



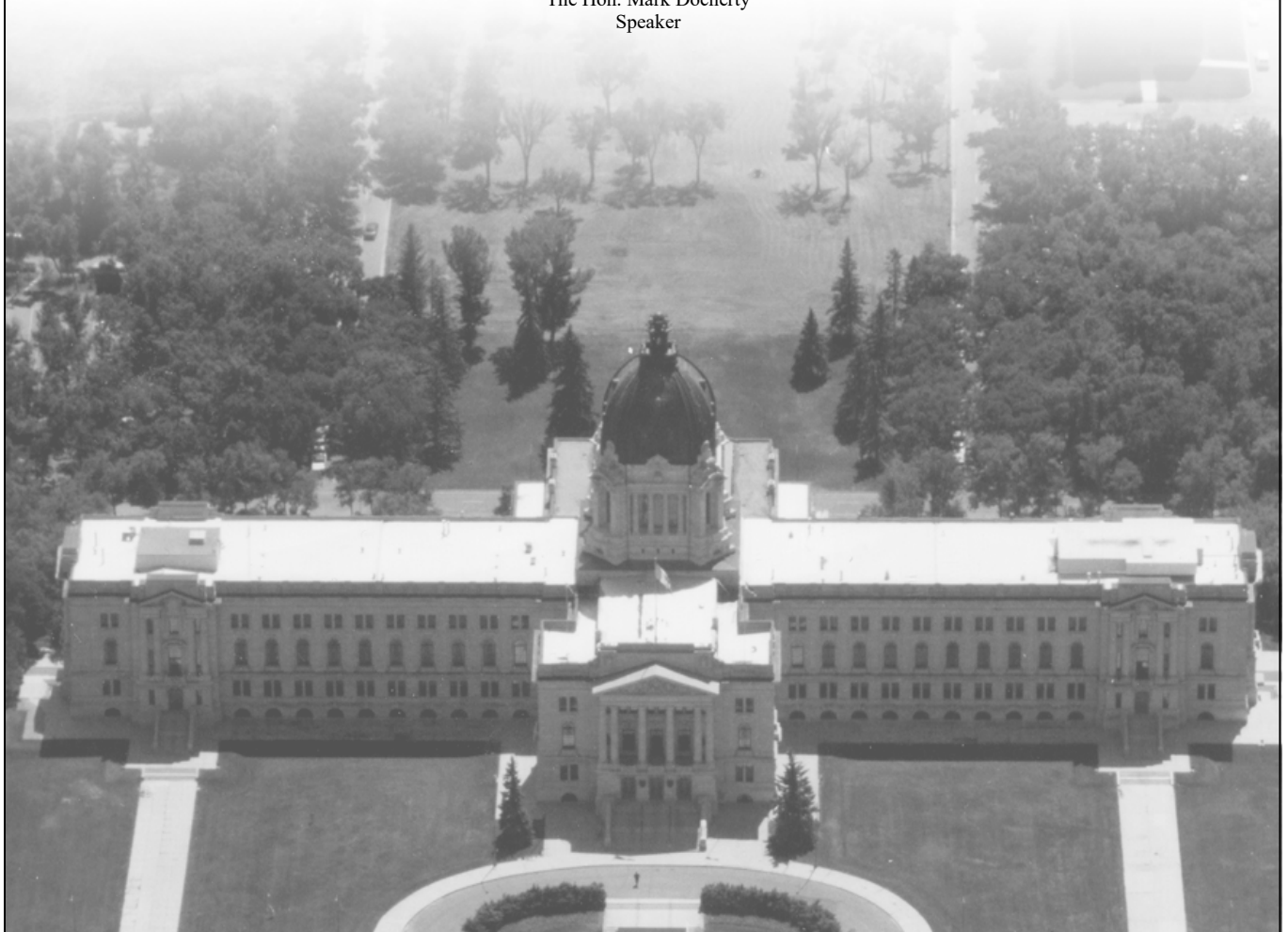
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure I introduce a couple of friends in your gallery today. We actually attend church together back in Yorkton. It's Lowell and Janelle Oshowy. Lowell's from Whitewood originally and Janelle's from Montana. Both now reside in Melville. Lowell is an agriculture worker on a large mixed farm, and Janelle is an employee at Saskatchewan Crop Insurance.

They came here for a visit today but they came for a very important reason as well, Mr. Speaker. Janelle is getting her Canadian citizenship today. So I ask all members to welcome my friends to their Legislative Assembly and congratulate Janelle on her soon-to-come Canadian citizenship.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I have a number of introductions to make here of one family that has been no stranger to this House, the Taillon family, Paul and Charlotte and their four girls.

Mr. Speaker, both Paul and Charlotte have been a familiar face in this building on many occasions. I on many occasions have likely chased Paul down and maybe raised my voice with him from time to time, and he's raised his voice right back from time to time as well. But Paul and Charlotte both have been part of our Saskatchewan Party family for more than seven years now. They have a cottage that they visit up in what is the greatest constituency in the province, in the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook. Mr. Speaker, they enjoy taking their family to one of Saskatchewan's great lakes.

Paul and Charlotte both recently have decided to embark on a new journey outside of our province to the west of us, Mr. Speaker. We are sorry to see them go, but we also wish them all the best in their endeavours and wish their family all the best in their endeavours. And we're losing, you know, a fairly large family from the province that they have been growing over the last number of years, so we'll be relying on others like the Minister of Environment, the House Leader of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, to continue to grow our province in the years ahead with the loss of the Taillon family.

Mr. Speaker, we truly do hope the Taillons will come back and visit, not only at the cabin but here in our capital, all of the friends that they've made in this building, in this community, and across the province. And I want to take the opportunity to thank both Paul and Charlotte for all that they have done on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and thereby the people of the province of Saskatchewan. It's been greatly appreciated by

myself and so many others on this side.

And I'd ask all members in this Assembly to join me in welcoming Charlotte, Julie, Lucie, Geneviève, Celeste, and last and most assuredly among them, their father Paul to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier to introduce these constituents to their Assembly, and disappointed to hear that Paul and Charlotte and the family are moving. I've gotten to know them just a little bit through the community, Mr. Speaker. I've enjoyed being out at Family Day activities and skating over at the Jack Hamilton Arena with the family. And certainly they're a wonderful family.

I've gotten to know Paul as a dedicated public servant, somebody loyal and dedicated to his service with this Premier and government, and just a wonderful family in the community. So it's certainly a loss for the community and the province to have Paul and Charlotte and their family move, but I want to offer our best wishes to them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health to welcome Lowell and Janelle to their Assembly today. I'd like to really congratulate Janelle on getting her Canadian citizenship today. I've lost too many relatives to Montana, so it's nice to have one come back this way.

They're quite a pair because Lowell, he works in agriculture and Janelle works for Crop Insurance, so no matter what happens, they're going to have food on the table. That's the way they're got things organized. I'd like all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This morning I'd like to introduce to you and through you a school group seated in the west gallery. We have 46 good-looking, spry, and bright students from Willowgrove School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Welcome. Yes, give us a wave.

I had a chance to meet with them earlier and take a picture and answer a few questions. They are accompanied by their teachers David Pratte and Stephanie Fernandez and a number of parent chaperones as well. I know they're taking in the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Heritage Centre, the Science Centre, and other venues here in Regina. I wish them a fruitful day and a safe trip home. I ask all members to help me welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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 this morning we have a group from the

Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Mr. Speaker, many members will know it's exciting times these days as they are tomorrow ready to open a brand new exhibit which will feature Scotty, the world's largest fossil dig of a Tyrannosaurus rex. It happened right here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

It was the hard work of many over many decades, but I'd like to highlight a couple of folks that are here today. Wes Long is a curatorial assistant in paleontology, and Tim Tokaryk is the curator of vertebrate paleontology over at the museum and one of the paleontologists responsible for discovering and naming Scotty, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't until 1944 that the excavation began. It was first discovered in 1991.

Tim has been a lead hand in the process. He has been recognized here in Saskatchewan by the professional geoscientist status by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists in 1999. He had contributed decades, as I mentioned, to this project and many others. Tim has contributed 35 years of service to the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum].

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to recognize them, thank you for their expertise and work in Saskatchewan's great natural history. Very excited about tomorrow, the opening, and I'm sure many folks in Saskatchewan are as well. So help me welcome them please.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I'd like to join the minister, welcoming the folks from RSM to their gallery, to their Legislative Building, and particularly the big news tomorrow, the opening of a really important exhibit. You know, Saskatchewan is a beautiful, wonderful place and our story goes on and on and on, and you folks do a good job in making sure we understand that. We bring it to our people here in Saskatchewan. So thank you so much and I hope tomorrow and the summer goes really well for you all. Thank you.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce 45 very good looking and very intelligent students from grade 1 from École Harbour Landing School, sitting in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, accompanied by their teachers, Lana Argue, Janna Halvorson, and parent chaperones, Lacey, Sharie, Hannah, Susan, and Sharat Pundat. Mr. Speaker, there's one student who called me many times to arrange this group, Puranjaybis Pundat. And I ask all the members to please join and welcome these, our future leaders, in their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce 19 grade 5 students from Langham who are seated in the Speaker's gallery. Give us a wave. And they're accompanied by their teacher, Ben Dunville, and a number of parent chaperones. So I'll look forward to a photo with you and a visit. So please join in me in welcoming these students from Langham.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Steinley: — With leave for an extended introduction, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I have a few introductions I'd like to make. First and foremost, my constituency assistant, Heather Howell-Shiplack, is in the west gallery. And she's been with our team since we first won in 2011, and she has been a tireless advocate for the people of Walsh Acres. She's a colleague. She's not my constituency assistant; she's my friend. She's like a family member now, and I just want to say thank you for everything you've done for the people of Walsh Acres and for me as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I think all MLAs know that you can't do your job without having an amazing support crew back in the office, especially during session. She's done such a wonderful job, and she's been truly a loyal friend. I appreciate everything you've done for the people of Walsh Acres. So join me in welcoming her to her Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, I do have also my crew here as well: Larissa Steinley, Jameson Steinley, Nickson Steinley, and Claire Steinley. And as this will be my last time I can introduce them in the Legislative Assembly, a little bit of history. Larissa and I both worked in this amazing building for a long time. I started on September the 3rd, 2008 as a researcher in cabinet planning, and I will be here until probably September 2019, so that'll be 11 years. And there's been a lot of change in that 11 years.

Larissa's worked in this building as well from January 2011 to July 2016, so we both love our province and we both wanted to serve our province. And we've gone through a lot of changes. We first came, we were not married. We got married in 2009 and then we had our first son, who celebrated his sixth birthday yesterday. Nickson turned six. And Claire joined us shortly after that. And one of my fondest memories is Jameson joined us after that and we completed our family in 2016, and it's been amazing.

And we have had a lot of ups and downs, but one thing I will remember is it is an honour and it has been an honour to serve the people of Walsh Acres, and we'll continue to do so. But my greatest accomplishment are the three people sitting up there, Jameson and Claire and Nickson. And they are going to be forever what I find is my most important role. Being an MLA has been very important, but being a father to them is important. And also, another most important role in my life will be a husband to probably the hardest working, most intelligent, honest woman I've ever met in my life and I have the honour to call my wife.

And I'd like to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly and say thank you for everything they've done. I would not be here without them, and she is truly the most amazing person I've ever met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tochor: — I would like to ask leave for extended introductions.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to introduce my family on this special day. As I rise, this will probably be my last chance to add comments to the record in this Assembly. I'm so blessed to have with me my family members as well. My parents, Vic and Eleanor Tochor in the Speaker's gallery at the top. Give us a wave. Love you guys. With them today is my two boys, Jacob and James. They're up there as well. Jacob is five, turning six in June and James is four, and I'm so lucky for them to be here today to share this occasion. With me is my cousins as well, Bert and Barb Wilson and Bonnie Donaldson as well is up in the Speaker's gallery.

[10:15]

I would not be here without the love and support of my family. Danielle couldn't make it today but as like everyone else here, we cannot do our roles without the support of our significant others. And she's always been there through the campaigns and driving me along, and I'm so grateful.

Mr. Speaker, it's an unbelievable opportunity to serve. It is my greatest honour of my life is to represent Saskatoon Eastview in this building for the past eight years. My guests today are why I am here. They are my inspiration and my rock that supports me in my endeavours. My parents instilled a good, I believe, a good work ethic in me and also the importance of giving back to one's community. I've continued that on with different ways to serve our community. I'm a past member of the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon that I've spoke numerous times in here, I hope, fondly of those times. But that's one of the ways that it inspired me that I put forward the Premier's Service Club Awards. And if you've ever had a service club in your constituency that won one, it's because of the work that we started in Saskatoon with Kinsmen that continues to this day.

Jacob and James represent the next generation obviously in Saskatchewan, and that is why I'm so pleased that as a government we were able to get back to balance. Because the deficits that we would rack up in this government would be their future tax increases, and I'm so proud that we were able to get it back to balance. And some of the important investments that we made in this past budget in health and education, I think of Jacob and James.

It is also another interesting little tidbit on why we have expanded newborn health screening in the province. When Jacob came along, I was surprised that not all newborns were screened when they were born. And Premier Wall at the time thought that was a good idea and we put it in the campaign promise, and just three weeks ago we were able to expand it to all hospitals in

Saskatchewan, which has been a wonderful thing.

Mr. Speaker, you have the best job in this whole building. Cherish your time in that chair. Leave things better than you found them. I fondly look back at the important rulings and policy developments when I was honoured to be Speaker here. I'm very grateful of work with some people in this building to make things better. I think of our Sergeant-at-Arms, who was able to improve security in this building. We have metal detectors; we have new policies; we have new individuals making sure that we're safe today. I'm very thankful of the improvements.

Also Steve Bata, who is also within the building, was able to improve, of all things, washrooms. We have partially corrected a wrong with the female MLA washrooms, where it's improved. We've also had a family washroom introduced to the building for the first time two and a half years ago. We've introduced shower facilities in the basement, and this shouldn't come as a surprise as the son of a plumber that there's some improvements in the washrooms. And I owe that a little bit to my dad, probably.

I'd like to thank all the members that I have the honour to serve in this Assembly on both sides of the aisle, as we work together to make sure that Saskatchewan is the best province it can be and our best days are still to come. In closing, I'd like to just welcome my guests, my family, my support, and people that I would not be here today without them. Please welcome them to their Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Two New Affordable Housing Projects in Prince Albert

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week two very important projects had their ceremonies in Prince Albert.

On May 10th I attended the sod turning for another Habitat for Humanity home in Prince Albert. And I am pleased to announce that Saskatchewan Housing Corporation is contributing \$65,000 from the federal-provincial Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement. The house will also be built by CORCAN, who works with inmates through certified vocational training programs where inmates build houses while acquiring the skills for the home construction industry. This collaborative effort is a great way to give back to the community and support a local family all in one.

It was a great day for me in Prince Albert also, as I attended the opening of six new affordable rental housing units called Joni's Place. Spearheaded by the Canadian Mental Health Association in Prince Albert, these homes will provide safety and stability for six individuals living with persistent and complex mental health challenges and other concurrent disorders, along with the supports that they may require. Mr. Speaker, we are honoured to work alongside the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on both of these projects.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for the efforts of the stakeholders,

home builders, and community for their support on these new projects. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good work of both Joni's house and the new Habitat for Humanity house in Prince Albert. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Good Old Days

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This final day of session is a good opportunity for a throwback Thursday. Remember when this government spent \$200 million at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] and put the sheriff, Bill Boyd, and his deputy, Laurie Pushor, in the ministerial protection program to avoid answering questions about the scandalous east parcels?

Remember the good old days when the Regina bypass was only supposed to cost us \$400 million and the carbon capture and sequestration unit at Boundary dam was going to capture 1 million tonnes of carbon each year?

Remember when the minister responsible for STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] assured Saskatchewan people that STC was safe and necessary, and the next minister put a bullet in it less than a year later? Let's not forget Brad Wall saying that paying PST [provincial sales tax] on the same used car over and over again every time it sold was dumb.

Remember back in 2012 when Brad Wall promised that no one would ever have to wait in an emergency room? They'd just walk in. And then they rolled that back to a 60 per cent reduction in waiting times and then they rolled that back to 35 per cent, and now basically some reduction is supposed to be good enough.

Remember when this government promised over and over for many, many years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020? Big fail, Mr. Speaker. Remember members opposite petitioning day after day, don't tax our food? Oh yes, Mr. Speaker, remember the rainy day savings fund? This government is good at making . . .

The Speaker: — Next member's statement. I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Saskatoon to Host Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This July, Saskatoon will play host to the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region annual summit, better known as PNWER. PNWER is a non-partisan organization that is providing leadership for private sector representatives and legislators on policy and trade from both Canada and the US [United States].

Mr. Speaker, there will be 20 sessions highlighting energy and innovation, infrastructure, regional tourism, transportation, resiliency, and much more. It will be a great opportunity for us to speak about how Saskatchewan is leading the way in energy and reducing our emissions through innovative technology like our carbon capture and storage, as well as our Prairie Resilience plan. This summit will strengthen our regional co-operation, educate us on key economic issues, and advocate for our regional interests.

Another important panel that will take place is on First Nations economic development and how our Indigenous leaders are creating world-class opportunities for business for their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm currently the acting president for PNWER and I've seen the effort it takes to be putting on this important summit. We currently are expecting around 500 attendees and are on track to see that number grow.

I highly encourage members of this Assembly to attend the event so that we can come together and discuss prosperity and growth and our economy. Mr. Speaker, we have 20 MLAs from this side of the aisle and one from the opposition. But I know that's going to grow, so we'll work on that. And, Mr. Speaker, there will be some current and retired Speakers there and I'm hoping that they'll have a chance to talk to you and hear some good stories. Thank you very much.

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

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia tomorrow on May 17th, marked each year on this date. The theme for 2019 is Justice and Protection for All.

Over the years the protection of LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] people has greatly expanded. Pride flags were raised in 50 Canadian cities including Regina, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon on the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada this past Tuesday, marking the passing of Bill C-150 that decriminalized homosexuality in 1969 in Canada.

But, Mr. Speaker, in many places around the world, queer people still face injustice and live in fear and danger. So, Mr. Speaker, today I'm taking this opportunity to speak out, encouraging all members of this Assembly to reach out to those who are particularly vulnerable to homophobic, transphobic, and biphobic bullying. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities have as much right as anyone else to feel safe and free enough to share their identity through honest expression, and we should do whatever we must to secure this right.

Mr. Speaker, June is Pride Month here in Saskatchewan, and I ask all members to join me in celebrating these wonderful events. Let's all get out and join in the Pride parade in our nearest community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon School Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I will be attending the 100th anniversary celebration of Mayfair Community School. A 100-year celebration for a school is truly remarkable — 100 years of learning, laughter, and memories. I am incredibly proud to have Mayfair Community School in my

constituency of Saskatoon Westview.

One hundred years is a long time, Mr. Speaker, almost as long as the member for Cannington has been in his chair. Mayfair Community School was completed in 1919. It is one of several castle-style schools that were built in Saskatoon during the second decade of the 1900s. The building became a permanent home for learning for students in the area who, prior to 1919, had been taught in temporary frame structures.

One of the most impressive things about Mayfair Community School is the community of individuals that it has created over the past century. Countless students, parents, teachers, support staff, and community members have come through the front doors and walked down the hall.

Mr. Speaker, this evening's celebration will include tours of the school, a friendship dance, a community barbecue, and a land-based learning project will be unveiled. I want to thank all of the organizers and volunteers of this afternoon's celebrations. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Mayfair Community School on celebrating an impressive 100 years of learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Program Wins Governor General's Award

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in the House to congratulate one of our valued community partners on a wonderful achievement. Yesterday it was announced that the Sweet Dreams program out of Saskatoon has received a 2019 Governor General's Award for Innovation. Mr. Speaker, what makes this award even more special is that it is our province's first time winning this particular award. The Governor General's Innovation Awards recognize outstanding and groundbreaking work of all kinds taking place in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Sweet Dreams program is Canada's first social impact bond and it has been such a success in helping families remain safe and intact. At the end of this contract, 48 children will have remained out of care for six consecutive months after leaving Sweet Dreams. That means that 54 of the 55 children served by Sweet Dreams remain out of care today.

This program wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of caring community members like the Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre or Egadz, Conexus Credit Union, Wally and Colleen Mah of North Ridge Developments, June Draude, Eric Dillon, and Donald Meikle. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to help me recognize the wonderful partners involved in this commendable achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Senate Committee Opposes Bill C-48

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Senate Transport Committee decided to stop the Liberal government's attack on Western Canadian energy products. We

want to thank those five senators, Conservative senators, along with independent senator Paula Simons, who voted to recommend that Bill C-48 be stopped by the Senate. This bill would completely cripple exports for Western Canadian energy while allowing foreign tankers to come into Eastern Canada. It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker.

When the minister of export and trade and the Minister of Energy and Resources testified against Bill C-48, the NDP [New Democratic Party] were utterly silent. Although we did hear their leader have a lot to say at an anti-pipeline rally earlier, Mr. Speaker, which aligns his party directly with the federal NDP who equivocally support Bill C-48 and the end of our energy sector.

I encourage all senators to respect the decision of the Senate committee on Bill C-48. We know that Justin Trudeau's Liberals support Bill C-48 and we know the federal NDP support Bill 48 and we're pretty darn sure the provincial NDP support Bill 48.

[10:30]

The NDP called on this government to stop its fight against issues around pipelines, Mr. Speaker. That will never happen on this side of the House. I call on the NDP to change their mind, Mr. Speaker, and stand up for Saskatchewan families and the energy sector and oppose Bill C-48.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Equalization Agreement

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our last question period of the session, and as always it's been lots of fun. It seems like on this last day of the session it would be as good a time as any for the Premier to come clean on equalization and his position on that important issue. Now a few months ago he floated a half-baked plan, a plan that would actually result in billions of dollars going to Alberta, to Ontario, to British Columbia — to the provinces that need it least. But he also did this long after his government already knew that the federal government had proceeded with locking in the existing unfair formula for another five years.

Now what I would like to get from the Premier, because he didn't answer this the other day again, how did they miss that information when it was clearly indicated from the federal government? And more importantly, why did he abandon the re-evaluation of the current unfair formula, a re-evaluation based on hydroelectric power, on non-renewable resources, in favour of a plan that would actually make things less fair for the entire country? And if he's really serious about a fair deal on equalization for Saskatchewan, why doesn't he push ahead with the court case that has been proposed in the past?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to all of the premise of that particular question, Mr. Speaker, it just simply is not the case. The Finance minister has just again informed me April 5th was the date that they were informed by the federal Minister of

Finance with respect to the omnibus bill that they had put forward with respect to the equalization plan. We had introduced a real solution to equalization and are the only government in the nation, Mr. Speaker, that have put forward a real solution with respect to having a discussion, a frank and firm discussion around how do we share our wealth in this nation, Mr. Speaker.

And all of this conversation actually is a moot point if the federal government is going to continue to move forward with some of the environmental policies that they have that will affect the economy in Western Canada, most notably here in the province of Saskatchewan, policies that are being put forward, supported by the members opposite in many cases, Mr. Speaker, most notably yesterday with respect to the coal phase-out, Mr. Speaker. And I quote; this is the Leader of the Opposition: "The decision has been made in Ottawa and I actually think it is a good decision."

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, members on this side do not think it is a good decision. We think there is another path when it comes to environmental policy. We don't support the federal government in their carbon tax on Saskatchewan families. We don't support the federal government when it comes to the rewrite of the environmental assessment legislation, Bill C-69, or Bill C-48 which we just heard about, Mr. Speaker. As we move forward, Mr. Speaker, it will continue to be the members on this side of the House that will stand with the people of the province, whether it's equalization or economic policy here in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Measurement of Class Sizes and Support for Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was of course about equalization and was missed by a mile once again. You know, something else that's been missed by a mile is the estimate of class sizes. We've heard the Minister of Education and the former minister of Education roll out and double down on this average class size of 19, which is completely divorced from the reality of our classrooms.

You know, in fact, you don't even have to look outside this Assembly to see evidence to the contrary. We see student groups in here all the time and the numbers actually speak for themselves. We've had the member for Cannington introduce student groups of 22 and 26 students, the member for Walsh Acres introduce classes of 26 and 27 students. In fact just yesterday the member from Martensville introduced a class of . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . and she seems to be very interested in this line of consideration. And that number yesterday was 29 students, Mr. Speaker. When you look at the average, it's actually 26 or more students in each of the student groups in this Assembly.

Now of course, Mr. Speaker, that's not a scientific method of calculating class size. But it's no more irrelevant than the method from the members opposite, which is to not track the class sizes at all, Mr. Speaker.

Now if the Premier won't listen to educators who are raising the alarm about the number of students and class sizes, Mr. Speaker, will he at least accept the evidence introduced by the members in

this House? Or will he take it a step further and will he start tracking the number of students? Or are we just going to stop hearing the MLAs tell us how many students are in the groups visiting in the legislature?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I'll get to this question in a moment, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to equalization, the moot point that I was referring to was the fact that if the federal government with their policies are going to shut down the industries that are creating wealth in this province, we will not have the opportunity to share that wealth with the rest of the nation. Mr. Speaker, unlike the members opposite, unlike the federal government, we're not interested in shutting down the coal-fired industry in Estevan. We're interested in cleaning it up. Unlike the federal government, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, we're not interested in shutting down the energy industry in Kindersley and Lloydminster and Shaunavon and Estevan. Mr. Speaker, we're going to stand with those industries, some of the most sustainable industries in the world, and we're going to stand with the people and the families that work in those industries, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to our classroom sizes in this province, Mr. Speaker, the average classroom size is 19 students. This in fact, Mr. Speaker, we can be thankful that we have a government in power in this province that is committed to funding our education sector and funding that next generation here in this province, Mr. Speaker. For every 20 students that have entered the system . . . This is new over the course of the last decade, because we didn't have new students entering the system under the NDP. They were entering the system in Alberta. Saskatchewan students were entering the school system in Alberta, Mr. Speaker. But for every 20 students that have entered the system in the last 10 years, we've added a teacher, Mr. Speaker. We've added an educator, over 900 educators added into our school system, Mr. Speaker. We took a budget under the NDP that was less than a billion dollars up to about \$2.48 billion in this province, 46 new schools, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue to invest in that next generation in the years to come.

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

Emergency Department Wait Times

Mr. Meili: — Seven thousand more students in our classrooms since 2016, but not a cent more in investment, not a cent more in investing in those classes, teachers that are overwhelmed, students that are struggling. And they want to applaud that behaviour, Mr. Speaker. Completely out of touch with the needs in our schools, Mr. Speaker.

Also pretty far out of touch with the needs in our emergency room. The target was zero waits by 2017. That was the big promise. And then it was 60 per cent less by 2019. Oh wait, we can't do that. It's 35 per cent less by 2019. Oh, now it's some reduction. It seems like the only way that the Sask Party could reach their targets is to declare a goal to increase wait times in emergency rooms, because that's what's happening every year under this government. Mr. Speaker, we can do so much better. Saskatchewan patients could do so much better.

The minister finally admitted the other day, he said, and I quote, “Obviously we need to do more in a number of different areas because the wait times are still too long.” Well we’d waited a long time to finally see the minister recognize his failure on this file. How long will we have to wait until we’ll actually see some action and timely access to emergency care for Saskatchewan patients?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister also said the other day that this is a government that is not afraid to set targets. We’re not afraid to set targets around services that the people of this province expect governments to provide, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to health care services and access to those health care services, Mr. Speaker, we can be very thankful in this province that there’s been investment — investment not only in the College of Medicine and the training of our homegrown physicians, of which the Leader of the Opposition knows that college well, Mr. Speaker, but investment into recruiting physicians into communities across this province, now 900 more physicians servicing the expanded population of this province, Mr. Speaker.

You compare that, you compare that to the actions of the members opposite. They lost some 173 doctors during their time in government, Mr. Speaker. This is the comparison that the people of the province have the opportunity to look at.

We set targets around surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker, continue to work towards those targets, and we continue to work towards our access to health care, our health care services in communities across this province, Mr. Speaker. And in the days and years ahead, if we’re fortunate enough to serve on behalf of the people of this province, we’re going to continue to set those targets. We’re going to continue to work with the people to understand what they want from their federal government in the way of services. We’re going to set the targets and then we’re going to put the action in place to do everything we can to achieve those targets.

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

Availability of Ambulance Services

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s not just about setting those targets. It’s about meeting them, which this government has failed to do. It’s no wonder things are getting worse. This government used to have a bold strategy with millions allocated each year to curbing wait times, but funding has whittled off over the years. In committee I asked about what the plan was to address the complex issues contributing to ER [emergency room] waits, and there essentially isn’t one.

The same goes for ambulances tied up while paramedics are stuck waiting to offload patients into ERs that are bursting at the seams. In Saskatoon, on average, once a day an ambulance is called and there are none available. This is terrifying, Mr. Speaker. And despite ongoing concerns about ambulance shortages, this government isn’t comprehensively tracking them.

What’s the government’s plan to get ER waits in our major cities under control so our ambulances can get back on the roads?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, this government’s done extensive work in consultation with our EMS [emergency medical services] providers, both in the public and the private providers within our public system, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the strategic work has been under way, including the development of the new Saskatchewan Health Authority, to find efficiencies within that system to make sure that we have, say the nearest available car that’s responding to cars, so we have our response times down. To have that sustainable ambulance service, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this province expect.

Mr. Speaker, we’ve gotten to a point with our providers where we’re going to a template contract system to equalize the services around the province and to better dispatch cars and to have them transport patients in a more efficient manner, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The proof is in the outcomes. When the health region amalgamated, one of the first efficiencies promised was an overhaul of the ambulance system. That was more than two years ago, and all this government has done is tinker around the edges with contracts.

Saskatoon’s ER bottleneck impacts people in Warman and Martensville who are also sounding the alarm about inadequate ambulance services. The Warman fire chief says ambulances have been delayed by up to two and a half hours. The chief described the problems as systemic and says the communities of Martensville, Dalmeny, Langham, and Osler are all impacted by Saskatoon’s ERs.

And this government has been getting similar complaints from Shellbrook, Yorkton, Maple Creek, the RM [rural municipality] of Reno, Kipling, Fox Valley, Blaine Lake, Oxbow, Carnduff, and the list goes on. When will the people of Saskatchewan get the ambulance system overhaul they were promised?

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, as I just stated in my last answer, work is under way. In fact I think the member opposite should’ve been at the SEMSA [Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association] conference about a week and a half ago, Mr. Speaker, and listening to some of the comments from there.

Some of them have been concerned in the past. A lot of them are very encouraged by the work that’s been done by our vice-president in charge of community services, by Rod MacKenzie, our executive director of EMS services. I know those people working with them, Mr. Speaker. Consultations have been under way. A lot of the contracts are currently being signed, Mr. Speaker.

But it was encouraging for myself to be there to hear a lot of the good feedback coming from those providers that are very encouraged the direction that we're going, saying that they've never had this much attention paid to them under years of the NDP. In fact I had a member comment about . . . quite concerned by the NDP even bringing these issues up because, when they were, when the NDP was in power, he remembered a time they had 40 ambulances out front of this building protesting the NDP government's treatment of the EMS, Mr. Speaker. And I think they're quite encouraged by the direction that we're going.

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

Investment in Mental Health of Children and Youth

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this government has had to be dragged into addressing the mental health and substance misuse crisis in our province. And the results of this inaction are heartbreaking. We have the second-highest rates of the provinces of children and youth being hospitalized with mental health issues. And we lead the provinces for kids being admitted to hospital for mental health issues related to substance misuse disorders. As the *StarPhoenix* editorial board said it best, mental health needs an emergency approach. But we don't see an emergency approach from this government. Instead the minister continues to point to budget announcements that barely scratch the surface of the needs.

[10:45]

Does the minister agree, if there's more than 700 kids on wait-lists for mental health supports, if there's more kids suffering with mental health issues filling hospitals than any other province, not only is the work far from being done, but his government needs to be doing a heck of a lot more right now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we discussed, I think yesterday or the day before in this House, Mr. Speaker, we know we have much more work to do in mental health and addictions, Mr. Speaker, for children and adults, Mr. Speaker. We're extremely concerned about it. The member doesn't like me reading through all the announcements we made in the budget a couple of months ago, Mr. Speaker, but I think they're important.

For the last year or two the member is always on her feet and saying there's not enough resources. Mr. Speaker, we dramatically increased resources in this last budget. Mr. Speaker, we know there's issues. Saskatoon has unacceptable wait times for children to see a psychiatrist, Mr. Speaker. We've been working on that. Improvements have been made. We still need to do more. Mr. Speaker, there's a wide range of issues dealing with mental health and addictions, and a number of the announcements in the last budget are going to work towards addressing that.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, those on the front lines of the

mental health crisis say they are drowning and they cannot keep up. In recent weeks police services, the Children's Advocate, First Nations, and folks on the front line have all said it loudly and clearly that this government is not getting the job done on mental health and addictions issues and that the crisis has gotten away from us.

In Saskatoon there are more than 1,200 patients in the opioid-assisted therapy program who are expected to receive counselling from fewer than four addictions counsellors. That is unacceptable. Leading professionals in the field penned a letter in today's *StarPhoenix* that says, "Despite providers' best efforts, very little of this is reflected in the fractured, under-resourced care currently offered."

The budget didn't get the job done, and the minister knows full well people are falling through the cracks. What does the minister have to offer today to those in crisis who desperately need services and supports that just aren't there?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the member's question at the end, what I would tell all the citizens of this province again is that we're very concerned about this, Mr. Speaker, and we're working diligently to bring services to the people that need it, Mr. Speaker.

We talked about budget announcements, the rapid access to addiction medicine clinics, Mr. Speaker, in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Those clinics, Mr. Speaker, have met with great success in, for example, Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, so we're trying to follow their lead on that, Mr. Speaker, to follow best practices across the country, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member keeps talking about, you know, people she's talked to and quoting people. The other day she quoted Dr. Peter Butt who is a well-renowned expert on addiction in the province, Mr. Speaker. She referred to a news story and, Mr. Speaker, frankly torqued it, what Dr. Peter Butt was saying. He was talking in there about changes that need to be made in Saskatchewan and right across the country and how addictions treatment are done, Mr. Speaker.

I can see I'm out of time, Mr. Speaker. I hope she asks another question. I'd like to follow up on that.

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

Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Ms. Beck: — Before the budget, officials at the University of Saskatchewan clearly stated that they needed more investment from this government. Our province's universities are economic engines. They help grow the future of our province and fuel innovation — health care, cancer care, agriculture, engineering. The list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

But the Sask Party chose to effectively make yet another cut and offered not a single new penny in funding. Now the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] is again scrambling to find dollars wherever they can, and workers' pensions are on the line. Underfunding at the U of R [University of Regina] had the school

on the verge of a strike. Does the minister understand that the Sask Party's drastic cuts and chronic underfunding at our universities are having real consequences, and that the responsibility for this rests with her?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. You know, with respect to the University of Saskatchewan, we provide . . . they received 329 million in operating funds this year, Mr. Speaker, along with another 13.2 million in preventative maintenance and renewal. That's 120 million more dollars, or a 57 per cent increase compared to what they were getting from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. They get 57 per cent of their operating revenue, Mr. Speaker, from the province, which is the eighth highest in comparable universities and well above the national average in Canada.

This year our government provided a total of \$88 million alone in targeted funding to the College of Medicine, Mr. Speaker. That is more than the entire budget of the University of Regina and Sask Polytech, which has 17 campuses across this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the minister makes the cuts but won't even answer simple correspondence from the workers about the damage that she's causing. This is a part of a pattern from this government. They underfund bodies like school boards and universities and then line them up to take the blame when the cuts are made.

Mr. Speaker, students, faculty members, and U of S workers are all being asked to pay the price for the Sask Party's failure to properly fund universities in our province. It's the Sask Party's cuts that made this happen.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister at least start by answering correspondence from the union and will she accept responsibility for the damage that her cuts have caused?

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

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, this government has had a very positive record when it comes to investment in the institutions of this province. We have some of the highest taxpayer-funded institutions in the country, Mr. Speaker, and our investment has been clear.

In addition to the investment in the major institutions, we've also, Mr. Speaker, been investing heavily in our First Nations and Métis institutions, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very proud to stand on the floor and say that that is making a difference. There's a 34 per cent increase in enrolment in our Indigenous students, Mr. Speaker. There is a 49 per cent increase across all of our institutions in those students who are actually getting retained in our institutions and getting a credential, Mr. Speaker.

And because of the work that this government has been doing in growing the economy, Mr. Speaker, 10,700 of those graduates are actually employed. That's a 48 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. I think this side of the House is doing a very good job with respect to training our next generation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Northern Lights School Division

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, every level of education in this province has been impacted by this government's mismanagement. And now teachers in the Northern Lights School Division have to worry about their very jobs. For the upcoming school year, in order to balance the \$1 million budget shortfall handed to them by that minister, the school division will have to eliminate eight and a half teaching positions. Six more jobs will be lost in the central office. That's a total of 14 positions, Mr. Speaker.

How can the minister keep saying that school boards are properly funded in this year's budget when they so clearly, Mr. Speaker, are not? And what does he have to say to those who will be out of work come the end of the school year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, this government continues to support the great work that's being done in the Northern Lights School Division, Mr. Speaker. Certainly yesterday in the House the member stood up and said the education system was in crisis, Mr. Speaker, and I can't disagree with that more, Mr. Speaker. We have a good education system, Mr. Speaker. We continue, Mr. Speaker, to invest in the important priorities of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and that includes education. Over the last two years, Mr. Speaker, over \$56 million added to the budget, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to have ongoing conversations with the Northern Lights School Division, Mr. Speaker. It's very important for us to ensure that we're supporting First Nations education in the North, Mr. Speaker, and education generally with respect to those classrooms, Mr. Speaker. Those conversations between my ministry, Mr. Speaker, and with the Northern Lights School Division, Mr. Speaker, and our other partners in education, will continue to make sure that we're providing the best possible opportunities for those children in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That will continue and the Northern Lights School Division can continue to count on the support of this government.

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

Sexual Assault Strategy

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate of sexual assault in the country, and we need a sexual assault strategy to address that. The longer we wait for this government to act, the more people are at risk. On May 13th the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan released 22 actions under their sexual violence action plan. They want to implement this plan across Saskatchewan in five years.

Mr. Speaker, in light of this report and the seriousness of this issue, will the minister commit today to adopting and implementing the SASS [Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan] province-wide sexual assault strategy with firm timelines for each and every recommendation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question on a very important topic to the people of this province. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Social Services, others in the cabinet, are working very closely with respect to the Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan and their member organizations and the report that was released, Mr. Speaker, so that we can ensure as we move forward we are able to provide those supports that are necessary for those that have been unfortunately involved in these types of incidents, Mr. Speaker. This is the balance that we need to continue to have in this province, Mr. Speaker, the balance of, yes, balancing the budget, but balancing our investment in the services that the people of Saskatchewan expect their provincial government to provide, Mr. Speaker, balancing our investment in education this year, for instance, that is the largest investment in the history of the province.

Health care, Mr. Speaker, and mental health care services that arose today, Mr. Speaker, balancing that investment and ensuring that that investment — that is a record investment this year, Mr. Speaker — is getting out and offering those services to the people in this province. The investment, the record investment this year in our social and community supports across the province, Mr. Speaker. This particular budget this year, which was titled *The Right Balance*, the right balance that provided us that opportunity to again climb a rung in the ladder to our overarching vision that we have, Mr. Speaker, the vision 2020.

As our government MLAs leave this Assembly they are going back to their communities to again engage, Mr. Speaker, to update that vision on behalf of the people we represent in this province. We're going back to our constituencies to talk to the people and stand shoulder to shoulder with them as we release a new plan this fall.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 109 through 112.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 109 through 112. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 113.

The Speaker: — Tabled, question 113. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the

answer to question no. 114.

The Speaker: — Ordered, question 114. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 115 through 118.

The Speaker: — Tabled, answers 115 through 118.

Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — With leave to move a motion.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a few personal remarks before I move the motion, and I'm glad that today is the last day. The heckling I'm getting from my own side speaks to why I'm glad it is the last day of session.

It's been a long session but a very productive one. You know, we did work on both sides of government, moved our agenda forward. The opposition did their role. They asked questions in committee, spent a lot of time going over the legislation. And we even worked on a few bills together that were passed, speaking from the Minister of Justice and the Opposition House Leader, so you know, it goes to show that governments and opposition can work together to get things done.

[11:00]

Most people only see question period and see the adversary that goes back and forth. But you know, I've been here for a long time and there's a lot of work that goes behind the scenes, work that actually is productive for the province of Saskatchewan as it moves forward. The real work is always done behind the scenes, and as House Leader you see every aspect of it. You see how things move forward, how bills right from the first stage go all the way to being passed, where it affects the people of Saskatchewan.

I want to thank the Opposition House Leader, the member from Regina Douglas. It's been a pleasure working with her. She is, like I said in the last session, she's very respectful, very respectful of the rules and very respectful of the House, and very smart. There's nothing I can pull over her eyes. Whatever she says, I just go along with it on this side.

I know that it's very . . . I think she had a few difficulties as I did, as you're working with members trying to line ministers up, staff, herself lining up the opposition critics. You know, that's a lot of juggling goes behind the scenes as we set up the committee work, and I know that she did a lot of work on that, and so did Michelle

Lang, my chief of staff in House Services. She did a lot of work on it, a lot of behind the scenes. I know I'd go down to her office, she'd be on the phone for hours with a counterpart, Mitch. I know that he did a very good job. Her and Michelle lining up, and then on our side lining up the ministers, lining up, making sure that their staff was coming and the bureaucrats could be here.

I know a lot of members sat in here, would be here at 8 o'clock in the morning for meetings and sit here till 10:30 at night for committee work. So I want to thank the members that put in the long days. A lot of people don't realize that there were some long hours that were put in so we could, as this House moves forward, you know.

The committee Chairs, I want to thank them for the jobs that they did, the organizing. And I also want to thank the Clerks. You know, today was another thing of thinking I know all the rules. I had forgot that there's a rule that petition isn't on the last day. I got reminded in caucus, but I had to double-check. And you're right, that was one rule I had forgotten about. But I know when I need something, I always go ask the Clerks, and they've been excellent in helping this House move forward. I want to thank them again for all the work they do. They've spent here a lot of nights sitting here in committee work and giving us a lot of advice so things run very smoothly.

Yourself, Mr. Speaker. I know it gets challenging here at times. I know that you did a very good job of keeping control of the House and that's not easy. It gets some days . . . And being I have sat in that chair as Deputy Speaker, knowing that it's not, some days not that fun. It's like sitting in as ref. I also want to thank the Deputy Speaker too. He did an excellent job of filling in when you had to there.

The people behind the scenes, I want to give them a shout too: Hansard that stays here every night late when we're working on committees; the people that do the video; the cafeteria people that not only feed us during the day but also do MLA receptions every night. And basically we had an MLA reception usually three nights a week, so they were putting in some long, hard days, and they always did an excellent job. The food that they put on and the service they did was excellent.

The people that clean the buildings and the staff behind the scenes that basically make this job easy. There is the Pages. All the staff in the offices that have did work. There's not enough thanks you can give to everybody that helps this House run the way it does. It takes hundreds upon hundreds of people to make it show to the people that they make it just a smooth-running function, but it takes hundreds of people behind the scenes to do that.

I want to acknowledge everybody that has worked in this place and helped it go forward. I know that my members are anxious to get home. They're starting to heckle me. But I want to make sure that everybody knows the appreciation I have for the work that everybody has did in this place.

And as we move forward, I hope members on both sides of the House have a good summer. And like the Premier said in caucus, it's a little bit of time now to enjoy with your families and take a little bit of a break before we get back to the summer work, constituency work, before we return this fall.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move the following motion:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 23rd, 2019, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven days' clear notice, if possible, of such date and time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 23rd, 2019, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven days' clear notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleague on the other side of the House in thanking those who do the good work here. Before I thank the people that are inside of this building, I want to thank those who are outside of this building who support us while we do this work: families, friends, loved ones. Also our constituency assistants who help keep the home fires burning while we're working often very late evenings here during session.

I also want to thank the public servants, Mr. Speaker, who work tirelessly on behalf of the people of this province, as well as those at the Clerk's table who often, as my colleague said, often keep us in check and remind us of rules that we sometimes forget about. And sometimes we go rogue and do things that they don't think we should do. And I imagine that's a bit of a stressful life experience for them, but we always thank them for putting up with us despite our many, many flaws. It's been very helpful to have the expertise of them to help me figure out how to do this job.

I also want to thank the committee staff because we worked a lot of late hours, long nights this session. And they're often sitting right beside us, listening intently to our very eloquent debates that we're having way late into the evening in committee.

And there's so many other people in this building who help keep this place running: library services; broadcast services; Hansard; the cafeteria folks, as my colleague had mentioned; and the Sergeant-at-Arms; and the press gallery, who hold us to account, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to thank my leader and my caucus colleagues for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. But especially I want to thank my Deputy House Leader for his wisdom and his wit. Not only is he a wonderful well of expertise that I can draw from, a very smart person — I would like to put that also on the record — but he's also a pretty funny guy to sit beside, especially during session. And we are often caught on camera maybe chuckling a little bit more than we should be, but that's okay.

I also want to thank our staff, the staff on government side, Michelle Lang in particular, and then the staff on our side, and Mitchell Bonokoski. And Michelle and Mitchell, as a member opposite has said, have worked very well together. And they work very hard behind the scenes to keep us doing the job that we're supposed to be doing, and we often . . . You don't really see that on camera, but know that they are working very hard behind the scenes and working very hard to do collaborative work together as well, as the member opposite had mentioned.

And I do want to thank the Government House Leader and the Government Deputy House Leader for their work this session. And I know I speak for my colleagues here that it has been a pleasure to work with the two of them. And I know they get teased a lot, and if I would have known that the Government House Leader was saying yes to everything I was saying, then I think I would have tried to push some more private members' bills. And I just want the members opposite to know that that's not actually the case, because we would have gotten more private members' bills passed, had he just said yes to every single thing I ever said. Maybe it was the Deputy House Leader that was saying no, as the Government House Leader is saying right now.

But I do want to say, as the Government House Leader said — and we do say this at the end of every session, but it's true — that there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes collaboratively. And there is a lot of camaraderie that you don't necessarily see during question period, so in particular I wanted to thank the two of them.

I also want to thank the Pages for their hard work this session. They also have to sit here evenings if we're here evenings. So they often go unthanked and we want to take the opportunity to thank them as well.

Yourself, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your work this session. As has already been stated and is pretty obvious, it can be a difficult job that you have, and we'd like to thank you very much for your service in that role.

I'll just close by thanking the people of the province. They gave us this opportunity, every single one of us here, the opportunity and the honour to serve. And it really is an honour. I think I speak for everybody in this Chamber to say that we are forever grateful for that.

And I'll just join with the Government House Leader in wishing everyone a happy and enjoyable summer. We hope everyone stays safe and enjoys the beautiful Saskatchewan weather. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I'd like to ask leave to make a personal statement. Is leave granted?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — [Inaudible] . . . the rules. Is it agreed or not?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. Well thank you for that. I would like to take the opportunity . . . I've got a number of thank yous, but I would like to thank everyone for your hard work this

session. And since this is the one time I get to speak without following a script, I have a few things I did want to say.

To the members, some days it has been a little bit of a challenge, but I would like to thank you for your many hours of service, your strong commitment, your important roles you play as elected officials of the province of Saskatchewan, and for representing the people of this fine province in this Assembly with passion and integrity.

As has already been said, to the Clerk's office, Greg Putz, Iris Lang, Ken Ring, Kathy Burianyk, Rob Park, Stacey Ursulescu, and Anne Drake, and the staff of the Legislative Assembly, thank you all for your extraordinary efforts to keep us all on task, and by doing so, enabling the democratic process to run smoothly. And again, as has already been said, it's an amazing group, I would say as knowledgeable as there is in the country if not better. So I've talked to a few other Clerks around the country, and they do know what this Clerk's Table expertise is. So we're extremely lucky to have them.

I'd also like to acknowledge the Pages — Sherrilyn, Cameron, Hannah, Azriel, Samara, and Joseph — for the excellent job they did for the members daily. We appreciate your efficiency and your professionalism, and thanks for laughing at some of my sad jokes. I know I attempted a few things, but yes . . . But thanks for laughing.

For the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service] personnel who do their best to make us all look presentable, again thanks for that. Sergeant-at-Arms and security, just thanks, period. Thanks for doing your job and making things easy for us.

I'd also like to thank my staff, Sheila Sterling and Hayley Lucas, for all their hard work in keeping my office running smoothly and wrangling me where I'm supposed to be. And Sheila for her Herculean efforts to keep my wig bag — and yes, that's a real thing — straight. Yes.

Thanks also to Monique Lovatt for her dedication and hard work supporting the members' participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Thank you to Kristy Shaw, my long-suffering consistency assistant. Kristy has kept our office running smoothly while pushing post-secondary studies, raising a family. Could not be more proud of her as her employer and to call her my friend.

[11:15]

I would like to thank my spouse, Lisa, for helping me see the trees in the forest and again just for being an amazing support to me, period.

I'd like to also thank the government and opposition House leaders and their teams for supporting the smooth operation of the Assembly legislative agenda this session. And it was good working with you, and I thank you for your expertise, your professionalism, and just for consensus, for coming to some agreements. And we've had some difficult conversations, but I appreciate your work. So thank you for that.

So as has already been said, enjoy your time; get back to your

constituencies; do the work; enjoy the time with your families and friends; drive safely. And I look forward to seeing you again, same time, same bat channel.

All right. So let's see. Yes. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until 10 a.m. . . . Wait. One more . . . Oh sorry. Sorry, I jumped the shark. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move 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 the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion, yes? Okay. Carried. This House stands adjourned until 10 a.m., October 23rd, 2019.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:17.]

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
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