



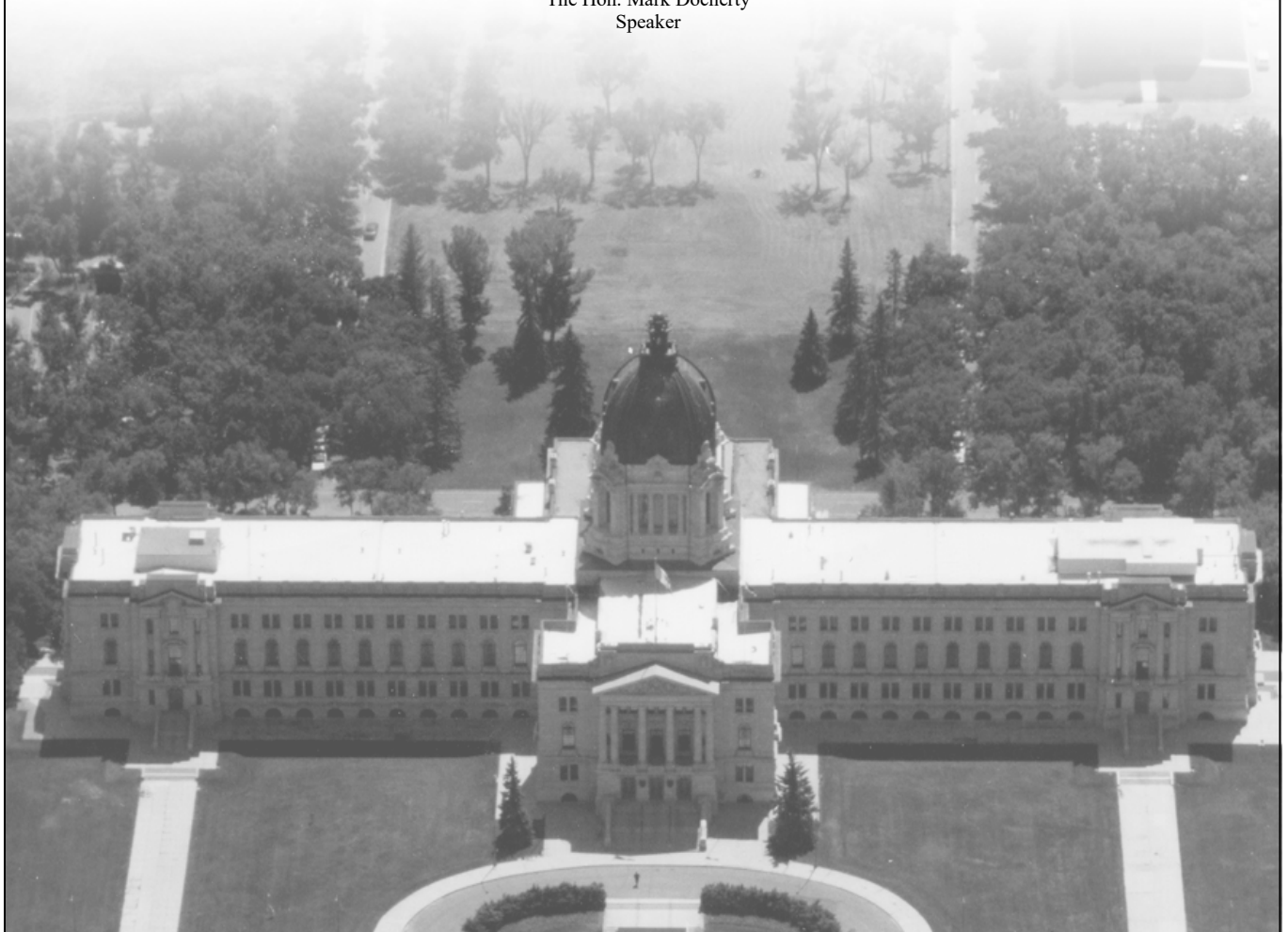
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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
4th Session — 28th Legislature

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Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13; Vacant — 2

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery with us here this morning is 26 grade 4 students from W.S. Hawrylak School. Accompanying them is of course their teacher Karen Trithart. Yes, wave. Kirsten Lee, one of the parent chaperones; Ericka Fitzgerald; Debbie Schmidt; and Carol Danyliw are with them and their teacher here this morning.

I'm waiting expectantly for the great questions that are going to happen after we're finished here this morning after question period. And so I know you are all thinking about what you're going to ask me. So we're good. Okay. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to introduce some guests from the fine city of Moose Jaw. We have four Moose Javians in the gallery today. And if they'll give us a wave, we have Percy Hill, who's busy doing something. And next to him is Crozier Holmes, and then Kayleigh Olson, and finally Jody Oakes. Would all members please welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Requesting leave for extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery, we have a delegation with the Wascana Solar Co-op that's here today. This is an inspiring organization that's really been greening the grid in Regina in an incredible way, in a very affordable way, Mr. Speaker. And of course they're very disappointed with the choice of the government with respect to killing the solar industry. They've actually organized a petition with more than 30,000 signatures on it in just this very short period of time.

But I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming the Wascana Solar Co-op to their Assembly, and I'll specifically welcome Khurram Iftikhar; Josh Campbell, also an amazing teacher; and Shannon Zachidniak. I ask all members to welcome them.

And while I'm on my feet, I just want to give a very special shout-out to my good friend and an incredible young leader, Kayleigh Olson, that's here today. She's a remarkable person who leads the way in so many good ways from protecting sacred Indigenous grounds to working with those with needs in the community on so many fronts, Mr. Speaker. So I want to welcome her, and I also want to welcome Karen Trithart, one of the very finest teachers within this province, who's seated in the west gallery.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome Jodi and Jesse Robson to their Legislative Assembly. Jesse's a local wrestling legend, and Jodi was recently a contestant on *The Great Canadian Baking Show*. And I just found out that Jodi is also a direct descendant of Céga Kína, who's also known as Carry The Kettle, whose portrait hangs downstairs in the Assiniboine Gallery. So I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming the Robsons to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the other members and welcome the contingent from Moose Jaw. It's always nice to have Moose Jaw people here. And Kayleigh Olson, I know you have done a lot of work with the new park that was designated in Wakamow, and thank you for the work. Percy, we've worked together a little bit on a couple of committees. Always nice to see you here.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, if I could, I'd like to welcome the prayer group that's here every Thursday morning to pray for both sides and thank them for their prayers and ask them to save a little bit of their prayer reflection to help the Riders on this weekend. We know the good Lord was an avid baseball fan because it says "in the big inning." It doesn't say too much about football, but we know he's a Rider fan at heart. So I'd ask everybody to welcome them to their 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 northern Saskatchewan residents. Many residents in northern Saskatchewan are asking, many leaders are signing letters of support, are making their voice heard loud and clear to the government, that this government will work together. Many residents, mothers who have lost their loved ones, are also getting hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of signatures for a petition. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping at the end of the day and many days to come, we can work together as a government and truly pass something that is so needed.

So with that, that *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act* was introduced in 2018 but has not been passed because it has not received support from the Sask Party government; that suicide continues to affect families throughout Saskatchewan; that the rate of suicide among First Nations girls is 29 times than other girls.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to address suicide in Saskatchewan.

It is signed and supported by many, many people of the North and the province. I so present.

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose an unfair and ineffective carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this tax is being forced on us by a federal government that hasn't a clue about the economic impact it has on western Canada; in fact, all of Canada. It does nothing to reduce emissions, unlike our Prairie Resilience plan. It's just another tax. They forget about 100,000-plus job losses in Alberta and Saskatchewan due to their war on oil. They forget about the unfair equalization formula of which Quebec is the main benefactor.

The minority Liberal government is being backed by the federal NDP [New Democratic Party] with the blessing of this opposition here in Saskatchewan. And they are bound and determined to destroy our economy. Unfortunately the leader of the NDP in Saskatchewan is in favour of a carbon tax. He backs the leader of the federal NDP, Jagmeet Singh, and in doing so, Justin Trudeau, both of whom are totally against oil and pipelines. Mr. Speaker, this just shows how desperately out of touch the NDP are with Saskatchewan people.

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 the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Carrot River. I do so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, and communities all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party's choice to impose the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour and to hike it and expand it to the tune of a billion-dollar tax hike on Saskatchewan people. Of course this has hit households hard, directly affecting affordability.

We know that the average household is now paying more than \$800 per year more than they were just four years ago, by way of the PST hike. And we know that the hike and expansion onto construction labour is the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr.

Speaker.

Sadly the results speak for themselves. Projects have been shelved in communities all across Saskatchewan. Permits are down all across the province. Sadly thousands of hard-working tradespeople have lost their jobs, their livelihoods turned upside down, Mr. Speaker. Many of those tradespeople forced to move from Saskatchewan in pursuit of employment, a loss for them, Mr. Speaker, certainly a loss for us as a province.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to fix the crisis that they've created in our classrooms.

Those who have signed the petition wish to draw our attention to the following: that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students who need help right across this province; that the Sask Party government's cuts leave educators without the resources that they need to support student learning, Mr. Speaker, and there's more evidence of that every day; and also that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in our classrooms is having serious consequences today and will continue to into the future.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by properly funding the most important investment that we can make in our children.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in Saskatoon. 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 to reinstate and expand SaskPower's net metering program.

The people who have signed this petition — and some of them are here today in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker — would like to bring to your attention the following: first of all, an unprecedented number of residents want to take part in renewable energy opportunities; secondly, the SaskPower net metering program was very successful, so successful that SaskPower shut it down early in September 2019 rather than expanding it, and as a result of the abrupt shutdown of the

program up to 800 jobs could be lost and federal rebate dollars are going to be left on the table again.

The Sask Party government's failure to plan for this transition is short-sighted and detrimental to our economy and our future, and we know that the Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program that we've proposed would expand net metering to reduce emissions and save people, businesses, and municipalities money on power bills.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Sask Party government to act to address climate change by restoring the SaskPower net metering program and introducing the Renew Saskatchewan energy transition program.

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition again in support of obstetrical services at Flin Flon General Hospital. The We Want Birth committee that is in the neighbourhood there is organizing a march on November 16th, this Saturday, at 2 p.m. They're meeting up at Pioneer Square on Main Street in Flin Flon.

These citizens wish to bring to our attention that a year ago the Manitoba Conservative government has cut obstetrical services at the Flin Flon General Hospital, forcing families in northeast Saskatchewan who utilize services in Flin Flon to plan their delivery elsewhere; that families in northeastern Saskatchewan want to be able to give birth close to where they live in a safe environment surrounded by their loved ones; that it will be difficult for expectant mothers to travel further away from home without being accompanied by a family member, and this causes expectant mothers increased stress and fear about where they are going to deliver their baby; that currently there is no planned timeline to reinstate services for the Flin Flon General Hospital or to actively recruit the appropriate personnel to deliver babies; and that there's no guarantee that mothers and their escorts will be fully reimbursed for the extra travel expenses in Saskatchewan.

[10:15]

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to work with their provincial counterparts and restore birth services in Flin Flon so that families in northeast Saskatchewan can deliver babies close to home.

This petition is signed by individuals in La Ronge and Air Ronge, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Dealership Donates \$1 Million to STARS

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on October 30th it was my pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of the Premier and our government at a very special occasion. And it was a special occasion for two reasons. First, it was the grand reopening of the Redhead farm equipment dealership in North Battleford. Mr. Speaker, there are several Redhead dealerships right across this province, and we now have one serving our farmers and ranchers in the Northwest.

The second reason, and perhaps the most exciting, was the announcement that Redhead was donating \$1 million to STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service]. This is the second time that Redhead has made a donation of this size to STARS.

Mr. Speaker, there were close to 400 people in attendance who were treated to a great barbecue lunch. Guests were also able to see one of our STARS helicopters first-hand as they landed with a full crew right on the Redhead parking lot. Mr. Speaker, the STARS staff and officials that were on hand, including my good friend Rod Gantefoer, were extremely appreciative of Redhead's continued support, as are we, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, STARS has flown close to 5,000 missions, but they could not continue their valuable work without the generous support of people like Gary Redhead. I would ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in thanking Gary Redhead personally and Redhead Equipment for their generosity and for being such a great corporate citizen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Great Canadian Baking Show Finalist

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to commend the work of one of Canada's best amateur bakers, Jodi Robson. Jodi was 1 of 11 exceptionally talented bakers featured on *The Great Canadian Baking Show*. She lives in the constituency of Regina Northeast and was raised on Okanese First Nation. She loves to bake for her two daughters, Victoria and Tallica, and her husband, Jesse.

Her love of baking comes directly from her kohkom, who was a journeyman chef and cooked at the Lebret Residential School. As a child, Jodi was fascinated with the sights, smells, and tastes that her kohkom created, and it didn't take long for her to become a keen young apprentice to her beloved mentor from whom she learned many things.

I had the privilege to watch the final three episodes with Jodi's family and friends, and I can tell you that the tension in the room each night to see how the judges placed each contestant was high. I was impressed by how cool Jodi was under pressure in a high-stakes environment. Watching Jodi perform, it became apparent that she is an incredible baker who excels not only in her technical skill, but she is also an artist who takes great pride in creating show-stopping masterpieces.

Jodi was one of three finalists on *The Great Canadian Baking Show* and she did Regina, her community of Okanese, and all of Saskatchewan proud. Please join me in congratulating Jodi Robson on her achievement as one of Canada's best amateur bakers.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

First Nation Opens Wellness Centre

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Thunderchild First Nation on its newest capital project, a state-of-the-art wellness centre. The new wellness centre includes offices for a dentist, doctor, a pharmacy, social and child care facilities. On top of that, it will hold a full-size ice rink and field house. Most importantly, it will have space to host community events and gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, last month a celebration was held to open the wellness centre's doors to its community. Myself and the member from Meadow Lake were fortunate enough to attend, along with honoured chiefs, elders, and community partners who spoke to this amazing facility and how impactful it will be to those living at the Thunderchild First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this centre was a collaborative effort and the services it will provide for the community will truly be life changing. Our government was happy to invest 4.5 million to the project, and I am grateful our commitment to the health and well-being for this entire community will not waver. This investment will not only improve the quality of life of those who use the facility, but the community will also prosper from the centre's cultural and economic benefits.

I now ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Thunderchild First Nation on the opening of their new wellness centre. Thank you.

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

Homeward Bound Program

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government's lack of consultation and short-sightedness is causing a successful program in Prince Albert to worry about its very existence. The Prince Albert YWCA's [Young Women's Christian Association] Homeward Bound program is designed to rapidly move homeless people from the street or emergency shelters into permanent housing and to follow up with supports.

One of the ways that Homeward Bound continues to operate is to collect rent from its clients once they begin to receive provincial assistance. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Landlords Association and non-profit organizations have already made their concerns known to the government regarding direct payment of rent to vulnerable clients. And now a successful program in my community is raising the alarm. Sadly it appears to be falling on deaf ears once again.

Another area of concern to the Homeward Bound program is that the SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program requires people

to apply for assistance online and then to have a bank account for cheques to be direct deposited. This is difficult for homeless people, Mr. Speaker, many of whom suffer from addiction and mental health issues.

The YWCA has asked the Minister of Social Services to have their clients exempt from these requirements under the new Saskatchewan income support program, allowing them to continue to receive direct payments for rent for their clients. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Social Services to please consider the request to ensure the continued success of Homeward Bound. Thank you.

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

Annual Launch of Project Red Ribbon

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] Regina launches its annual Project Red Ribbon campaign at SLGA's [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] Quance Street liquor store, with help from the Minister Responsible for SLGA and the Minister Responsible for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

Project Red Ribbon raises awareness about the risks of impaired driving during the holiday season and encourages motorists to always drive sober and plan ahead. The campaign encourages the public to tie a red ribbon to their vehicles, key chains, purses, briefcases, or backpacks to demonstrate their commitment to sober driving. The red ribbons also serve to remind everyone of the families whose lives have been tragically impacted by impaired driving. The ribbons will be available at all SLGA retail stores as well as other liquor retailers, bars, restaurants, and businesses across the province.

The risk for impaired driving is very high at this time of year as people celebrate the season with friends, families, and co-workers. Reminding people about sober driving is a message worth repeating, especially as the holiday season approaches. It doesn't matter if you're consuming alcohol or cannabis, there is never an excuse for driving impaired. When you're driving or doing your holiday shopping, take a moment to make a donation at a MADD red ribbon box so you can display your own ribbon proudly and let everyone know you support sober driving. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Melfort Student Named to Saskatchewan Youth Council

Hon. Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In May, to help them better engage the students of our province, the Ministry of Education announced the creation of the Saskatchewan Youth Council. The Youth Council will provide advice and leadership to the Ministry of Education on how to effectively engage our youth on a variety of topics. Mr. Speaker, each school division was asked to nominate high school students who they believed would make a significant contribution by serving on the council.

Last month the Ministry of Education announced the 12 members of the Saskatchewan Youth Council, and I'm proud to highlight one of those members who is from my hometown. Mr. Speaker,

Louise Lacroix is a grade 12 student from Melfort & Unit Comprehensive Collegiate, and she's incredibly excited to bring her perspective to the Government of Saskatchewan. Back home, Louise is heavily involved, as are her parents in many things, in Students Against Drinking and Driving and the Melfort Girl Guides. Mr. Speaker, Louise is passionate about issues facing youth today and will be a great student representative for our province.

Mr. Speaker, just like me she enjoys the lifestyle of small-city Saskatchewan, and I'm so glad that Melfort is being represented by a young, bright, passionate girl like Louise. Mr. Speaker, I invite all the members of this Assembly in joining me to thank Louise and others for their commitment to making sure that our great province is the best that it can be. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Better Together Food Drive in Moose Jaw

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Halloween I got to feel like a little kid again and go door to door gathering food. I wasn't trick-or-treating though. I was collecting donations for the Moose Jaw Food Bank. Mr. Speaker, each year the Hillcrest Apostolic Church organizes the Better Together Food Drive, and 2019 marks their 14th year. Paper bags are pre-distributed to every Moose Jaw home, and just as the ghosts and zombies rise from the graves, so do over 40 teams who canvass the city for donations.

Mr. Speaker, the non-perishable food was then taken to the exhibition grounds Convention Centre where over 400 volunteers sorted and packaged the donations. It was incredible to the people from all walks of life working together to support those in need. Mr. Speaker, everyone from children to seniors, business owners to employees, construction workers to lawyers, and the member from Moose Jaw North, participated in the event. When all was said and done, over 50,000 pounds of food was collected for the Moose Jaw Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members join me in thanking the Hillcrest Apostolic Church and the many volunteers in the city of Moose Jaw for their generosity and hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Public Education

Ms. Beck: — For weeks we've been touring around this province listening to teachers and parents who are more than disappointed with this government's response to the crisis in our classrooms. Teachers are feeling burnt-out. They lack resources that they need to meet student needs, and they feel disillusioned and disrespected by this government's lack of support for public education. And yesterday's salty press release on teacher bargaining certainly did nothing to help build this respect, Mr. Speaker. That's obvious today.

When will this government stop disrespecting the people who

work in our classrooms and start making public education in Saskatchewan the priority that we all need it to be?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll remind the member opposite that it was the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] that had decided initially when we started our negotiations, Mr. Speaker, to do all that in public. And we think it's fair, as a government, to make sure that the public understands where we are when it comes to teacher negotiations with respect to the contract, Mr. Speaker.

Now I've stood on my feet a number of times, Mr. Speaker, to talk about this government's commitment to public education — \$2.48 billion, the largest investment in public education in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker. And we'll continue to support our teachers in our classroom and our children in our classroom, Mr. Speaker, as we go through a process to determine what the best way is to deal with the compensation issue in our classroom, Mr. Speaker. We, you know, make no apologies about the fact that I've stood on my feet on a number of occasions and said, we have an issue in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, and it's all around compensation.

So we have a committee, Mr. Speaker, that's going to be engaging in ensuring that we develop a path forward to solve the very real problems that teachers have identified to me, Mr. Speaker, over my time as the Minister of Education. We'll continue to support teachers in the classroom. We'll continue to support the kids in those classrooms.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held meetings and a town hall to hear from people in Saskatoon and area about the crisis in our classrooms. One administrator shared that they have dozens of students in their school facing mental health challenges, but only those at imminent risk of harming themselves or others are able to receive support due to the lack of resources.

Another teacher told me that she teaches four classes with between 37 and 41 students in each class. She's overwhelmed and she's thinking about quitting, but she doesn't know what would happen to her students, Mr. Speaker, if she quit. She was in tears, as many teachers we've talked to have been.

What does the minister have to say to that teacher and teachers like her all around this province that this government is leaving behind?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we spent a great deal of time trying to understand what the challenges are in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. And that's precisely why, Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I announced the creation of a committee to develop a path forward so that we could solve some of those challenges, Mr. Speaker. We're quite clear, Mr. Speaker, that there's a challenge around composition in classrooms, Mr. Speaker. That's certainly clearly evident from the conversations that we've been having, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

But, Mr. Speaker, short of what the opposition has been suggesting, Mr. Speaker, we actually plan on developing a plan so we can address those issues, Mr. Speaker. I've not heard one thing from that member, Mr. Speaker, or anyone on that side of the House as to what their plan would be, Mr. Speaker. It's not simply a matter of throwing a bunch of money at it, Mr. Speaker. Even the Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged that money's not the only issue, Mr. Speaker. So we need to develop a plan so that we can properly resource that plan to deal with these very real challenges, Mr. Speaker. And that's precisely what this government's going to do.

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

Ms. Beck: — Seriously, Mr. Speaker. At this point, the plan is to develop a plan. The people in Saskatchewan deserve so much better than that. What we've heard at these town halls and from anyone who has a clue about the crisis in our classrooms is that more resources are needed today. From the report, the Re-Imagine Education report:

Human resources must be provided to support inclusion and create classrooms where every child can learn. This means providing educational assistants, Elders, speech-language pathologists . . . psychologists, counsellors, librarians . . . to support classroom learning.

Even their own plan for growth, Mr. Speaker, admits that teacher growth hasn't kept pace with student growth, and the numbers for support staff are far worse. When will that minister finally ensure that our students have the supports that they need to reach their full potential?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the member yesterday accused me of, or the day before accused me of selectively quoting, Mr. Speaker. She's done the same thing today. But I want to read from the report again into the record, Mr. Speaker, where the STF has said, Mr. Speaker “. . . the system is not broken.” Mr. Speaker, they go on to say that “. . . people want to continue to talk about the future of education,” Mr. Speaker. We think that it's time to end the conversations and it's time to develop a plan to address the very real issues that are in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

Classrooms are very much different today, Mr. Speaker, than they were years ago. And we understand the challenges, the intensive needs that some children are facing, Mr. Speaker, and it's important that we develop a plan. Every classroom is different, Mr. Speaker. Every child that has intensive needs, those needs are different, Mr. Speaker. It is not one suit fits everyone, Mr. Speaker, here. And so developing a plan that we can resource, Mr. Speaker, to deal with these very real challenges is the goal of this ministry, Mr. Speaker. It's the goal of this government.

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

Solar Power Net Metering Program

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we're joined by folks from

the Wascana Solar Co-op here today, people who are leading the way, greening our grid, and creating good jobs with affordable and complementary power. And they're rightfully upset that this government decided to kill the solar industry that employs so many in the province, an industry with so much potential and promise. They're here looking for answers from this government.

They've been a part of organizing a petition that now has more than 30,000 signatures on it. What does the minister have to say to the people in the solar industry whose livelihoods have been turned upside down by his government's short-sighted and damaging choice?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my friend for the question, and I want to welcome members of the solar co-operative to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

I think the members will know that SaskPower went through a process, after we hit the 16-megawatt cap on the previous program, to re-evaluate the program and ensure that it was sustainable for the long term, not only for people that wanted to generate their own electricity, but also for people that don't have the opportunity to generate their own electricity, and ensuring that we don't do so in a way . . . continue with the program in a way that passes the costs from people that can afford solar panels that, that cannot afford it, Mr. Speaker.

This is something that many jurisdictions have gone through, Mr. Speaker, in terms of ensuring that there is a program in place while not shifting those costs, Mr. Speaker. I can say that other provinces have done this, and in fact I would refer the member to CanSIA. This is the solar industry's newsletter. On page 7 . . . This report just came out. The newsletter just came out and it says, and I quote:

In British Columbia, BC Hydro continues to consult on proposed changes to its net metering program that would place limits on the capacity of solar installations and reduce the amount it pays to customers for surplus power.

Mr. Speaker, they're doing so for the same reasons that we have and others have. They want to ensure that they have a sustainable program while not shifting costs to people that don't have solar panels.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's assertion is just off the mark, and I think he would understand this if he would have had even a stitch of consultation or sat down with this industry before devastating it. We have the best solar resource in Canada and now we have the worst program, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that spent \$2 billion to prop up their costly carbon capture project for a measly 100 megawatts, but is now shutting down our once-growing solar industry and killing jobs, hurting our economy.

The distributed solar association has done their homework. Since this government shut down the net metering, the number of quote requests have decreased 95 per cent. The number of active

projects are down 99 per cent. Many jobs have been lost to date. Many more jobs will be lost if we don't see this government reverse course as we see businesses shuttered or forced to move outside of Saskatchewan.

What does this minister have to say to those who have lost their jobs, their local businesses, because of his government's choices? Why won't he do the right thing, meet with this industry, and fix the program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, I have met with the industry and I and SaskPower will continue to meet with the industry.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite would know that British Columbia, BC Hydro, as I just stated, is undergoing the same review with the intent of reducing the amount that they pay for surplus power. And that is an NDP government propped up by the Green Party, Mr. Speaker. And yet they see the financials of the program just the same as the city of Saskatoon that is going through a very similar process. City administration has made a recommendation that they follow our program, Mr. Speaker. Why? Because one of the advantages — and this is a city of Saskatoon document — advantage no. 2 of changing their program is, "This option will ensure that net metering customers will be contributing closer to the amount that other customers pay for maintenance of the electricity grid."

Mr. Speaker, this is not about the resource. We have a great resource in this province. Solar power is wonderful. I mean, not on a day like today where there's not a lot of sunshine, but solar power is great, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're integrating it on a large scale, utility scale, and why we still have a net metering program for people that want to generate their own electricity.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — As these folks will tell him if he'd meet with them, we don't have a net metering program. We have a net-billing program, and it's failing Saskatchewan people.

This is just one more example of this government's damaging approach to our economy. The Sask Party saw a slowing economy and they slammed on the brakes. Of course this was the case with the PST that they slammed onto construction labour and killed thousands of jobs. Now we see it again with the net metering program. They're killing our once-growing solar industry before it even had the opportunity to reach its full potential. In fact we only scratched the surface of that potential. A 99 per cent reduction in projects is devastating and a direct consequence of choice of this government.

Why won't the Sask Party realize that they simply have made a mistake and bring in a plan that creates good, renewable jobs and helps people make that transition to renewable power before we lose the jobs, the companies, and all the technical capacity that's been built up in this important industry?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, this is nothing to do with the

resource. We have a great resource, Mr. Speaker. I would say, you know who else has a good solar resource? Arizona, Mr. Speaker. In fact I just looked on the weather app on my phone, Mr. Speaker. It is sunny and 29 for the rest of the week, Mr. Speaker.

It's not a question of the resource, Mr. Speaker, but yet Arizona's utility commissions and all of the Arizona utilities have undergone the exact same process over the last two years with respect to their net metering program. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because the way that billing structures are currently structured across all of North America with utilities, not enough of the generation, transmission, and distribution charges are accounted for on a bill. So we want to ensure that we're not essentially passing on the cost to ensure that those systems are kept in place to people that do not have their own solar panels.

And the member doesn't have to take it from me. On CBC radio just a week and a half ago, Dick Schmalensee, who is MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] professor emeritus said, "So the more people that signed up for the net metering program, the more the cost rose for everyone else." Those costs have to be covered by somebody, Mr. Speaker. We want to ensure we have net metering, but not burdening everybody else.

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

Sale of Land in Moose Jaw

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this week the Ministry of Social Services put the 200-acre Valley View Centre property in Moose Jaw up for sale with proposals due in less than a month. This land, which skirts the Wakamow river valley, holds great historical, archaeological, and ecological significance, with the heritage branch confirming it is a heritage-sensitive site. Yet no heritage review has been or will be conducted ahead of the sale.

As a result of this rushed sale of historically, ecologically, and archaeologically significant land, Moose Jaw residents are raising concerns about the lack of proper consideration, consultation, and deliberation. Will the minister commit today to pumping the brakes on this process to ensure that community voices and First Nations can be consulted properly?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to say that Social Services is very proud of what we have done at Valley View over the last seven years, Mr. Speaker. Since 2012 we've been able to transition 150 people out of Valley View, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well if the members opposite would like to listen, I would like to get to the answer for the question. Let me know when you're ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member from Rosemont seems to be doing a lot of chirping over there.

Mr. Speaker, again we're very proud of what we've done at Valley View. And the next stages of Valley View will be handled by the Minister of Central Services, not Social Services, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be consulting with him on a go-forward basis. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we have Moose Javians in the gallery, and for that minister to not be able to provide them any reasoning for the rush sale is not acceptable. Mr. Speaker, these people feel that the sale is being rushed unnecessarily and are concerned that proper land planning and consultation have not taken place.

Now the minister should listen to their concerns and push pause on this rush sale of public assets. The question is, what is the rush? Maybe have they already got a purchaser in a hurry lined up, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I can guarantee that the Ministry of Central Services is not rushing this and the proper consultation will be done. I'm glad to see that there are some people from Moose Jaw in the gallery that are very concerned about this. Mr. Speaker, this is a beautiful property that the Government of Saskatchewan has held on for years. We will make sure that its due diligence is done in the next transition of the Valley View property. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this sale is happening in a hurry. The tender is closing in early December, and it behooves the minister to let these people know what the rush is to get this completed.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Well again, Mr. Speaker, it's not any news that Valley View has been closing, Mr. Speaker. We announced this in 2012, Mr. Speaker, that we would be transitioning the rest of the people out of Valley View, Mr. Speaker. There were over 200 people at that time, Mr. Speaker. We've transitioned 150 people successfully all across this province. We've had some very successful transitions to that, Mr. Speaker, and we're very proud of what we've done at Valley View. As far as a go-forward basis, Mr. Speaker, I can leave this in the Minister of Central Services' hands and I'm sure he will do his due diligence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Global Transportation Hub Land Development

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it's quite fitting that on the same week the Premier is releasing a rehash of Brad Wall's vision 2020, we learn that GTEC [Global Trade and Exhibition Centre], Brad Wall's key justification for the massive overspend at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], is collapsing. And now Saskatchewan people are left with a \$150-million wasteland with no clear path forward.

Asked in September, the minister told the media he doesn't know who Colliers is trying to market to. He doesn't know whether it will be sold in chunks or separately, didn't have any idea how much the government is looking to get from the sale. Now that would be the definition of passing the buck, Mr. Speaker, except that doesn't quite work because these are Saskatchewan people's

bucks. To the minister: how much land has Colliers liquidated and how much are we paying them to do so?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, as the member may know, Colliers is going to be taking over the marketing and sales and property management of the land development effective December 1st, 2019, Mr. Speaker. They'll be paid a flat commission depending on the size of the parcel sold, Mr. Speaker. The remaining responsibilities and the oversight management of Colliers and the regulatory functions — bylaws, zoning, permitted functions — will be performed by the GTH Authority and the board, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the government has all the confidence that we have, Mr. Speaker, in Colliers to do the work that we've engaged them to do, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be looking forward to the results of that work.

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

[10:45]

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the minister would have us believe that privatizing the GTH will solve all its problems. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's quite the opposite. We're still out many millions of dollars, there's zero transparency around the liquidation process, and the minister responsible doesn't even seem to be keeping track or care to.

These are Saskatchewan people's dollars, and we shouldn't be the ones on the hook for this government's jaw-dropping mismanagement of their pet project. Mr. Speaker, a dog owner in a dog park would be better at cleaning their own pet's mess. Again to the minister: how much land has Colliers sold, and how much are the people of Saskatchewan paying them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I've said, Colliers is going to be paid a flat commission depending on the size of the land, Mr. Speaker. That's typical in any real estate transaction when you have agents acting for you to sell land, Mr. Speaker. We feel this is the best way, Mr. Speaker, in terms of moving forward with development of the GTH, Mr. Speaker, which has been a . . .

Mr. Speaker, moving forward in terms of the sales of the GTH, Colliers is an international corporation, Mr. Speaker, well versed in terms of real estate sales and real estate management, Mr. Speaker. And the government has great confidence in Colliers to do the work that we've asked them to do.

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

Long-Term Care Facility

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's been 15 months since the long-term care facility in Grenfell was shut down. This facility kept local residents close to their families and was a key driver of employment in the community.

In committee we learned there was only a single respondent to this government's first RFP [request for proposal] and it needed to be reposted. What was the response to the second RFP? When can the community of Grenfell expect to have their long-term care beds back?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Grenfell Pioneer Home closed in September 2018 and all 20 residents were relocated without issue.

Mr. Speaker, the long-term care facility in Grenfell is a very valuable part to the community of Grenfell, as well as to the surrounding area. We want to make sure that the replacement is done right and done within good accordance to what the community needs are, Mr. Speaker. So the process is currently undergoing. We're going through all the proposals that we have in front of us and we'll release results here shortly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this government could have and should have planned for this. In 2013 the ministry's own assessment said it needed 1.2 million in repairs and they were closing wards as early as 2016. It was the minister who promised this government would "return those beds back to Grenfell as soon as possible." And they're needed, Mr. Speaker. Since 2011 the Regina area has lost 194 beds.

Again to the minister: what's the plan to restore those long-term beds to the community of Grenfell? When will they have their long-term care back?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, the long-term care facility in Grenfell is a very important part to the community. We want to make sure that we get the process right. We want to make sure that all options are considered for the community of Grenfell to make sure that their needs are looked after in the most prudent way. So just going through the process now, just getting all the bids and everything looked at and looking at them in the most prudent way to make sure that we do the right thing for the community of Grenfell.

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

Food Bank Usage

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Day after day we raise concerns about the impacts of the Sask Party government's damaging choices, choices that are hurting people and hurting our economy. Food Banks Canada just released their 2019 HungerCount report. The findings are disturbing. We have the second-highest proportion of children relying on food banks in the entire country — so many kids that are going hungry.

What does the Sask Party have to say to the growing number of families who have to go to the food bank just to feed their kids?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have read the HungerCount report and it does have some concerning information, Mr. Speaker. But we do have some good news out of the report. Mr. Speaker, the HungerCount numbers have dropped by 3.6 per cent in Saskatchewan. This is an encouraging trend, Mr. Speaker. We want to continue on to this trend.

I had the opportunity of working with the Saskatoon Food Bank and with the Saskatchewan food bank networks for over four and a half years. I very much understand this concern, and I look forward to working with the food banks on an ongoing basis.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that report says that 42 per cent of the food bank users are children, 45 per cent are single, and more than 1 in 10 have a job, Mr. Speaker.

But it's no wonder that people are struggling to make ends meet with the Sask Party's choices: the lowest minimum wage in Canada; scrapping the rental housing supplement; raising the PST and adding it to everything from used cars to children's clothing, costing families hundreds more; costing many their jobs with the choices they've made with respect to things like construction labour and the PST.

When will this government face the music, admit that their short-sighted policies are hurting people, and step up with some action?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I have in the past and I will again repeat the numbers of how Saskatchewan citizens are paying less in taxes than they were under the previous government. Even with the PST expansion, they are paying considerably less than they were when there was an NDP government. We have taken 112,000 people off of the tax roll entirely.

And what is the answer from the members opposite? Quite frankly, they have asked, day after day, to increase spending. They want increased spending for education. They want increased spending for health care. They want increased spending for advanced education. Mr. Speaker, they want increased spending in every area, but they do not have one answer to the citizens of this province of how they're going to pay for it.

Well let me help them out. They're going to pay for it by taxing those citizens into poverty because that's what they did in the past. That's what the NDP do, and that's what they'll do again if they ever have a chance to govern.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Support for Pipelines

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my honour today to speak to a subject that's very . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to speak to a subject that's very near and dear to my heart and to most of the people of Saskatchewan who understand that the economy is important and that policies matter in this province.

I'd like to speak a little bit about the constituency that I represent, Moosomin, because in Moosomin constituency we have a really diverse set of economic drivers. We have oil. We have gas. We have potash, agriculture, manufacturing. But all of that is export-dependent and most of that right now relies on rail. And it's very important that we increase our pipeline capacity because right now we're having real trouble to get our products to market.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about one farmer I know in my constituency. His name is Lorne, and he lives south of Wolseley between Wolseley and Glenavon. And when I was doing research for this speech I asked him about what's the effect of pipelines on his farm. In 1956 he remembers when the first TransCanada pipeline came through our constituency, and it was . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — You certainly can go behind the rail if you'd like to continue this awesome discussion. I recognize the member.

Mr. Bonk: — He remembers in 1956, when the first TransCanada pipeline came through. He remembers the excitement of new economic opportunity and the great relationship that they had with the pipeline companies and the work that they were doing to make sure that the farmers were well compensated, that environmental concerns were looked after, that everything was done properly.

We have very strong regulations in this country, and they were all followed. There hasn't been an incident on that land since 1956, and there's eight pipelines: the main TransCanada pipeline, Spectra Energy, Duke Energy, and Plains Midstream that go through that land.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, in my immediate area, I have land in the RM [rural municipality] of Chester. In the RM of Chester, where the main TransCanada lines go through, also the Enbridge line goes through just south of No. 48 Highway. In my constituency there's three main pumping stations, which provide huge tax revenue to our area. Those pumping stations and those main pipelines provide tax revenue that pays for things like the roads, the bridges, the culverts. You should see the quality of the RM that we have because of the revenues that . . . [inaudible].

There's also a huge safety issue when it comes to pipelines, Mr. Speaker. It's two and a half times more likely that there will be an incident with oil shipped by rail than shipped by pipeline. You can see what happens when we have problems on the rail. We had a spill just south of Rocanville here last fall on the rail, but yet we haven't had one in my constituency with pipelines for a long, long time, Mr. Speaker.

I grew up right next to a pipeline. The pipeline ran about 400 metres behind our house, when growing up. I actually remember one time when I was a little kid — I was about eight or nine years old — they were putting in a new line. They had dug an 8-foot-deep by 6-foot-wide trench across our land to put this pipeline in, and they had all the pipe assembled and welded together for 1 mile. And they would stop at the roads and every 1 mile they would have a new set of pipe.

And one time my cousin and I, we decided we were going to walk that mile inside the pipe. It was a 36-inch-diameter pipe. Turned out to be not that great of an idea as the air doesn't move inside that pipe very well, and we'd make it a little ways and feel pretty faint and take a little bit of rest and keep going. It's also pretty dark half a mile into a 36-inch pipeline, Mr. Speaker.

But we've had nothing on our land, nothing but good experience with the pipeline industry. It's been just a real boon to our farm. We have a couple valves there where we get royalties and fees for, and it's just the safest way to handle pipelines. We have things like smart PIGs [pipeline inspection gauge] which they run through the pipes quarterly, I believe. These smart PIGs are robotic devices that can detect any imperfections in the pipe. They can make it aware to the operators that there's a problem or a concern well before there's ever an actual issue in the pipe, Mr. Speaker.

We have a very strong approval process for pipelines in Canada, one of the strongest in the world, I'd have to say. I've had the good fortune of seeing quite a few different pipeline projects all over the world, and one that I can tell you about is the main pipeline that runs from the gas and oil fields in Turkmenistan. It goes through Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and into China.

I've seen how they build pipelines over there, and it's a very, very different set of environmental standards that they have compared to what we employ here in Canada. And I think that it's incumbent upon us to use the highest standard of produced oil that we can in this country. And right now I know that we are buying about \$480 million a year of oil produced that goes through those pipelines, compared to the pipelines that we have here that we can't even build across our own country.

And to me there's something fundamentally wrong with this picture. Pipelines are not a regional project. Pipelines are a national project. This is something that can help with the security of our nation. And we can see what's happening directly south of us, to our neighbours to the south where they're quite pro-pipeline. They've become, in the last few years, from an oil-importing nation to a self-sufficient, energy-sufficient nation. And this is something that's very important I think for us to consider, especially in a country like Canada where we have so many resources and some of the top-class resources in the world.

Like I'd mentioned earlier, the amount of oil that's being put on

our rail system right now is displacing other products, and we have a huge backlog. And when I've travelled all over the world to promote Saskatchewan products, one of the questions they ask me quite often is, okay, we like your products. We know that they're the best that we can buy, but can we actually get them? They're very aware of our transportation issues that we have here. And I think it's something that a lot of us in Saskatchewan don't really understand or are not really taking seriously enough.

[11:00]

I'll just read you some of the statistics because people don't understand what a powerhouse we are when it comes to energy and agriculture. Mr. Speaker, in 2018 Saskatchewan exported about 73 per cent of the world's canary seed, 43 per cent of the world's lentils, 32 per cent of the world's dry peas, 32 per cent of the world's oats, 26 per cent of the world's flaxseed, 30 per cent of the world's durum — this is the world's, not just Canada's — 24 per cent of the world's canola seed, 23 per cent of the world's mustard seed, 22 per cent of canola meal exports, 21 per cent of the world's canola oil exports.

Mr. Speaker, these are amazing numbers that not enough people are talking about, and we could increase, we could increase these exports exponentially if we had a way to get our products efficiently and safely to market. And right now we are struggling because there is politicians in Ottawa that are actually hampering us in our quest to move these products.

I think of, right now, the federal NDP leader consistently through this last federal election campaign would stand up and say, no pipelines, no approvals of pipelines. Then when I was doing some research for this speech today, I saw, well he said, I approve some pipelines but not others. Then the next time you'll hear him in the news, no more pipelines; we need to keep the products in the ground and we need to transition to a green economy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our economy right now was functioning very, very well before we put artificial barriers in place supported by the federal NDP. I think it's a little bit awkward for some of my colleagues across the way. I actually do feel a little bit sorry for them because I know some of them have told me personally that they support pipelines. I think that it's a little bit of an awkward position for them because I know that the Leader of the provincial NDP doesn't. And there's many quotes from him.

So the federal NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, has said, openly and very assuredly to everyone, that he does not support pipelines. He thinks we should not be building any more new pipelines. And the leader of the Saskatchewan NDP, he said, I am a federal New Democrat. I am a member of that party and will absolutely be supporting it. Well if he's absolutely supporting the federal leader, we have to infer from that that he supports his policies. And if he supports his policies, he is against pipelines. He is against resource extraction. He is against almost everything that we do in this province that are economic drivers and are part of our way of life in this province. And I have no time for that, Mr. Speaker. When someone says, keep it in the ground, when he himself is a big user of fossil fuels, I just think the hypocrisy is just too much for all of us.

Another thing that's a problem right now with the current system of lack of pipelines and lack of the ability to get our products to

market, Mr. Speaker, is the price differential. This means we basically have one customer, and that customer is to the south of us in the United States. They can take our oil at a discount because we have no other markets. Traditionally that discount is somewhere around 10 to 15 per cent, but in the last few years it's been getting up as high as 70 per cent.

The Fraser Institute says that that equates to about a \$20.6 billion hit to our economy. That's lost revenue. That's revenue that's not even realized, Mr. Speaker, and that would be new money coming into our country. That's not recycled money in our economy. That is fresh money coming in, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think another thing that we need to do when we think about pipelines, is we have to think, how can we get our country to be a self-supporting country when it comes to energy? And, Mr. Speaker, one of those projects was Energy East. Now Energy East was a project that would get Western Canadian oil to Eastern Canadian markets so that we could use our own oil instead of importing oil from other countries with far less rigorous environmental standards than we have.

Mr. Speaker, because of the federal government and NDP federally supported choice to restructure the National Energy Board halfway through this project, which was a \$15.7 billion project, they moved the goalposts causing them to account for upstream and downstream emissions. This is the only industry in the world that I know of that has to take . . . or industry in Canada that is subject to these kind of requirements, Mr. Speaker, effectively killing this project.

Now this meant a lot to Saskatchewan because Saskatchewan oil would have been travelling on the Energy East pipeline. But something else that's more important to me personally is that Moosomin, the town of Moosomin, would have been the on-ramp for the Energy East pipeline. That would be about 1,100 jobs they were saying would be directly put into the town of Moosomin because of that project. And, Mr. Speaker, just because of restrictions imposed by our federal government, with no sound science to back them, ideologically and politically driven decisions, they really do affect people on the ground in this province. Policy matters, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think another thing that we need to consider when we're talking about pipelines and the movement of energy in this province is there's no other form of energy than oil and gas that are as easy to move and as energy dense as oil and gas are. That is why we have never seen another form of energy that's been able to replace them in recent times and has allowed us to expand our economy so quickly like we have.

So until we can find another source of energy that can replace it, we have to be able to get our products to market. We have to be able to use these products in a way that's not being taxed unfairly by our federal government.

And we also have to have a support from our colleagues across the way in this province that they support our families that are working in the oil and gas industry, that they support the production of new pipelines, they support the workers at Evraz who build the pipe for these pipelines, and that we all work together to promote the energy industry, to promote the pipeline industry in this country, and to work together to make this

economy thrive — not only for my constituency, for this province, for the country. And hopefully by exporting some of the great technology that is world leading that we have here in the province, we can actually reduce greenhouse gases around the world, Mr. Speaker.

And to that end, I'd like to move this motion:

That this Assembly supports the construction of new pipelines including Trans Mountain, Energy East, and Northern Gateway and condemns federal leaders like Jagmeet Singh who oppose these projects and our energy sector.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Moosomin:

That this Assembly supports the construction of new pipelines including Trans Mountain, Energy East, and Northern Gateway and condemns federal leaders like Jagmeet Singh who oppose these projects and our energy sector.

Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to join in the 75-minute debate here today. And it's not often that we have a debate motion where there is more agreement than debating going on. And I would like to thank the government for highlighting some areas where we agree on because sometimes that's not the case here.

Mr. Speaker, we've been very vocal on the fact that there are some areas that we don't see eye to eye with the federal party, and we can admit that we have differences. And, Mr. Speaker, we will always stand by Saskatchewan people and do what is best for the residents of Saskatchewan, unlike the Sask Party government.

They have shown us that they will not stand up for Saskatchewan if that means crossing alliance with their own party. Mr. Speaker, it would have been nice to see the Sask Party government stand up against the Conservative Harper government when they had the chance and equalization payments were on the table. But no, they put party alliance ahead of the best interests of Saskatchewan people. So if anyone should be condemned, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's the Sask Party and the Conservative Party of Canada who promised to deliver on equalization reform, but failed once Stephen Harper became the prime minister.

And, Mr. Speaker, we do have some comments here from the member of Meadow Lake when he was an MP [Member of Parliament] and talking in 2005, and in *Hansard* here it says:

Mr. Speaker, last Friday a united front of Saskatchewan political leaders, including the premier and seven Saskatchewan Conservative MPs met to discuss the shabby treatment given to Saskatchewan by the Prime Minister and the Liberal government . . .

When will the Prime Minister stop dithering, show some respect for Saskatchewan, and commit to a fair equalization deal for the province?

That was February 21st of 2005 from the member of Meadow Lake.

But conveniently enough, they elect a Conservative government and all those words, they fall. They fall flat, you know. And so, Mr. Speaker, we know the Saskatchewan New Democrats will always be standing up for Saskatchewan people and we will take no lessons from this weak Sask Party government.

The Saskatchewan New Democrats have a long history of supporting the energy sector, dating well back to the 1950s when gas distribution was expanded across the province, which was done by the Tommy Douglas government, Mr. Speaker. And I think we could all agree that our gas distribution system is one that's safe and develops proper technology.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Members on this side of the House want to make sure that we make the best use of the resources that we have in Saskatchewan and that we use that to promote the development of jobs for residents, that we protect the environment, and that we develop the economy in a positive way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think maybe you might be wondering why the member from Prince Albert Northcote would want to enter into this debate and have a say with regards to this motion, and that is because the oil industry is not only important for the entire province, Mr. Speaker, but also for the residents of Prince Albert. Prince Albert used to have many options for industry-related employment, but through the years that has diminished with the loss of the pulp mill and many forestry jobs which this government hasn't supported, the uranium mines closing, the downturn in the construction industry, and even the loss of industries like the laundry services in the hospital, food services in the jails, custodial services, and I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker.

This has resulted in many people looking for work in other industries like the oil and gas sector. But many of these workers have had to go to other provinces for work because the industry is managing better there, Mr. Speaker. But we want to keep these workers in our province, and we know we have the opportunity for them to stay here. We want them to work here. In order to do that, Mr. Speaker, we need this government to work with other provincial leaders, and yes, Mr. Speaker, even work with our federal leader.

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be safe to say that the federal election results were not ideal and wasn't the results that the majority of the provincial voters would have liked to see, and potentially the majority of members in this Chamber would have liked to see. But we have to respect the democratic process and respect the leaders chosen. And that being said, Mr. Speaker, it is important for our Premier to work with the Prime Minister so that we can get opportunities for Saskatchewan residents.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that pipelines are the safest and most efficient way possible to get our energy products to tidewater. We also know that our rail lines are overloaded and that reducing

oil transported by rail will free up capacity to transport agricultural, potash, and mining products. And, Mr. Speaker, we know how important building and maintaining pipelines is for the important work that the steelworkers do at Evraz.

We also know the economic benefits are huge when it comes to supporting the oil and gas industry with having workers earning good wages and these families investing in their communities. The federal government, along with the Alberta NDP, have been working hard to advance the oil industry, and Prime Minister Trudeau and former Premier Notley had two pipelines approved in two years, Mr. Speaker.

[11:15]

The Sask Party's decade-long approach of insulting, demeaning, and attacking those who disagree with them has led to zero kilometres of pipeline being built to tidewater, even with conservative governments in Ontario, in Ottawa, Alberta, BC [British Columbia]. So how can we believe that anything will change, Mr. Speaker?

Now will the Premier of Saskatchewan, the new Conservative Premier of Alberta, and the Sask Party's federal Conservative leader, Andrew Scheer, support Prime Minister Trudeau to get these pipelines built? Or will they continue to politically grandstand and hold back these projects? The ball is very much in their hands, Mr. Speaker, because we know what won't work, and that is fighting with other provinces and the federal government. When we are a landlocked province, that won't help us get our oil to market.

Mr. Speaker, we can't forget that many families are struggling right now in our province. Bankruptcies in the province are higher than the national average, more families are utilizing the food banks, and families are considering leaving the province because there isn't work for them in Saskatchewan to support their families.

If this government is really wanting to get people back to work, they're in a position that they can make some changes here, Mr. Speaker. They can change a few things that would greatly impact the economy. They can cancel the job-killing PST on construction that has made so many people unemployed and leaving the province. They can reinstate the very incredibly successful net metering program that we've been talking about.

They can commit to a procurement practice that is more fair to Saskatchewan businesses so that they can have projects that are given to them and that Saskatchewan workers can be the ones building our hospitals, schools, and jobs and not big businesses outside of our country or outside of our province.

They could also reinstate the film tax credit so that we could improve that industry here and get that stimulated. We know it's going really quite successful in other provinces. They could vamp up the renewable energy sources and have Saskatchewan workers developing them and maintaining them. They're well in control of all of that, Mr. Speaker, and they could create that employment.

And in times of uncertainty it's leaders that stand up and provide hope and opportunity for people. Mr. Speaker, this Sask Party

government is showing no leadership. They are out of touch, out of ideas, and not working for the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a distraction from the real issue. The Sask Party doesn't want to acknowledge the crisis in our province that is created by them and instead fight with leaders in our country that can help us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter into this debate today and support the motion from my seatmate, the member from Moosomin, who by his own admission is a very intelligent man.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take just a little different direction, and that is I'd just like to give the history of pipelines. I was elected eight years ago and I remember that I was talking about pipelines then, and we're still talking about pipelines. And I would like to first of all make mention of the member from Athabasca who at the start of this session came in and said, you haven't built one inch of pipelines. Well you know what? I don't think governments are supposed to build pipelines. They're there to set and enforce policy and regulation. We don't buy or build pipelines. The private sector does that, and that's where it should stay.

Mr. Speaker, just a little bit of history here. In 2015 when the federal Liberals were elected, premier Trudeau right off the get-go says he's going to keep the oil in the ground in the oilsands. So we got off to a flying start there. And I'm sure that his main man, Gerry Butts, had a plan and that was part of it, just keep everything in the ground. The next thing that happened was . . . Actually the Kinder Morgan project was approved provincially and federally at that time. Then along come the cousins of these folks across the aisle here in BC and they shut it down. Premier Horgan said, no, no way. And then in 2016, Northern Gateway was cancelled by Mr. Trudeau. 2017, TransCanada terminates Energy East, led by the infamous Denis Coderre, former Liberal operative, I guess you could call him. And that ended that.

The Prime Minister had no intention of reliving it or getting it back going. He just left it and it was done. On May 29th, 2018, the feds purchased the Kinder Morgan pipeline, a pipeline that wasn't for sale. The board of Kinder Morgan woke up one morning and there was a cheque from Mr. Morneau for \$4.5 billion. Now I would have loved to have been the chairman of that board. Fighting for that many years trying to get the expansion done, going nowhere, then along comes the federal government and buys it, and still nothing has happened.

I think another thing that you have to remember when they bought the pipeline, that was for the existing pipeline. To put the second phase in is another 7.5 billion. No idea what they're going to do. They said that they were going to maybe take on partners or they were going to sell it or whatever. Still, nothing has happened. It still sits there.

June 6th, 2019 — this really helped too — Bill C-69, environmental assessment process, passed by the Senate by

independent Liberal senators. Bill C-48 also passed then, the tanker ban for the northwest corridor which shut out many, many First Nations projects that were going to take place. And I'll talk a little bit about that later.

Then comes along 2019, the federal election again. What happens? Right off the bat Encana says, we're out of here. Encana is now moving to the States. They will keep their assets in Canada, but we all know that those will be sold off in no time at all. And they've changed their name. I would also say that I have many family members and friends that work there and now are moving to the US [United States]. So that helps a lot. Husky Energy, as the member from Lloydminster will know, and we've seen about 300 jobs between Calgary and Lloydminster, all through the district, gone.

So things are going quite well here with the federal government. And it almost makes you wonder if there was a plan because the only pipeline to market, the government now owns. They've killed every other pipeline. So I think Gerry Butts's plan has worked. It's come in. Great plan, and for the most part supported by the members opposite, but now they've changed a little bit. Sometimes they're on, sometimes they're off.

The Leader of the Opposition now has a new pen pal with premier Trudeau. They write letters back and forth now and they do that with Premier Horgan and, you know, the Leader of the federal NDP, Mr. Singh. So they've got a little club going there. They write letters, real pen pal club, but nothing gets done. Absolutely nothing, nothing at all. It's absolutely ridiculous.

And I think that this, you know, by writing these letters back and forth, I mean, the tie to the federal Liberals, like the member from Athabasca would say, I'm going to say that's probably their cousins now. And I think they're clearly on a path. I think we're going to be looking at a name change here shortly for the NDP in Saskatchewan. I don't know what it'll be. I've got some ideas, but I think that that's probably going to happen.

So moving on, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just talk a little bit about . . . I would like to talk a little bit about First Nations and pipelines. I'll just wait till the member over there is finished and then I'll carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard here now for eight years the blame game going against First Nations. Those are the ones that have stalled pipelines and whatever. Well there's a small handful that have and for many good reasons. But most importantly there are hundreds of First Nations that are onside with pipelines and want to invest. And I think that that needs to be cleared up. Now I don't hear any support across the way from this NDP government to support First Nations to invest into pipelines. I haven't heard one thing out of them ever. And I just think that that's disgraceful . . . I think that the member from Cumberland, he thinks it's funny, but I don't.

So, Mr. Speaker, just a couple of things. I'm going to run out of time here, but I want to just read from Mike LeBourdais on the Trans Mountain pipeline and he's the Chief of the Whispering Pines/Clinton Band near Kamloops, BC. And he wants to buy the pipeline along with 34 other First Nations in his area. They're 100 per cent all in. And the main reasons why they want to:

When asked why he wants to buy the controversial pipeline, LeBourdais' answer is as pointed as it is simple: "The same reason everyone else wants to buy it — because it is profitable. They are always profitable. They produce revenue and profit daily."

Mr. Speaker, the other, I think, group that is very important, because it's a lot of First Nations within Saskatchewan belong to this group, and that is the Indian Resource Council headed up by Stephen Buffalo. And I'm just going to read a couple of quotes here from different articles on their position on this:

After a private "high level" meeting with the federal government was held in Calgary last month, the Indian Resource Council is optimistic it will be able to present a proposal to Ottawa to acquire the pipeline project in the coming months. The IRC represents 134 First Nations that have oil and gas resources on their land . . .

The proposed Trans Mountain expansion pipeline would ship oilsands crude from Edmonton to the Vancouver area for export. The federal government purchased the project for \$4.5 billion from Kinder Morgan Canada last summer, but it doesn't want to be a long-term owner.

The project is stalled after the Federal Court of Appeal ruled in late August there needed to be more consultation with First Nations. The National Energy Board was also instructed to explore the potential environmental impacts from increased marine shipping.

The IRC says that the majority of its members want to purchase the project and make the pipeline 100 per cent owned, operated and monitored by Indigenous people.

"We all want a safe and proper environment; the environment is so key," said Stephen Buffalo, chief executive of the IRC. "But we can continue to still do some economic development and have that balance. And that's . . . [why] we need to strive . . . — to find that balance."

Mr. Speaker, I'm running out of time already. There is one more group, the Eagle Spirit Pipeline association that is headed up by Calvin Helin, who actually wanted to do the Northern Gateway, but because of the tanker ban they had to shut 'er down. But they have the federal government in court.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I will be supporting the motion by the member from Moosomin, and I thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to say it's a joy to take part in this debate. You know, certainly, great mover. You know, the member from Moosomin made some great arguments off the top. And for a while there, we were thinking maybe we should just, like, have the vote and, you know, we've been persuaded. But then they get around to the actual wording of the motion, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know why, like, I don't know who's going to get condemned next over there in terms of what the hit list is. But I guess that awaits next Thursday, Mr. Speaker. But I'm glad that the Minister for Culture

could show to join the debate and have his voice heard from his chair, Mr. Speaker. But it's too bad. Well not good and not bad.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of this motion, it's sort of like a pipeline itself, Mr. Speaker, in that you know, it's got that quality that goes around and around and around. And it tends to do justice to the approach of this government when it comes to gettin' 'er done, Mr. Speaker, getting pipeline built to tidewater.

[11:30]

And you'd think if that was really important for this government that, you know, you'd see more progress on it. Where if 75-minute debates added up to progress on the file, Mr. Speaker, that, you know, they'd have pipelines built from one end of the country to the other, Mr. Speaker. But that's not the case. That's not the case.

And I think when we're looking at the issues — and again, you know, fine speech just come from Cut Knife-Turtleford there, I believe, Mr. Speaker — in terms of some of the different things you have to consider when you're building a pipeline. And you know, again the member from Moosomin started off with a pipeline built in 1956 which, you know, if you cast your mind back, Mr. Speaker, there was a Liberal government in Ottawa and there was a CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. You know, it can be done.

But one of the concerns that was touched on by the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford, Mr. Speaker, was the way that we need to involve Indigenous people in the economy, and in terms of the way that different of these projects may impact on different Indigenous rights, Mr. Speaker. And that's upheld in no end of court decisions, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, we have experience with that in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't that long ago where there were sit-ins and there were blockades and there were high-level, behind-the-scenes talks about making sure that they satisfied First Nations considerations when it came to pipelines. And these members know this, Mr. Speaker. There were different undertakings that were made out in public, and there's different reports on what undertakings were made behind the scenes. But, Mr. Speaker, if you don't have that partnership, then First Nations will not only fight you in the streets or through civil disobedience, Mr. Speaker, they will fight you in the courts. And they will win, Mr. Speaker, unless you have those rights satisfied, Mr. Speaker.

So in terms of, again, like if they want to talk about the different approaches of other jurisdictions and Alberta, one of the things I note with interest that the incoming UCP [United Conservative Party] government has on offer, Mr. Speaker, is a fund to enable better participation from Indigenous groups within energy projects. And you know, I look at that with a great deal of interest, Mr. Speaker. Or I look at the way that, from the member's own backyard, the way that Chief Delbert Wapass is involved in different of these operations, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder why he doesn't quote from Chief Wapass.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it's all part and parcel of just how complicated and how complex these projects can be, Mr.

Speaker. And I don't think we do the complexity the service it demands, Mr. Speaker, if we're just going to sort of, you know, blithely roll along and play the blame game. One thing I've admired, Mr. Speaker, about the conservative philosophy is this idea of self-responsibility, you know, taking responsibility for your own actions and your own fate, Mr. Speaker.

But on this file again, Mr. Speaker, like I don't know who they're going to condemn next. But when it comes to, like pointing the finger anywhere but in the mirror and trying to figure out who the villains are and who's stopping progress, Mr. Speaker, there's never any share in that for these men and women. And, Mr. Speaker, you know, if it was just a rhetorical thing, that'd be too bad. But because it plays out in the way that, you know, communities like Moosomin are impacted like this, communities like Kipling are impacted like this, communities like Wolseley, Mr. Speaker, are impacted by this, that's where it translates into a big impact in real people's lives.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I'm on record here. I grew up looking north and seeing IPSCO up there on the horizon and, as you know, you get to understand the way these things come about, Mr. Speaker. Took great pride that the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Elphinstone when I was a kid growing up, Mr. Speaker, was Allan Blakeney. And Allan Blakeney played a critical role in putting together what became IPSCO, and what is today Evraz steel, Mr. Speaker.

And my best friend growing up, his dad was a 5890 guy, worked at the mill, you know. So when we get into these different discussions about like, you know . . . And again I'm always interested to see when these guys come running towards to proclaim their love for First Nations — that's great, you know, but just follow it through; that's a hope — and when they proclaim their love for the members of Steelworkers 5890 up at IPSCO, Mr. Speaker. Because of course over the years that hasn't exactly been the case on their record and in terms of the deeds that have been done, Mr. Speaker.

But we as a party very much value those workers at IPSCO, Mr. Speaker. We very much value the partnership and the prosperity that derives when we make sure that First Nations and Métis people have a vital role in our economy, Mr. Speaker.

So if you haven't got those things lined up, Mr. Speaker, if you haven't got those things working together then, you know, all the other stuff sort of passes by. And if you're busy to bang some kind of political drum on this, you know, we understand how that works. We understand how they ran one election against Trudeau junior and they want to run the next one against Trudeau junior too. We understand that, Mr. Speaker. But getting some things done for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, you'd think that would rise to the top of the list, let alone the way that you've got to make sure you've got the economy balanced off with the environment. Because of course, Mr. Speaker, we're borrowing all of this from our grandkids, as has been well canvassed in this Assembly before, Mr. Speaker.

So you'll forgive me if, you know, I'd happily move an amendment that we send the member from Lumsden-Morse to Ottawa to straighten this all out in his inimitable Lumsden-Morse fashion, Mr. Speaker. But you know, that of course would . . . I don't know. Again I thought the member from Moosomin gave

a fine speech, but I don't know that this is going to build a single inch of pipe to tidewater, Mr. Speaker.

Because we've been here before. We've seen, you know, the government line up to condemn, and nothing gets done, Mr. Speaker. And the years go on and then the people start to wonder, you know, like how long have you guys been in power anyway? You know, like I feel like Rip Van Winkle around here sometimes, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, getting back to that conservative philosophy, Mr. Speaker — one of the tenets of which is self-responsibility, being responsible for your own self, Mr. Speaker — I would urge the members opposite to take a good hard look in the mirror and see if they can't point the finger in the mirror back at themselves and figure out what are they doing that has made this such a hard file to advance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lumsden-Morse.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to join into the debate around this motion moved by the member from Moosomin:

That this Assembly supports the construction of new pipelines including Trans Mountain, Energy East, and Northern Gateway and condemns federal leaders like Jagmeet Singh who oppose these projects and our energy sector.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me, Mr. Speaker, an article by the Fraser Institute that ran in the *National Post* April 30th, 2019 that is about the most concise description of the pipeline problems in Canada, Mr. Speaker, that I've seen. And I will read some and paraphrase some from that, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it frames the argument here today better than anything I've seen.

And the article starts out:

With pipelines shortages driving down the price of Canadian oil, the losses for the energy sector — and for Canada's economy — are staggering. According to a new study, insufficient pipeline capacity cost Canada's energy sector \$20.6 billion — or one per cent of the country's economy — in foregone revenues last year.

... Despite increased oil production in recent years, Canada has been unable to build any ... major pipelines. High-profile projects including the Northern Gateway and Energy East projects have been cancelled. And Trans Mountain expansion, Line 3 replacement and Keystone XL pipeline mired in delay.

Take the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, for example. After years of regulatory delays and political interference, the project's future remains uncertain. The proposal to expand the existing Trans Mountain pipeline between Edmonton and Burnaby ... was first approved in 2016. However, the Federal Court of Appeal rescinded that decision last year, ruling that neither the environmental review nor the Indigenous consultation had been properly completed [in their view].

And despite a National Energy Board ruling that deemed the project in the public interest, the BC government continues, [the NDP BC government continues] to ... [fight] the project and is pursuing legal means to block the expansion. Such delays and political opposition raises serious concerns about whether the pipeline will ever be built.

So what are the consequences of these delays? How is insufficient pipeline capacity affecting our economy?

We have an overdependence on the US market, increased reliance on more costly modes of energy transportation, and rising oil inventories in Western Canada. And ... oil producers shipping their crude by rail, a higher cost mode of transportation (and a less-safe mode, as pipelines are 2.5 times less likely to experience an oil spill than rail transport). Higher crude-by-rail means that Canadian oil producers absorb higher transportation costs, leading to lower prices for Canadian crude and a wider price differential between Western Canada Select and US ... West Texas Intermediate.

... Between 2009 and 2012 the price differential was roughly 13 per cent (of the US price). And that difference was seen as a cost of doing business in Canada.

In November 2018, just a year ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the price differential reached almost 70 per cent of the US crude price, meaning that Canadian heavy oil was sold at only 30 per cent of the value of its US counterpart:

In addition to the negative impacts on oil producers, these high price differentials also result in lower-than-expected royalties ... and lower corporate income tax revenue for energy-producing provinces and the federal government. This is revenue that could have been used for vital services ... [and we all know what they are].

In response to the drastic price discount, in late-2018 the previous Alberta government introduced a temporary production limit on oil producers in an attempt to address excess supply and insufficient export capacity. Since this limit was implemented, the price differential has narrowed [at the expense of production, Mr. Deputy Speaker]. But clearly, building new export pipelines remains the only long-term solution to ensure Canada's valuable exports receive prices closer to world ... prices.

The real issue [they go on to say] is that ... heavy oil producers lost a staggering \$20.6 billion in foregone revenues last year ... Again, that's roughly one per cent of our economy lost because we can't deliver our product to international markets to secure better prices. This loss of revenue has far-reaching consequences ... [in] investment ... job creation and ultimately less prosperity for Canadians.

It concludes by saying:

Unless Canadians are willing to continue to incur large losses and less investment, Ottawa and several key provincial governments must cooperate to get pipelines built.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know that and I know it and every member, at least on this side of the floor, knows it but the members opposite, not so much, Mr. Speaker. Their national leader, Jagmeet Singh, had this to say about pipelines on October 24th, 2019. Mr. Singh said:

Yesterday, I was happy to speak with Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley. Ms. Notley repeated her support for the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and I told her that I continue to oppose the pipeline . . .

While we disagree on TMX, we share a concern for the workers. I know that the people of Alberta need their governments to have their backs and I want them to know that I will fight to make sure that no worker or community is left behind.

[11:45]

An incredible statement, Mr. Speaker. With something in the range of 200,000 unemployed oil and gas workers in Western Canada, I wonder what Jagmeet is planning to do to make sure that no worker is left behind. I'll look forward to seeing that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, meanwhile Justin Trudeau and his government have passed legislation making any pipeline approvals in Canada virtually impossible, as well as legislation to prevent tankers coming close to BC's northern coastline, thus killing any chances for pipelines to be built in Canada.

And oddly enough, to remember that the years of Pierre Trudeau's government — and once again a Trudeau, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a Trudeau divides our country east against west, English against French, and urban against rural — history has repeated itself. It's shameful, Mr. Speaker, but the politics of the left, the NDP and the Liberals, are the politics of division. And between them, the Liberals and the NDP are tearing this country apart. It's about the most shameful thing I have ever witnessed in politics, Mr. Speaker, and those members opposite are part of it. They are complicit in it.

There's no difference and no divide between the federal and provincial NDP, Mr. Speaker, and here are some interesting facts to prove it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to illustrate that there's no divide between the federal and provincial NDP. Hailey Clark, provincially in Swift Current in 2016 and ran federally in Regina-Wascana in 2019. Glenn Wright ran federally in Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek in 2015 and ran provincially twice, in Biggar in 2011 and Rosetown-Elrose in 2016, and was recently elected to the Saskatchewan NDP executive as a member at large. Lon Borgerson, a name we all know around here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, ran federally in Prince Albert in 2015 and was recently nominated to run provincially in Batoche in 2020. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Ashlee Hicks ran provincially in Moosomin in 2016 and federally in Souris-Moose Mountain in 2019.

They're the same party, Mr. Speaker, with exactly the same values. NDP MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] expressed support for federal NDP candidates, Mr. Speaker. The member for Regina Lakeview endorsed Talon Regent in Moose Jaw-Lake Centre, Mr. Speaker. The member for Saskatoon Meewasin volunteered for Sheri Benson in Saskatoon West, Mr.

Deputy Speaker. The member for Saskatoon University endorsed Erika Ritchie in Saskatoon-Grasswood, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on illustrating the fact that they are the same party, the provincial NDP in Saskatchewan and the federal NDP in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker. But I'm out of time and I support the motion.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enter into another debate with respect to important pipelines capacity for this province, Mr. Speaker, at an important time for our province as well, Mr. Speaker. And as it'll come as no surprise to members in this Assembly or those that I represent, I strongly support pipelines, Mr. Speaker, and responsible development in getting our product to tidewater. Mr. Speaker, this is very important for our province. Certainly our energy sector, Mr. Speaker, is an important part of our province, a driver within our economy. Certainly it's been beleaguered by way of commodity prices and market access, as well, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, I've represented in this Assembly for 12 years, Mr. Speaker, and I've been so frustrated with the lack of progress towards pipelines to get our product to tidewater and to new markets, Mr. Speaker, under the Sask Party government. You know, like here we are again today, and this is an important issue, and we can stand united with respect to the importance of pipeline capacity. But too often the Sask Party has played petty politics on these fronts or grandstanded, Mr. Speaker, at the consequence of not advancing the projects that we need within this province, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly this is important for our province. It's important for us to close the gap in the price, the discount, Mr. Speaker, that we receive in this province. It hurts the investment. It hurts our companies, hurts our workers. It hurts the dollars that we count on within this province by way of royalties that are paid from a strong industry. And clearly the gap between WTI, West Texas Intermediate, and Western Canadian Select, WCS, is damaging and hurtful to this very important industry.

So I stand in this Assembly once again in support of needed pipeline capacity, Mr. Speaker. We see again, too often though, petty politics from the current government. We'll stand up, Mr. Speaker, and make our case with whoever we need to. We'll do that regardless of who's in power in different provinces, regardless of their party, Mr. Speaker. We'll do that regardless of who the leaders are in Ottawa. We'll certainly make that case around pipeline capacity and its importance with Mr. Singh. In fact, I've done that personally, Mr. Speaker. Just as we'll make the case, as well, to folks like Andrew Scheer with respect to equalization, Mr. Speaker.

And we shouldn't sort of pick and choose, you know, for sort of petty partisan games in this Assembly when we're going to stand up for Saskatchewan's interests, Mr. Speaker. I'd say that we should always stand up for Saskatchewan's interests, and we'll certainly take that approach, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I also think of Evraz, you know, Mr. Speaker, IPSCO, which is such an important bedrock of the Regina economy and

bedrock of the families and people that I knew growing up, Mr. Speaker, in northwest Regina: lifelong friends and hockey coaches and so many folks that have been so close in my life and continue to this day, that have either worked out at Evraz or that continue to this day.

And that steel mill is an important steel mill to our province and to Regina. And it's arguably one of the most efficient steel mills in the world, Mr. Speaker; in fact it recycles used metals, Mr. Speaker. And we should be just so proud of that mill and recognizing always the importance of it within our province, within our city, Mr. Speaker. And of course there's a direct connection to building out pipelines in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and opening up markets and making sure that we have that steel mill operating, Mr. Speaker, with strong futures as well as it's provided for so many years in Regina.

Certainly standing strong for pipeline capacity in the traditional energy sector, Mr. Speaker, doesn't prevent us from stepping up where we can around renewable power, Mr. Speaker. Of course there's very common sense, practical opportunities that exist for us to fire up renewable power in the solar industry in this province, Mr. Speaker. This is an affordable way for us to reduce emissions and to create jobs and investment today. And on this front again, the Sask Party is really failing the energy sector as a whole within the province with the recent choice to kill the solar industry in Saskatchewan, to kill small businesses that are building employment in our province, that are skilling up and building technical expertise, Mr. Speaker.

And what we're going to see . . . You know, I still hear that the Sask Party's interested in some of the larger scale solar projects, and that's good. But what we're concerned with, Mr. Speaker, is it's going to be the same old story. They're gutting an industry, Mr. Speaker, that was building up and skilling up and that would be ready to be able to build some of those bigger projects as well, Mr. Speaker. But by killing the net metering program and the solar on rooftops, Mr. Speaker, we're losing that capacity and shutting out those businesses and those workers from being able to be a part of that other procurement. Again we'll be looking to large out-of-country, out-of-province operations to come in and do that, and that's a loss for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tough time for the energy sector in the province and in the West. Certainly we've been clear with our concerns around things like Bill C-69 and the real concerns that it posed to this sector. I value the learning and relationships that I've built in this energy sector. I was pleased to, you know, join the member for Weyburn, the Minister for SaskPower and the Environment down at the Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Show just this last spring. I was thankful to get out in the oilfields once again with Saskatchewan oil companies who know what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker, who have skin in the game and take a practical approach on these measures. And certainly we'll be there to fight for this important industry, these good companies, these workers, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that they're heard.

There's rightful concerns in the West. There's rightful concerns and needs in Saskatchewan that we will always be a voice for, and we'll fight like heck for Saskatchewan people. And we'll make that case, as I say, regardless of who leaders are across Canada as premiers, and regardless of who the federal leaders are, or how the federal parties are engaging in Ottawa. We'll side

with Saskatchewan people any day of the week, Mr. Speaker. And certainly that's why we'll be standing strong with our energy sector and with needed pipeline capacity in this province, Mr. Speaker.

One thing we won't do though, Mr. Speaker, at this time where we need to advance these projects and deliver for the West and to deliver for Saskatchewan, is we won't take Saskatchewan down a dangerous, destructive, and distractful approach towards separatism, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know who the separatists are over there, Mr. Speaker, but it's beyond weak. And it's a distraction, Mr. Speaker, to let the real concern that exists in this province, to let that ferment and to let it grow and not stamp that out and to condemn separatism for what it is as a reckless exercise that once again pulls distraction away from the very important things like building pipelines.

This is a government that has failed to be able to build one inch of pipeline to tidewater in their 12 years in power, Mr. Speaker. They've failed for Saskatchewan people and I fear if they won't find the backbone to stand up to separatism, Mr. Speaker, that we're going to fail to get it done for this very important industry, for our province, and for our country once again. Mr. Speaker, on this front I'd say, a few less petty partisan games, a little more backbone in standing up for Saskatchewan and Canada. And we'll fight for pipelines any day of the week.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party used to support the fight for a better deal on equalization. Then they flipped to support Stephen Harper. Now they've flopped again. Can the member from Moosomin explain why the Sask Party waved the white flag on equalization for the better part of the last decade?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm really trying hard to find a segue back into pipelines off that question, but I find it difficult to get a real sense of what's happening over on the other side, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've got a member, my good friend from Regina Rosemont, who just gave a rousing sermon about his support for the oil and gas industry, yet in 2011 he supported a potential candidate for premier who wanted to nationalize the Saskatchewan oil industry. And he supports currently a leader of the provincial party who supports the federal NDP leader who wants to keep all the oil in the ground and says no to all the pipelines. So I'm not sure exactly where they're standing at the moment, but I think they better find a place to land.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October the 10th Jagmeet Singh was asked about the Trans Mountain Expansion and he said, "I've been really clear on this. I am very much opposed to this (TMX) project. I've been opposed to it. I'll be opposed to it tomorrow and I'll continue to work against that, for sure." Then while the Leader of the Opposition was being interviewed by John Gormley last week, he said, "I will have no

trouble talking to any federal leader about our points of agreement or points of disagreement.”

[12:00]

And this just in from CTV News: Jagmeet Singh gave the ultimatum to Justin Trudeau and said he had to work with him or the NDP would take down the federal government.

To the member from Prince Albert Northcote: if the Leader of the Opposition supports pipelines, will the member condemn Jagmeet Singh for opposing pipelines and the Saskatchewan families his policies will hurt?

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. One thing’s clear. The Saskatchewan New Democrats will always stand by Saskatchewan people and do what’s best for the residents of Saskatchewan, unlike the Sask Party that have shown us that they will not stand up for Saskatchewan if it means crossing their conservative alliance.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Energy companies are beginning to leave Canada. They trusted this country to be a prosperous land where their companies and industries could grow and employ people. Our federal leaders, including Jagmeet Singh, have set up such devastating roadblocks that these companies like Encana are even considering name changes and regaining their reputations. This is all due to failed leadership.

My question is for the member from Prince Albert Northcote. Since the NDP claim to be the government-in-waiting, what policies do the NDP propose to retain the energy industry in Canada?

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. One question I have is, what happened to the conservative promise to deliver an equalization reform when their friends Stephen Harper and Brad Wall were in power? They couldn’t stand up for Saskatchewan then and they won’t now. But the Sask New Democrats will.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It’s interesting. Again like you see some of these movies a few times and they get . . . you know, parts border on the bizarre, Mr. Speaker.

But when it comes to standing up for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the men and women opposite were part of a government that in opposition said they were going to get an equalization deal for Saskatchewan. And their federal cousins said it was going to be like a \$2 billion proposition for it. And then after the election,

Mr. Speaker, to quote the former member from Regina Douglas Park, it was roll me over Stephen Harper and tickle my tummy. That’s what happened to those members, Mr. Speaker. So like what happened to the resolve then, Mr. Speaker?

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Okay. Well if I let you, you’ll ask a question, okay? I believe the opposition has the next question. I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I’ll keep this simple. Simple question to the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford: how many kilometres of new pipeline to tidewater has been laid since this government took power?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

Mr. Doke: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess once again the member wasn’t listening. Governments don’t build pipelines. We’re here to set and enforce regulation and policy. We don’t build pipelines. You and your federal cousins, you seem to want to get into the process of building pipelines. And all I’ve got to say to you people is don’t mess it up.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today has been . . . The discussion and the debate has been very disappointing. We have members of the opposition who have lost their way. We’re speaking about pipelines. Mr. Speaker, Evraz steel here in Regina employs hundreds of people. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I had the opportunity to talk to these employees, they said to me, you know, we’re so disappointed in the leadership of the NDP, both federally and provincially. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they said, they are not standing up for us. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what does that say about them when they’ll talk about absolutely anything else but what’s relevant?

So my question is to the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote. She talked about laundry; she talked about everything else but the important thing called pipelines. So I’d like to ask that member: can she please clarify their stance on pipelines, here in the House?

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

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know how important it is for building and maintaining pipelines is for the important work for the steelworkers at Evraz. That’s for sure. And that’s why we believe it’s really important to have a good relationship with your provincial leaders, with your Prime Minister, so that we can all work together to make sure that pipelines are built and that these workers get back to work. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we need pipelines’ capacity built out, without a doubt. That’s always been our position, Mr.

Speaker. Frustrations are real within our province for a good reason, Mr. Speaker. But again we see this government who hasn't built a single inch of pipeline to tidewater during their tenure, Mr. Speaker, presiding over a distraction from this very important file. We need to stand up for Saskatchewan people, and that means taking a stand as well against separatism, a dangerous distraction that will prevent us from getting pipelines built that we need.

To the member from Moosomin: can he condemn those that are pushing separatism within Saskatchewan?

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

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last night when I got home I was speaking with my daughter and she said to me, she said, Dad, how can I find you morally or ethically serious when you postulate a question like that? And I have to say that fits exactly, perfectly to the situation that we're in now when I just heard the member from Prince Albert Northcote say she stands up for the workers of Evraz and we're there with the steelworkers in this province. Yet their federal leader says, no more pipelines. By extension their provincial leader, who supports the federal leader . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now I just heard, I just heard that they said they don't agree with him. Okay. Who do they agree with? Do they support their provincial leader or is their caucus divided?

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the opposition NDP has accepted now-failed NDP federal candidate to run for the position in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Weeks ago they supported an NDP leader who is fighting tooth and nail to stop the Trans Mountain pipeline, to stop the economic activity, to stop the prosperity of this province that helps pay for the service for everyone in this province.

My question is to the Prince Albert Northcote member. On the slim chance that anyone chooses the NDP in the next election, will this member refuse to accept any anti-pipeline members into her caucus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 618 — *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act, 2019*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I want to start out at just how important this bill is. And I'm hoping, and I know the families . . . And we've had some of them, the mothers who have lost — and fathers — were here, and supports, who've lost their loved one to suicides. We've had so many losses of suicide

within our Indigenous communities. It is throughout the province a crisis. We know that. It doesn't matter where you're at, whether you're rural. Our farmers are feeling it. Our northern communities are feeling it. Our urban centres are seeing it — addictions, mental health. The issue is serious and it's hurting so many people.

And you know, I'm going to talk to the parents and those that have suffered and lost loved ones. I want to get to that because I think it's important to share some of the messages and some of the hope that some of them have had. And they're hoping that the government would co-operate with the opposition, with the private member's bill 618. And we're hoping and I'm hoping.

But you know, I want to talk a little bit about the front-line workers, those men and women who are doing a great job. And I think about the hard work and sometimes the challenges they face — a lack of resources, whether it be at our schools, whether it be our mental health. If you don't have the supports in some of the isolated communities . . . I've talked to a mother who shared to me her story of trying to get help for her young girl and some of the girls in her family and some of the kids, and how it is so . . . They are so desperate when it comes to getting resources, trying to find ways to get to appointments, to have the treatment that's needed, so that they can talk to somebody so they don't lose the hope.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's so many families that are struggling out there when it comes to addictions, mental health. But the front-line workers are doing what they can do and they're burning out. We're hearing that. There isn't enough resources. And I know governments will put, you know, a few dollars here and there and they will add more money. And I've said that. I'll give credit where credit is due. And when you can put more money . . . But unfortunately we have a crisis in our province when it comes to suicides. And unfortunately there isn't enough resources being put in. And I don't know if the government is getting the message. I'm hoping, I'm hoping they will.

And I was so proud of the mothers that came to the Assembly to show the hundreds and hundreds of signatures that they've been gathering and that will continue to gather. They're not done. They left here, this Assembly. I was proud to introduce them. I think about, you know, Lynda and Michael Roberts were here. They lost their young girl in 2016. Sally Ratt was here, lost her daughter in 2016. She was here with her son Sheldon supporting her, and they came with supports. And they were hoping to have first reading of this bill.

And I think questions were asked by the Deputy Leader to the Premier, to the government: would you work with us on this important legislation? And I've said this before: in this Chamber we have our differences. We can heckle. We can go back and forth. We don't always have to agree on everything. I understand that, I do. But I also know that we have worked as opposition with government on some of the legislation you've wanted introduced that we thought was right for Saskatchewan people, is the right thing to do. And we have worked with you and will continue to work with you.

But I'm hoping the Premier, I'm hoping the Minister of Health will, at the end of the day, see the support from the families. And I'm hoping that we have thousands of signatures on the petition

to see how serious our province is taking not just our Indigenous people, not just our Indigenous communities, our rural, our farm communities, our urban centres, that they are all struggling with mental health and addictions and suicide.

And to see a child at 10 years old commit suicide, to see a child at any age commit suicide, to see any resident in our province commit suicide because they've lost hope, because there isn't the resources there when they need the support. You know, and I've had some of the mothers say to me, if I could've just had the supports, the mental health. In their heart, you watch them as they're just shattered; their world, it's been shattered. It's all I can say. They've been shattered. And all they would hope that if they would have had the opportunity. And they want this.

And I think about Sally and Lynda saying, all we want to do, Doyle, we don't want to blame anybody. We just want to say, should a young person ever reach out again, that they have done their part. And that's why they're working so hard on the petition, that the government will see that those supports will be there for other families whose loved ones are looking for . . . young kids who are looking for help when it comes to mental health and services that the mental health people can provide, that that resource is close to them so they can, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so they can go to that person and do whatever it is to get help and find out what do they need, like an assessment done, whatever it is. How do we help our young people when they lose hope, you know? And it's not just our young people. We see it's happening all over.

But you know, I see the minister . . . And I wanted to talk about this because I think it's important to give credit to our leaders. Back home I know our northern leaders, our mayors, our First Nations leaders, FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], the tribal councils, PAGC [Prince Albert Grand Council], they're all doing their work. They've been ringing the alarm bells for years. And you know, the government likes to pat themselves on the back and, you know, I've heard one member in the 75-minute debate talk about . . . You know, if you want to be ambassadors for the Indigenous people, here's an opportunity for you. Here's an opportunity as ambassadors to truly find out what's going on, find out how can we work together to deal with a crisis that they've had . . . Indigenous people have been ringing the alarm bells for quite some time.

[12:15]

I know there's other organizations out there have. But I want to thank those individuals so far. My office has reached out to many of them for letters of support and they're starting to come in. And I am so happy to see organizations like New North giving letters of support for a suicide prevention strategy for our province. To have a letter of that from the school division, from our First Nations leaders. We're reaching out. They're getting the letters. They see what's going on. They say it is a crisis and they're going to give support through letters. I'm hoping that the petition, the families that have come here, the leaders that have been writing letters, the hundreds and I'm hoping thousands of signatures on a petition will get the government to truly listen, to say, hey we have to get this right. We can't afford . . .

And I've heard members talk about, you know, spending dollars on certain projects. And if it saves a life, isn't that worth it? I

agree with you. It is worth it if you save one life. You have an opportunity as a government. The Premier, I hope, ministers, you know, you have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker. They do. They have an opportunity. They have an opportunity to work on this bill, to pass this legislation that's crucial.

Yes, there might be timelines on it, and they might be asking certain things. But what we're asking in here is to bring everyone together. Front-line workers, leaders, school divisions, teachers, families, First Nations and Métis leaders, MLAs from both sides coming together to say, let's co-operate. Let's work together.

We have a suicide crisis going on in our province. When you look at suicides from, I believe, 2005, Mr. Deputy Speaker — 2,200 lives. That's a shame for those families that have suffered. And I'm not saying we, or anyone, has all the answers. All we're asking for is let's work together as a government, which governments are supposed to do. We can do that. And I've said this before. And I'm reaching out.

And I want to say the minister did make a comment, and he invited me to a meeting, you know. And I am going to take him up on his offer. I've asked the chief of staff to contact his office. We've done that. We've set a date. I'm going to meet with him. I'm going to see if we can bring one of my colleagues and maybe a staff member. At this time the invitation was to me and the staff member, but I'm going to hope that he will allow another. So I'm going to meet with him because I think it's important. And I do. I'm hoping he's genuine and sincere, and I have to take him for his word that he is.

Maybe, maybe, maybe we can work together, and maybe we can come out with a plan that works together, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to deal with the crisis that's going on when it comes to suicide, to support a bill. Whatever we need to do.

I know I'm willing. I know the mothers that have come here, I know those leaders, I know everyone that has raised concern is asking the government to work together. You know, do the right thing here. We can. And that's what we're being asked to do. You're elected. We all are. I understand we have our certain values and principles, and what we think needs . . . But in this case, I really think we have, and I believe, probably all communities have been impacted by suicide since 2005, and maybe families.

You know when you look at the addictions and the mental health, the challenges that were being faced, you know, it is unbelievable to see the hurt, the pain that so many families have gone through. I mean, I've talked about being there, and my colleagues have, and probably other members on both sides of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have been to support families who have lost loved ones to suicide. But again, I'm going to reach out to the minister as we said we would. I'm hoping that we can work together on this.

You know, I really . . . To say this the best way I can, it shouldn't have to take families coming here, leaders writing the letters, thousands, hundreds of petitions being signed. The issues, the stories that we've heard shouldn't have to be an opportunity to have to reintroduce legislation a second time. I was hoping it would've passed the first time, but unfortunately it didn't. But we're not giving up.

And I think about Lynda and Sally saying, Doyle — when they left here, they said — we will not give up. We will not give up. If we can save one life by doing this work then we feel good. It's helping them on their healing journey . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Can make the comments as you want over there. That's fine.

You know, if you can just see the passion that I've seen in those mothers and their dad about coming forward and saying, look, if we can work together, we're not going to give up. We're going to do all we can to work together. And I watch their . . . And their commitment has been, and it's helped them heal. They've said that. They got a chance to . . .

They were travelling here. And I want to thank La Ronge Band Health for providing them a van to get here and, you know, a driver to make sure they got here safe and back home. And supports that the leadership, La Ronge Indian Band, has given to their community members who lost loved ones. I give credit to the chief and council and to the band and to the band members who have signed these petitions.

I'm honoured to represent them in this Chamber. I'm honoured to be here and I say that it's humbling. It is very humbling, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to have to again, as I said, go through a bill that was introduced once and not get the support. But to go back home and see the mothers, those that it impacted, the families say, we're going to do all we can. We're going to get this petition. We are going to do something. That is amazing.

It shouldn't have to take families, members from Cumberland, other members, leaders, to get to a government, you know, to actually drag them, you know, when they're yelling and, you know, screaming they don't want to do it. I hope that's not what this is. I'm hoping we can work together. So having said that, I know we'll be meeting with the minister. I'm hoping he's going to give a review.

But I want to make it very clear to the mothers and the families, the leaders, front-line workers, teachers, school divisions . . . there's been so many that have been sending in letters. They've been writing, telling me, messages on Facebook. And when the mothers were here and we see in the media. I've never seen so much media attention being brought to the suicide crisis going on. And again the media plays a strong part. Social media, we all know. And it does play a role. I'm hoping that the government is hearing and listening to the Saskatchewan people's message that there is a crisis going on. We need more supports. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did say I gave credit and, you know, at the end of the day I would give credit to the government to say we'll do something.

But what I've seen is this. And at the end of the day what I'm hoping is we'll find a solution, that we'll at least come together, say let's pull all the resources together. Let's work together. Let's have the initial meeting. Let's pass this legislation. Let's ask the health region to do what it needs to do. Let's get the partners together. Let's come up with a plan. I don't have the answers. Let those front-line workers, let the families, let everyone come together. They will come up with a plan. We'll support them. Government can support that.

And let's make sure. What are the best practices and what are other provinces doing? And I heard the minister say that's what

he's doing. He's called for a review and that's fine. He's going to give us an update of his review. And I think he said sometime in December that review would be done is what he was hoping, if I'm correct. And like, you know, I'll find out from him next Thursday when I meet with him if that review, what it is.

But I want to make it very clear to the mothers that came here, Lynda and Sally; to Michael, the father; to the supports that were here; to the leaders; front-line workers. I want to say to those people who have been advocating for a suicide prevention strategy, FSIN, PAGC, talking about we have to get this right. We can't afford to lose one more young life, not one more. We can't. But I want to give credit to all those that have signed the petition, that have raised awareness, the media, that have brought it to the media's attention, and there's been many. There's people all over Saskatoon, Regina, you name it. There has been people saying it's time to do something. We have to do it this time.

Now having said that, I will give credit where credit is due, and I'm going to give credit. We'll hold the government to account, the minister to account, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We will hold them to account, and when we get something and if we do, I will give credit — not to me, not to the minister, not to the government — to the families, to the leaders, to those that have been ringing the alarm bell, front-line workers saying there is a crisis going on. I will give credit to them and say, you deserve it. Look what you've done. Your voice has been very loud and clear that there is a crisis, that we cannot lose one more Indigenous person. We cannot lose one more. Rural, urban, it doesn't matter where they come from. It shouldn't matter about who they are, that they're Indigenous or not. It shouldn't be 29 times for First Nations and non-First Nations. It shouldn't be that way. There should be a government saying it is a crisis. We're going to respond to it. We need to respond to it. That's what I'm hoping.

I will give credit to those individuals and thank them for all their work, and great work that they've done. You know, I've had others that have approached me, have lost their loved ones. And I think about some of the aunts in some of our communities. You know, she shared a story with me and she said to me, I'll do whatever I need to do to get something done, get the resources to help in our communities, in our northern communities, whatever I need to do, you know. And her story and the loss, that she lost a loved one, a niece, and you know, I can't forget the pain.

And you know, just sitting there and listening to her saying whatever she needs to do, she's going to do and it doesn't matter. She ain't interested in if it's government, MLA, whoever it is. She's going to do whatever it is, she says, for hope. If we can save one life, Doyle, that somebody reaches out and gets the support they need with mental health, with addictions, whatever it is when somebody needs . . . rather than losing hope.

Can you imagine being a young child or being a family member that you have to deal with the grief and loss of a loved one — at 10 years old, 12 years old, 13, 14 years old — losing a child, the family losing a loved one, and looking at a government and a province that has so much wealth? We have so much. We should be so grateful.

And I am grateful. I'm grateful every day. I have 17 grandkids. I care and I love them all. It's a lot of work. I'll be honest with you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is. But I love them so much. And when I

see them struggling with mental health . . . And I've watched them struggle with mental health, and you never know which one of them . . . You always hope. You're there supporting them, telling them it is worth it. You are worth it. You're so important. You're loved so much. But when they lose hope, and they just . . . You don't know what to say anymore to them because they're losing hope.

That isn't a way Saskatchewan children should be living. It shouldn't be a way any of our family members should be living. We should have those supports and resources to know that all those children, anybody . . . And it doesn't have to be children. It could be an adult. We all have adult children, too. They face a lot of the mental health addictions challenges, you know.

My family, myself, I don't hide from that. We face addictions. It's happening. It's everywhere. There's so many challenges that young people are put through, so many, our children today. Society, it's tough. But I hope that when those individuals reach out and they want to go into an addictions treatment or a centre for mental health, that the resources are provided, the beds are there. Nobody, nobody should be told, well I'm sorry. We'll try to get you into a detox. We'll try to get you in a treatment centre. We'll try this but you know, it's going to take us months to get you there. When those individuals come and they say to the counsellor, I can't do this no more. I need help. And they lose hope because they can't get into a treatment centre. And that's what I've been talking about, the mental health and addictions and the suicide.

Those individuals could come together. And that's what I'm talking about. And we're talking about a provincial-wide strategy on suicide prevention, but that would take in all the partners and the different agencies to come together with a plan, with the resources, the right resources that we need, working with the federal government to say we have a crisis. We are. We are.

The federal government has a responsibility. Members on this side, we know that. Do I agree with everything in the federal government? No, whether it was the Harper government or the Liberal government. The point is we can work together and ask them, are leaders willing to work with the Premier to write letters, to do whatever they can to bring more resources to help us, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to do the right thing. We have a crisis going on in our beautiful Saskatchewan that we're all proud of. We need to make sure that we're working together, that the partners are there and doing all they can.

[12:30]

I am just about at the end, and I'll be moving a motion when I'm done my comments, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But again I just want to give so much credit to the families that have been signing the petition — the leaders, the mothers that have come forward to talk about the issues and the hope that they want — that no child, when somebody reaches out for mental health addictions, that they do that, and when they do that, the resources and the supports are there, whether it's Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, La Ronge, Air Ronge, Saskatoon. It shouldn't matter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, where one lives. The services need to be provided for everyone, whether you're in the rural areas, whether it's our farming families who struggle. I know that, and I hear people say that, and I've heard members on that side talk back and forth. We

had it in the 75-minute debate. I understand that.

There is a lot of work to be done and more needs to be done. And I'm hoping at the end of the day I'll meet with the minister and maybe, I'm just hoping . . . And I will. I can't give up. I will have hope just like the mothers have shared with me that they are not going to give up. They're going to do all they can.

And I want to thank again the leadership that are sending in letters from school divisions, our First Nations, our Métis, whoever can send letters to my office, who's got the letter from me asking for support. If anybody out there is listening and wants to send a letter of support or anything in addition, get a hold of our office. Send it here. We'll do whatever we can to make sure government hears your concerns and hope the government will act on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is such a passionate plea to the government. I ask on behalf of the many families who are struggling and have lost loved ones. I ask the government, find it in your hearts. We'll find it in our hearts to work together to pass this legislation. To do the right thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's what I ask the government. I hope they will do that.

So with that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be moving the motion. I said after my comments, so at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that Bill No. 618 now be read a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has moved that Bill No. 618, *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act, 2019* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I really do want to thank my colleague from Cumberland for his passionate plea to move this legislation forward and his advocacy for those families who have suffered so greatly. And the loss of a young child, Mr. Speaker, is one of the biggest tragedies I think that we can face. And I think that loss is for all of us as members of the society here in Saskatchewan. And you know, when one child is suffering like that, that's something that I think we are all responsible for in this Assembly.

If a suicide prevention strategy is put forward and saves one life, Mr. Speaker, that's something I think that we need to do for these families. And again, I want to thank the member from Cumberland for his leadership and advocacy on this topic. So, Mr. Speaker, at this point I will move that we adjourn debate.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that this House

adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:34.]

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