloshyn, as board Chair, for her tireless work on this. So thank you all and welcome to your legislature. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery today is a very special guest who is well known to many members in this Assembly, Ms. Amy McNeil. Amy is the executive director of Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres or SARC. SARC is an umbrella association representing more than 90 member agencies across

Saskatchewan who deliver residential and day programming services and supports to people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, SARC and their member agencies do an incredible job and we're very proud of the partnership with them. Amy has joined us today for a funding announcement for SARC to deliver supportive employment transitioning initiative. Through this initiative, community-based organizations such as SARC support individuals to help people with disabilities find employment. I'm pleased to announce that we will soon be celebrating the selfless individuals during Disability Service Professionals Week at the end of this month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Amy to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the minister across and welcome Amy to her legislature as well. We appreciate all the work that SARC does for individuals across the province, and we know that the services that you provide are very vast and important for individuals in our province who are looking for residential options and employment.

So I'm looking forward to hearing about the announcement, and I know whatever funding that your agency will get, you'll use it to the max and you'll make sure that people in our province are getting the services they need. So thank you and welcome to your Assembly. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you in the west gallery, I'd like to introduce 12 grade 5 to 9 students — if you give a wave over there — from Endeavour, Endeavour Christian School in Endeavour. And they're accompanied by their teachers Jacqueline Friesen, Shaun Isaac, and Randy Trembach. And they're going to tour later and I'll join them for a visit, and I look forward to the visit.

**An Hon. Member:** — Ice cream.

**Mr. Dennis:** — I did buy ice cream. And I'd like all the members here to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a real honour to stand today in the Assembly and ask for all members to welcome a couple of different groups seated in the west gallery and in the Speaker's gallery.

But I'm referring to, in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker . . . or pardon me, in the east gallery . . . There we go. It's coming around. It's coming around. But we've got Debbie Lussier and Lori Johb from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. And we've also got in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Hillary Aitken and Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen from the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]. And these are two organizations that do a tremendous amount of good in our community of Regina, but

certainly across the province, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, they are here today to see the passing of the interpersonal violence bill that is coming up, and I'm sure the Minister of Justice will have more to say about that.

And I don't want to draw attention to the absence or presence of a member, but certainly I just want to also say that these guests are here and have been working diligently alongside the member from Regina Douglas Park to see this day come. And it's a beautiful day to see, Mr. Speaker. So with that I'd ask all members to welcome these very important guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming these guests to the gallery. Certainly there are some things that rise above politics, and this is one of the things that we think all members of the Assembly and all citizens of the province are going to support. So I welcome the people here today, welcome to their legislature, thank them for the committed work that they've done on discussions supporting the background information, the work that they've done, and ask all members to join me in welcoming them today.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to introduce two very important guests to me seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. The day after Mother's Day, I have my mom, Judy Beck, and my eldest daughter, Hannah, here.

Just listening to some of the introductions and thinking my mom would have a lot in common with a lot of folks who are here today. She spent a long time early in her career — post home with us full time as children — working at the Sask Abilities Council and moved that into a career at Sask Polytech. She was one of the first domestic violence justices of the peace in the province, and something that I know she's very proud of and we were very proud of her.

Yesterday of course was Mother's Day. I'd like to say happy belated Mother's Day to all mothers, but just to give you a little snapshot of what Mother's Day would've looked like for my mom. The hunting lodge was full of a bunch of international biologists, so they had that in the morning. And then they set up for the annual Beck brunch, which is about 2 or 300 guests to that, and that's just a typical Mother's Day for her.

She's a lay minister. She's often writing services, funeral services or wedding services. Couldn't be prouder of her, Mr. Speaker. And speaking of couldn't be prouder, my oldest daughter Hannah is home with us for the summer after successfully completing her first year of university in engineering, away from home. And it was very nice to look up there today and see your faces. Love you both. And I invite all members to welcome my mom and my daughter to this Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two

groups, school groups from one school, Mr. Speaker. The first group is 27 students, grade 7 and 8, accompanied by teacher Brianne McFetridge. Mr. Speaker, these kids are from École Harbour Landing School. It's a very beautiful school. We all know that's a very new school.

And the second group of students are 28 from grade 7 and 8. And, Mr. Speaker, they told me that they are enjoying this new school with great teacher staff. And we're going to meet after question period, and these kids, yes, these kids are going to ask very brilliant questions. We're going to meet with them. And I ask all the members to welcome these two groups in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite to welcome Brianne McFetridge to her Assembly. Brianne is a friend and, I know, an exceptional teacher. We've gotten to know Brianne and her husband, Kyle, as Kyle was one of the hockey coaches for William's hockey team. He's a Regina police member and gives back as well as an incredible head coach on the high school football scene, Mr. Speaker. These two very much epitomize the best in Saskatchewan, giving back as teachers and in the public service as a police officer and then building community through sport. So it's my pleasure to welcome Brianne McFetridge to her Assembly.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to welcome some special guests seated in the west gallery. We have Ken Maitland who manages the Giant Tiger location in my constituency. And with him today are his son, Callum Maitland, and Callum's good friend, Carson Guse. Callum and Carson are grade 9 students at Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw and both are members of the junior SGA [Student Governance Assembly], and both were members of an award-winning cast at Saskatchewan Drama Association provincial festival on the weekend.

Callum has a strong and growing interest in politics, Mr. Speaker. And I'm told the only reason Carson is here today is because his dad does some great work for us here in the building. I now ask all members to please join me in welcoming Ken, Callum, and Carson to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with some of the members opposite to say a warm welcome to Hillary Aitken and Melissa Coomber-Bendtsen. Both are involved with the YWCA and do some tremendous work in our community. I've had the opportunity to work with Melissa on a special project that was fantastic, and Hillary is one of three very, very bright and intelligent daughters, siblings, of women I know.

I'd also like to acknowledge Dr. David Malloy, who's in the Speaker's gallery, Mr. Speaker. He's the vice-president of research at the University of Regina. He's a constituent of mine. Him and his wife, Val Sluth, are very, very active in our community. Val is currently serving as the RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] woman entrepreneur in residence. I've taught his son Connor, who wrestled with the University of Regina.

This family gives back to the community in so many ways. He's a fan of The Beatles and he's part of a garage band, Mr. Speaker, with Murad Al-Katib and the mayor of Regina, who raised a bunch of money for prostate cancer. I'm very, very sad to hear that he's leaving us. He's going to be the principal out at King's University, which is an affiliate of Western.

I'm sorry to see you go, but your family has been great, great community leaders in Regina, and I want to thank you for that. Please join me in welcoming him to his Legislative 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 the residents of northern Saskatchewan. There is a definite need of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge and area. And according to the Croft report of 2009, it shows the area is in a code red. There was 500,000 allocated for planning, but that was spent and the plan has been ready for years. Seniors are waiting 165 days on average for a bed and are being shipped hours away from loved ones.

The prayer reads:

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, this petition is signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

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

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on our province.

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

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise for

the last time today to deliver this petition calling for critical supports for survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the high domestic violence rates in this province as well as the need for paid leave days for those who are dealing with the impacts of domestic violence.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions had rolled in from all over the province. Those that I present today are signed by residents of Pilot Butte, Saskatoon, Conquest, North Battleford, Meota, Regina, Moose Jaw, and Edenwold, to name a few. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today to present a petition on the Regina bypass project. The people who have signed the petition would like to bring to the attention of the Assembly the following: very few real-deal 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 what they considered to be major deficiencies in the project. They were in an email that we received through an FOI [freedom of information], Mr. Speaker. But that public servant and the minister refused to release those identified major deficiencies. Now in the Assembly, the previous minister of Highways did reference the breach of an aquifer in Wascana Creek as an example of one of these identified major deficiencies. However, our current Minister of Highways has repeatedly stated on the record that there are no major deficiencies in this bypass.

Saskatchewan people will be paying for this piece of infrastructure for the next 30 years, Mr. Speaker, and in the interests of government transparency, these contradictory statements require immediate clarification.

I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place to present a petition as it makes reference to cellphone coverage for small northern Saskatchewan communities. The communities of Dore Lake, Michel Point, Sled

Lake, Tower Beach, and Lac la Plonge, as well as St. George's Hill, Dillon, Michel Village, Mr. Speaker, are asking for cellphone coverage.

There are many industries in northern Saskatchewan such as commercial fishing and outfitting industries, and many of these northern Saskatchewan communities would greatly benefit from the cell coverage service; and that the limited access to land line phones and other short-distance radios is a safety concern that could be remedied by improved cell phone coverage; and that northern Saskatchewan communities should have access to the same quality of cell coverage as southern Saskatchewan enjoys.

So the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To cause the provincial government to improve cell service coverage for northern communities like St. George's Hill, Dillon, Michel Village, Dore Lake, Michel Point, and Sled Lake to provide similar quality of cell coverage as southern communities enjoy. This would provide support for our northern industries as well as mitigate safety concerns associated with living in the remote North.

The people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, and the many pages I'm presenting today are from Regina. They're from Buffalo River Dene Nation. They're from Sled Lake. They're from Big River. And I so present.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to present a petition opposing the Sask Party's cuts to the hearing aid plan. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that the Sask Party budget eliminated the Saskatchewan hearing aid plan to save \$3 million, while simultaneously giving a \$60 million tax break to big corporations.

The hearing aid plan provides prevention services, access to audiologists, education, and affordable hearing aids to residents across the province, but Saskatchewan has one of the worst records for early hearing detection and intervention programs. And these cuts will only make things worse; that cutting audiologists and health care professionals that work in this program will make wait-lists longer for infants, kids, and those in need of support for hearing loss; that cutting this program will increase the price of hearing aids; and that these cuts clearly demonstrate that hearing loss is not a priority of the Sask Party government.

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 Saskatchewan Party government to immediately reinstate the funding to the Saskatchewan hearing aid plan and ensure that all people in Saskatchewan can access services for hearing loss.

These petitions are signed by individuals from Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. 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 hundreds of students that gathered on the steps of our legislature a week ago last Friday calling on this government to take real action to fight climate change.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Saskatchewan signing this petition want to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan has 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 reduce our greenhouse gas emissions for the province and that they have slashed programs and funding for the environment, which has set our province on a backward course.

Mr. Speaker, they wish to point out that there has been a steady increase in payments under the provincial disaster assistance program as a result of climate change. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it goes without saying that we need a plan that goes beyond simply dealing with the impacts of climate change in our province. We need a plan that contributes to the solution to climate change and actually reducing our emissions.

Mr. Speaker, in the prayer, the petitioners:

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

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Sexual Assault Awareness Week

**Ms. Rancourt:** — Mr. Speaker, May 13 to 17 is Sexual Assault Awareness Week in Saskatchewan. The focus of the week is to raise public awareness about sexual assault violence and the services available in communities around the province that support survivors. Members of this side of the House are committed to creating awareness about sexual assault and sharing information about support services for those who experience assault.

Since last year, little has changed, Mr. Speaker. We still have the second highest rate of sexual assault in the country, and we still don't have a province-wide plan to address sexual assault. Today the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan has released the 22 actions for their sexual violence action plan. The action plan is to strengthen and better coordinate supports to help with prevention of sexual assault. SASS [Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan] hopes to have the plan fully implemented across Saskatchewan in five years.

Due to flatlined funding, sexual assault centres are in need of proper government funding for support services in

Saskatchewan. We must push for action from the government and our communities to change our unacceptable sexual assault record. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in thanking the hard-working individuals who help those impacted by sexual assault. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Women Entrepreneurs Week

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The week of May 19th to 25th has been proclaimed as Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan women entrepreneurs contribute to the economy in many sectors, such as construction, manufacturing, health sciences, finance, and technology. One-third of all entrepreneurs in our province are women. That amounts to over 34,000 women right here in our province.

Earlier this month, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women had announced an investment in an advisory committee in Saskatchewan partnered with the organization Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, known as WESK. Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to attend this exciting announcement. WESK is a strong partner for the Government of Saskatchewan, and with the creating of this advisory committee, together we can examine the entrepreneurship barriers that women face in our economy. The advisory committee will specifically focus on access to venture capital funds and financial supports to help women scale up their companies.

I would like to ask all members to join me in celebrating Women Entrepreneurs Week across the province. Mr. Speaker, when women succeed, we all succeed. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event

**Mr. Pedersen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, four inches higher and albeit gingerly, to invite those assembled here to recognize and support a most worthy cause — raising awareness in our communities about the serious causes and effects of domestic, sexualized, and gendered violence.

Mr. Speaker, these are not comfortable topics. These are not comfortable truths. They are, I dare say, far more uncomfortable than walking 1.6 kilometres or a full mile in the shoes like I am wearing today here in the Assembly. But I will walk that mile carefully, awkwardly, because a little discomfort is a minor thing compared to the importance of responding to and preventing lasting and life-changing effects of violence.

[14:00]

You'll be seeing more of me in these because I'll be calling on each member present to join me and support me in the seventh annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in Tisdale on May 28th in support of the North East Women's domestic violence shelter. Mr. Speaker, we as men can rise four inches at least and as allies we can stand, as steadily as possible in these shoes, and denounce violence against women in all forms.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, this is a playful opportunity to show support for victims of violence and be healthy role models for everyone in the community. I'm proud to be taking part in this event for the first time, and I sincerely hope that a few of the gentlemen present with me and us here today are man enough to join me.

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

#### **Opening of Two Projects in La Ronge to Support Vulnerable Citizens**

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 3rd our government, in collaboration with town council, Lac La Ronge Band and leadership, along with various community stakeholders, broke ground and cut ribbons for several projects in the northern community of La Ronge which will improve the lives of some of the province's most remote and vulnerable citizens.

One announcement was the opening of two projects serving survivors of family violence with an investment of 1.88 million. Our government partnered with La Ronge Native Womens Council to open the Piwapan and Sapoh tewin House. Piwapan women's shelter was substantially completed in March of 2019. The shelter is staffed by a group of dedicated workers and provides eight bedrooms of emergency shelter for up to 20 women and children. Sapoh tewin House provides four units of important second-stage rental housing for women and children and provides them with more housing options.

We heard from our northern community members that more supports were needed. We listened and we acted. I'd like to thank the community of La Ronge and their leaders for the great work they do in helping our most remote and vulnerable citizens, as none of this work would be possible without their support and guidance. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Friends of the Bowl Foundation Fundraising for Gordie Howe Sports Complex**

**Mr. Olason:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a campaign that is building dreams and endless opportunities for athletes in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, in 2013 the Friends of the Bowl Foundation was launched in an effort to fundraise for the new Gordie Howe Sports Complex. This sports facility will serve everyone in Saskatoon from elementary schools to university athletes and even to our most elite who train here in our province.

Mr. Speaker, the old facility had served the sports community in Saskatoon well for over 60 years, but the football field, softball and baseball diamonds, and other sites on the complex began to show their age. Completing the Gordie Howe Sports Complex will be a game changer, not only for Saskatoon but for the entire province. More athletes and more sporting events mean more traffic for our tourism industries and a definite bonus for elite athletes who call Saskatoon home. This new complex will house over 15 different sports and be available for many deserving

communities both in Saskatoon and the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the Friends of the Bowl Foundation for their efforts in revitalizing the Gordie Howe Sports Complex. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week**

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has thousands of pristine lakes and rivers and is certainly a popular choice for tourists and residents to enjoy fishing and other water-based recreational opportunities. Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, pose a serious threat to the lakes and waterways in Western Canada.

Last week the Government of Saskatchewan proclaimed Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week to continue educating and raising awareness about aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species are impossible to eliminate if they become established in a water body and can cost millions of dollars to manage.

As this session comes to a close and we all head out to our favourite lakes this summer, I encourage everyone in this Assembly to speak with their families, their friends, their neighbours about joining our efforts in taking care of our lakes and rivers. Prevention is the most effective and possibly only solution to aquatic invasive species.

This week and all year long, we want to raise awareness and educate boaters and other recreational water users to clean, drain, dry boats, watercraft, and related water equipment. That is why it is so important for everyone to recognize Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Our efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in Saskatchewan and across Western Canada will ensure residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the natural beauty of our province, and we can help to ensure these resources will be part of our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Employment Numbers Show Strong Economy in Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, every day we listen to the NDP [New Democratic Party] running down Saskatchewan, especially our economy. They paint a picture of gloom and doom that's so bleak you'd think that the NDP is back in power again. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, they are not, and the reality is that Saskatchewan's economy is getting stronger.

On Friday new employment numbers were released and Saskatchewan saw 14,200 new jobs created over the past year — 14,200 new jobs, Mr. Speaker. And there were actually 18,000 more full-time jobs created. There were 4,100 more people working in agriculture; 2,500 more jobs in education; 2,500 more jobs in health care; 2,500 more jobs in the hospitality industry; 2,400 more manufacturing jobs; and 1,800 more tech jobs.



There are more women working. There are more men working. There are more young people working. There are more jobs in Regina. There are more jobs in Saskatoon. And there are more jobs in the rest of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, 14,200 new jobs. That's the reality, not the dystopian nightmare that the NDP wants us to believe. So the NDP can keep pitching their gloom and doom and running down Saskatchewan but, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party will keep standing up for Saskatchewan and keep our economy strong.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Suicide Prevention Strategy for Northern Youth

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of suicide in the entire country. And when we look into northern communities, those numbers are even more concerning. You look at First Nations youth, First Nations boys are six times more likely to lose their life by suicide than other children in the province. When you look at First Nations girls, that number rises to 26 times. We've lost nearly 2,000 people in our province to suicide between 2005 and 2017.

Now there is a solution to this, and it starts with having a strategy. When Quebec introduced a suicide prevention strategy, what did they see? They saw their numbers of suicide drop considerably: 40 per-cent-plus decrease in adult suicide, over 70 per cent decrease in youth suicide. These are very encouraging numbers. There's so much we could do here. We saw last week that the House of Commons unanimously passed a motion for a suicide prevention strategy at the federal level.

Here today in this House, we have an opportunity to pass something as well. We've got a private member's bill from the member from Cumberland for a suicide prevention strategy right here in Saskatchewan. Now my question for the Premier is this: will we pass that bill this session? It's right in front of us. It's an opportunity. Will he make that happen? And if not, can he give me one good reason why not?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can say too often that, I think, I believe all of us in this House take suicide, especially the suicide of youth, very, very seriously, Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to First Nation and northern suicide issues, Mr. Speaker, this government's recognized the hard work of the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] and their suicide strategy. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if you look at that, it closely aligns with a lot of the work that's under way or has been completed under the mental health and addictions action plan. You know, the FSIN policy, it actually recognizes there's a lot of responsibility on the part of the national level, of course provincial, and on the local level they recognize as well, Mr. Speaker.

As I pointed out, the mental health and addictions action plan, many of the recommendations are under way: things like culturally appropriate suicide awareness and training through the Ministry of Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority; evidence-based intervention programs like the Roots of Hope that's currently under way for specifically Buffalo Narrows and other areas; trauma- and gender-informed practices, of course, reducing suicide stigma; dollars to the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] for mental health and addictions prevention, intervention, and treatment, Mr. Speaker. A lot of things under way. I'd like to answer more if there's a pursuing question.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. University of Saskatchewan professor and suicide prevention expert Jack Hicks has pointed out that it's important to have a specific, dedicated suicide prevention strategy. That is the direction that is most successful in achieving this extremely important goal of reducing the number of people who lose their lives to suicide.

Now we have a bill before us here in the House. My question for the Premier again: is he actually going to allow this bill to die on the order paper, or will he do the right thing? Will he stand up and support this bill? Will he make sure we pass it this session so that we can have a strategy and so that we can get to work and save lives?

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

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my previous answer, we have to take seriously and keep in consideration the FSIN suggestions. Mr. Speaker, we also have to take into the good work done under the mental health and addictions action plan, all part of the strategy that this province is undertaking, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned, the bands, the federal government, provincial government all have a place to play in this strategy. Mental health and suicide prevention curriculum in schools for example, Mr. Speaker, one of those currently under way in Sandy Bay. And we're not opposed to expanding that one so we see how successful we know that it's going to be, Mr. Speaker.

Of course culturally relevant programs and initiatives, community wellness programs, HealthLine 811 — Mr. Speaker, we cannot discount the effective work of 811 — all of these are suggestions under the FSIN plan as well as the mental health and addictions action plan, treatment follow-ups, Mr. Speaker.

We know that, and I've stated in this House many times when we look at the Saskatchewan Health Authority and their responsibility when it comes to mental health and addictions supports and interventions, we know that as a province we've increased spending to the Saskatchewan Health Authority by 60 per cent. If you look on average to the northern part of the province, it's about 70 per cent-plus.

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

#### Class Size and Funding for Education

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, the question was for the Premier, of

course, and I guess we got an answer. This Premier's not willing to have a suicide prevention strategy that will work to prevent suicide and save lives in Saskatchewan. That's extremely disappointing to see him unwilling to answer and unwilling to take the right steps.

When it comes to education in this province, we're also facing serious concerns. This government likes to say everything's just fine, but schools are facing significant challenges, declining per-student funding and climbing number of students per classroom. We've heard the Premier come up and say, oh we've got an average class of 19, but that number is so far divorced from reality that even the Deputy Premier, even the Minister of Education has said that it's irrelevant.

Now today we're joined by Desiree Hamilton and by Jessica Brown, two educators from Saskatoon who are here to tell us that, despite what the Premier says, things are not just fine. There are serious challenges facing teachers, facing educational assistants, facing parents, facing students. And we've just heard today that dozens of people in the Saskatoon Public School district will lose their jobs — English as an additional language teachers, teacher librarians, and more — dozens of positions that will be lost because of cuts from this government.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier is this: what does he have to say to Jessica? What does he have to say to Desiree about the state of education and the number of teachers and educators who are overwhelmed, those at least who are able to keep their jobs?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we thank the teachers and the educators in our province for the great work that they do every day teaching the children of our province. The member opposite has consistently over the last while, he and the other members from that side of the House, raise the issue about the average class size.

Mr. Speaker, we have used the same method of calculation for over 20 years. The average, Mr. Speaker, is 19. It varies up and down. That's what average means. Mr. Speaker, in rural Saskatchewan . . . Well the members don't want to hear the answer? I don't need to answer it. I could just sit down and let them ask another question but, Mr. Speaker, the reality is this. If the members want to listen to it, the average in rural Saskatchewan is 18. The average in urban Saskatchewan is 21. And there'll certainly be some class sizes that are larger and some classes that are smaller.

Mr. Speaker, we make major investments in education. It's one of the largest items on the province's budget. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do that because we believe in the educators, we believe in the parents, but most of all we believe in the students.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Wow. That was surprising to hear that minister double down on an irrelevant number, even called irrelevant by his own Education minister, a number that in no way reflects the experience of educators like Jessica, educators like Desiree.

Desiree works as an educational assistant, working with kids with special needs, kids with some of the most complex challenges, and those needs and those challenges are growing every year. But the resources aren't keeping up.

My question for the Premier, and I hope he'll find his voice today on this important issue, these educators have come to hear from him: when will this Premier come forward with a plan to adequately resource our education system to deal with the complex and challenging needs of today's students?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is the Leader of the Opposition. He aspires to become the premier. Let him put out his number, his number in dollars and cents so that, Mr. Speaker, we can go back to the people of Saskatchewan and say this is what it will mean for taxes and this is what it will mean.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you what we've done on this side of the House. We have made record funding, the largest funding in the history of the province, this year, \$2.48 billion. School divisions will receive \$1.9 billion in school operating funding, the largest school division operating funding in the history of Saskatchewan. That is an increase of \$26.2 million from 2017-2018 which completes our government's promise to restore funding.

Enrolment is up. Yes, we've increased funding by more than that. Operating funding is up, Mr. Speaker, by some 34 per cent since 2007. Mr. Speaker, we have added 925 more teachers and 177 more student support teachers in Saskatchewan since 2007, and we're going to continue doing that, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister asks what I would do were I premier. Well I'll tell you a couple of things. One, I would answer the questions for myself, and two, I would not answer that good education costs too much. Because that's what we're hearing from this government is that they're not willing to put in the investment, that they don't recognize the importance of investing in education, Mr. Speaker.

And Jessica, who is here with us today . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Jessica, who is here with us today, is in her third year of teaching. She's an elementary school teacher, and she's seen the crowded and complex classrooms that she and her colleagues have to teach in.

Mr. Speaker, how will this government actually address the problem if they're not even curious enough to know the extent of the problem? In 2013 they stopped measuring maximum class sizes. Now they refuse to look at class sizes at all. They're not measuring how many children have special needs and the

resources required to address that. Mr. Speaker, when will this government do the right thing, start tracking the needs, start tracking class sizes, tracking the needs of high-need students? And when will they actually build the kind of education system that our children need and deserve?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite talk about keeping up. Since 2007, for every 20 students that have entered, we've added one educator. So the ratio should have stayed exactly the same. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite won't commit a figure because they know they won't get elected if they start talking with the numbers that they would like to see, Mr. Speaker.

This is the reality, Mr. Speaker. The NDP record: they closed 176 schools during the time . . . [inaudible] . . . an average of one school per month. They lost 400 teachers between 2001 and 2007. Education . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — They lost 400 teachers between 2001 and 2007. Between 1997 and 2007, school enrolment declined by 16 per cent. They seriously underfunded K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education. It led to significant increases in education property tax. It led to tax revolts, and also it led to people packing up and moving to Alberta.

That's not what the record is on this side of the House. We build schools. We open schools. We hire teachers.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, teachers across the province are expressing concerns about the way the Premier and the Education minister are characterizing class sizes. In fact it's answers like those that we've just heard here that cause these educators to get in their car, take a day off to come down here, and to lend their voices because it's that important.

Underfunding and cuts to education have left educators in every corner of the province doing more with less. And the suggestion that average class sizes of 19 somehow means that everything is A-okay has been taken as an insult by educators struggling to teach in crowded classrooms, complex classrooms across the province.

The minister himself called average class size irrelevant, and we're inclined to agree with him, Mr. Speaker. But the question is this: why do the minister and the Premier keep using average class sizes to dismiss valid concerns from these educators?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite ask about average class sizes, so we answer about average class sizes. Some are more; some are less, Mr. Speaker. We will give them those numbers when they ask for them. But, Mr. Speaker, \$2.48 billion is the amount of money we've provided this year.

That's taxpayer dollars that have gone into the K to 12 system. Some of it's capital. Some it's teachers' salaries. Some of it's school operating system. But, Mr. Speaker, when you count the number of teachers, you count the number of students, the average is 20: 17 in rural, 21 in the cities. That's the way it is, Mr. Speaker. That's the way it's calculated, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the issue isn't whether we want to count this or count that. The issue is are we providing enough funding. And, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the great work that our educators do in the province. These are people that work hard. These are people that are committed to the students in our province. We want to give them every support that we can. We're going to continue to do that. And, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite will complain about it but, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue funding at some of the highest levels ever — \$2.48 billion, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, it can't be both irrelevant and also this government's go-to defence of how things are going in the classroom at the same time. The minister also pointed to his student-to-teacher ratio of 14.5 in his answers last week. Mr. Speaker, this ratio includes teacher-librarians, directors, administration, superintendents, consultants, and coordinators, to name a few. With stats like that, it's no wonder that teachers across the province are bringing their stories forward to fact check that minister.

Many of these people aren't in the classroom and certainly they're not providing front-line support to our kids. Does the minister recognize that the way that this government is tracking complex and crowded classrooms simply does not reflect reality? And can the minister demonstrate that he truly understands the pressures that our educators and our classrooms are under?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the ministry answered that question last week. If the members opposite want to talk about the overall student/educator ratio, the number is 14.5. With the people teaching in the classroom, that number is 19.

But, Mr. Speaker, what the members opposite did, and it's something that caused a lot of classroom . . . [inaudible] . . . They closed 176 schools. Do you know where those students had to go to? The ones that didn't go to Alberta moved to other schools where they became increasingly crowded. And, Mr. Speaker, do you know what we did in response to that? We built new schools. We built new schools in Saskatoon. We built new schools in Regina. We built new schools in Warman. We built new schools in Martensville. We built new schools in Swift Current. We built new schools in Prince Albert.

We built new schools all the way in the province to make up for the ones that those people closed. That's their record, Mr. Speaker. They closed schools; we built schools. They fired teachers; we hired teachers. They don't have educators. They don't have supports. We provide those, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue doing that because it's the right thing to do for the students in our province.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, with non-answers like that, it is no wonder, it is no wonder that these educators found that they had to come down to Regina to hopefully have their voice heard by this government. Mr. Speaker, hearing answers like that, hundreds of teachers from every corner of this province have weighed in to demonstrate how far this government's talking points are out of touch with reality.

Stories about classrooms of 30, 40, and even 50 kids in a single class. Classrooms with kids with increasingly complex behaviours increase violence. More and more students needing English as an additional language support and, Mr. Speaker, that minister would do well to talk to his former colleagues on Saskatoon Public School Board to ask about how they're dealing with this year's cuts to their budget.

Meanwhile, this government doesn't even have an interest in tracking the impact that their cuts are having on class size or on the growing complexity in the classrooms. Mr. Speaker, has the minister read the hundreds of online comments from teachers across the province about the state of their classrooms? And if so, what is the plan to make sure that the students won't be left behind?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give the members opposite a bit of background information so that they know, so they've got some numbers. Mr. Speaker, in 2007-2008 the budget for Education operating, \$1.41 billion. The operating grant this year, \$1.9 billion, a 34 per cent increase.

Mr. Speaker, the students increased in that side. The member opposite wants to know about student enrolment. I'll tell her what happened to student enrolment: a 14 per cent increase from 163,000 in 2006-07 to 186,065 in '19. A 14 per cent increase in number of students and a 34 per cent increase in the amount of funding. Mr. Speaker, the average student payment across the province was in 2007-2008, 8,886; in '19-20, 10,942. Mr. Speaker that's what this side of the House is doing, and that's what it's going to continue doing.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan teachers are struggling and they've been responding. The minister can keep plowing ahead with the same old lines, saying things like there's more work to do or that he's having conversations, but none of that does a thing towards improving the learning conditions in our kids' classrooms.

Teachers are suffering from burnout and from illness and low morale. A recently retired teacher from Regina posted that "In the last five years before I retired, I had classes of 38 to 40. They called those retirement classes. I can't imagine doing that in my beginning years."

Another teacher added that she's responsible for 123 students per day, saying, "I don't think that that is sustainable." Mr. Speaker, we don't either.

My question to the minister: will he commit to getting the full picture by tracking actual and maximum class sizes? And will he commit to mid-year funding to get the growth in our class sizes under control?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the grants go to the divisions. The grants go unconditionally. They decide what the classroom make-up is. They decide what the composition is. They decide how to allocate the supports between EAs [educational assistant] or whatever other supports you need. Mr. Speaker, those are the people that are competent. They are professionals. We have every confidence in their ability to make good decisions, but I can tell you what those decisions have led to.

Between 2007-08 and 2019, we've increased the number of educators by 10 per cent, from 11,133 to 12,276. We have added teacher full-time equivalents — 926.8 more, from 8,601 to 9,528 — an 11 per cent increase. Mr. Speaker, a 20 per cent increase in student support teachers. It is a 177 increase from 870 to 1,047. 87.8 more counsellors, a 63 per cent increase. And, Mr. Speaker, I've got more and more if the members have more questions.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan teachers watched with dismay the Premier cozying up with the Ontario premier, Doug Ford, on Friday, someone who has slashed education funding to such an extent that last month 100,000 students walked out in protest and 10,000 teachers, students, and parents gathered to march on Queen's Park.

Did the Premier of Saskatchewan discuss the importance of education funding with the Ontario premier, or does he see eye to eye with a premier hell-bent on increasing class sizes and slashing the number of teachers here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the question with respect to our recent mission to Toronto to meet with a number of banks, Mr. Speaker, meet with a number of banks with respect to the balanced budget that we released this spring here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I would put forward it was the right balance for the Saskatchewan people.

[14:30]

It was also, as it turns out, the right balance in the view of the major banking institutions in the nation as they had some words, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "Saskatchewan is a beacon for provincial budgeting." "The Saskatchewan budget is the picture of what a provincial budget should be," Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in that provincial budget we also had struck the right balance on behalf of the people when it comes to education, Mr. Speaker. We took an education budget here in this province, Mr. Speaker, very seriously.

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we take our funding and investment in our next generation in our education budget in this province very, very seriously, Mr. Speaker. That is precisely why we took an education budget in this province in 2007 under the NDP that was less than a billion dollars to \$2.48 billion here this past year, Mr. Speaker. That is the largest investment, the largest annual investment in education in the history of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud of the investment in our next generation. We're proud of our investment in our education facilities, in our teachers, in our educational assistants, and in all of those that are helping provide that opportunity for our children to be all that they can be.

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

#### Government Travel Record

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want a Premier who's willing to roll up his sleeves and get to work fixing the problems here in Saskatchewan, not just pointing fingers, shifting blame, and distracting from his own record here in Saskatchewan.

But just hours after defending his high-spending travel record in Premier's estimates, this Premier hopped on a plane for his second trip to Toronto since October, where he spoke at the exclusive conservatives-only Albany Club. How long was this speech planned? Was it the Premier's primary reason for visiting Toronto? And why should Saskatchewan people foot this bill? Why didn't he talk about this to the reporters when he was explaining his trip to Toronto?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, each and every year the Minister of Finance travels to Toronto to meet with our major lending institutions, Mr. Chair. They meet each and every year to discuss the direct relationship that those lending institutions, those investment banks have directly with the Government of Saskatchewan, but also more broadly, the relationship that they have with the general economy here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, what we can be thankful of, what we can be thankful of . . . And I engaged with a number of businesses, Mr. Speaker, as well as other entities while we were in Toronto meeting with those banks on the positive finances, the right balance that we struck here in this province, Mr. Speaker. But what we can be thankful of is that, Mr. Chair, we have this government going with the fiscal prudence that they have, Mr. Speaker.

And I compare trips, I compare these missions that have occurred in years gone by, by the Saskatchewan Party, by myself for the previous premier, and compare those to other NDP premiers here in the nation.

The first was, and this came up in estimates, the North American

Summit in Scottsdale, Arizona. This government, 45 per cent less than the NDP in Alberta.

The second was our mission to China, 30 per cent less than the government in Alberta, the NDP government in Alberta. Mr. Speaker, we continue to be lower, not only than the current NDP governments, but lower in our travel budgets than the previous NDP government in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we're proud of the missions that we lead on behalf of the investments that we are out asking for, so that we can continue to advance and expand our economy, so that we can continue to invest in the needed services like education in the province of Saskatchewan.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### **Bill No. 172 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019***

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be read a second time?

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to consider all the remaining stages of Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* immediately.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has requested leave to consider all the remaining stages of Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* immediately. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to move second reading.

## SECOND READINGS

**Bill No. 172 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019***

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*.

Mr. Chair, this bill provides workers with the ability to take five days of employer-paid interpersonal violence leave in a year, in addition to five unpaid days. This is in addition to any leave or benefits provided by the employer. This will enable survivors of both interpersonal and sexual violence to access services or relocate without the financial worries that come from taking time off work.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that this is a significant issue for Saskatchewan families, as we have some of the worst rates of sexual violence and interpersonal violence in Canada. Significant work has been undertaken toward preventing interpersonal violence, not least of which is the introduction of domestic violence disclosure protocol, Clare's Law Act and the expansion of the children exposed to violence program in the North.

This is in addition to the work of our community partners and our service providers that deliver programs to those that have experienced interpersonal violence. We hope that providing support, such as paid job-protective leave, can offer some peace of mind to those who are dealing with sexual violence and interpersonal violence.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of Bill 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved second reading of Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, it sincerely is an honour to rise this afternoon and join in, add my comments to the record on the Bill 172. This of course comes after two years of very strong and solid advocacy on behalf of the member for Regina Douglas Park and so many allies in the community.

We have some of those allies here with us today. From the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, Lori and Debbie are here. From front-line support services, we have Melissa and Hillary here with us today from the YWCA. Support from the CLC [Canadian Labour Congress], from PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan], from SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union-West], the U of R [University of Regina] Women's Centre, and so many.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a sincere thank you to all of those who came forward and who so eloquently illustrated what this

legislation is going to mean for them, what this would have meant for them when they were leaving interpersonal and sexual violence. Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that will change lives and has the potential to save lives. And for that, I would like to express my sincere thank you to the minister and to all of those colleagues, the allies in his caucus that I know have their full support behind this bill.

This, I think, is an illustration of what can happen when we're at our best, when we work across aisle to see a problem in our communities that needs to be addressed, when we support solutions, we listen to those in the community about how best to achieve that change. And I just want to sincerely say thank you.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not — and I'm not going to be able to do justice to this — but did not sincerely thank the member from Regina Douglas Park for her tenacity, for her strength, for her wit and good humour, and her ability to see a problem in our community, to come in here with dogged determination and keep at it until we come to this day today, and the expedited passage of Bill 172.

So again, Mr. Speaker, my sincere thanks to all of those who have made this happen; I know that list is long. It is important and it is appreciated and, as I said, this is legislation that will change and potentially save lives.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude my remarks. This bill has our full support.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — I designate that Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* be committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills and the said bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills immediately.

**The Speaker:** — This bill stands committed to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of the Whole on Bills.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into the Committee of the Whole on Bills

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON BILLS

**Bill No. 172 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019***

**The Chair:** — The item of business before the committee is Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*, clause 1 short title, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*.

I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee report the bill without amendment.

**The Chair:** — The minister has moved that the committee report Bill No. 172 without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General has moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice and Attorney General may proceed to move third reading.

I recognize the minister.

## THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 172 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019***

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved that Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* be now read the 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.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again?

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

**Removal of Bill From Order Paper**

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to draw to the attention of members that this Assembly had under consideration two bills with provisions of substantially the same purpose: Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019* in the name of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and Bill No. 614, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018* in the name of the member for Regina Douglas Park. Both bills proposed to support employees experiencing domestic and interpersonal violence by providing paid leave.

This Legislative Assembly has numerous precedents on the subject of the same-question rule with respect to bills. Speakers have consistently ruled that if the Assembly has agreed to one bill that contains similar provisions in another bill, the Speaker must then prevent any further consideration of the second bill.

Today the Assembly passed all stages of Bill No. 172, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Paid Interpersonal Violence and Sexual Violence Leave) Amendment Act, 2019*. Given the decision by the Assembly to pass this bill, it is my duty to ensure that the Assembly does not come to two different decisions on the same question. For this reason it is necessary that I order that item 3 under private members' public bills and orders, second readings, Bill No. 614, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence) Amendment Act, 2018* be removed from the order paper.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for Committee of Finance.

## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

## Motions for Supply

**The Chair:** — The item before the committee are appropriation resolutions. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move the following resolution:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2019, the sum of \$194,055,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the sum of \$194,055,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move the following resolution:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2020, the sum of \$13,043,705,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, the sum of \$13,043,705,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. There being no further business before the committee, I would invite a member to move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Brkich:** — At the next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

Pursuant to rule 32(1), the Minister of Finance shall move first reading of the appropriation bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

## APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 173 — *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)*

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a second time? I



recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)* immediately.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)* immediately. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Pursuant to rule 32(1)(e), I move that Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)* be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved second and third reading of Bill No. 173, *The Appropriation Act, 2019 (No. 1)*. 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.

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

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

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that we now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:56.]

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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