



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

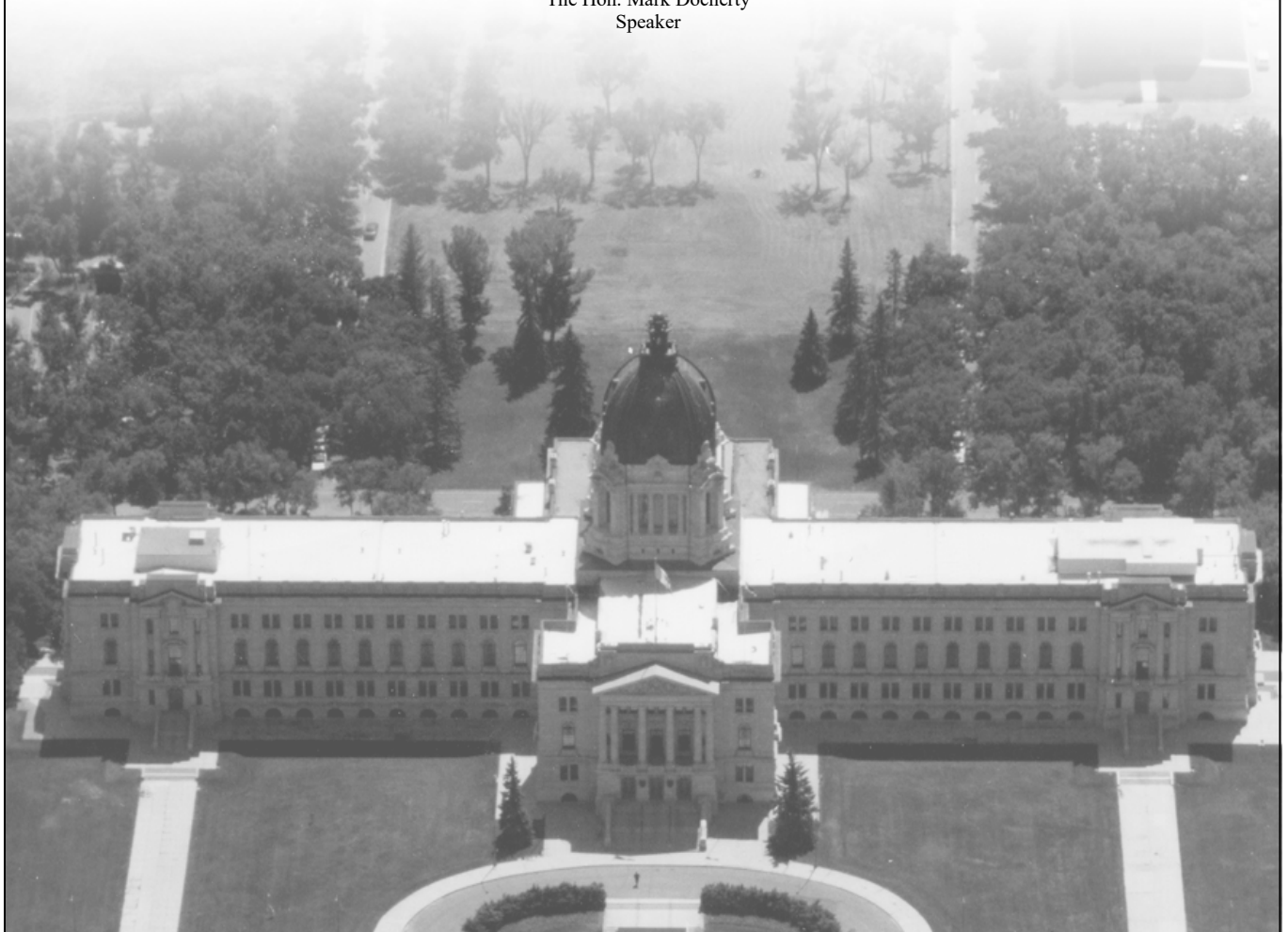
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**4th Session — 28th Legislature**

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

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<b>Lawrence</b> , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Saskatoon Eastview

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Principal Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Buriannyk

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — I have a couple documents to table. The first one is the annual report on operations from Judy Ferguson, the Provincial Auditor:

I present herewith my *Annual Report on Operations for the Year Ended March 31st, 2020* to be laid before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section 14.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, to be tabled on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020.

The second one is the 2020 report volume 1:

I present herewith my 2020 report volume 1 to be laid before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section 14.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, for tabling on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020.

Respectively submitted,  
Judy Ferguson, Provincial Auditor

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of northern Saskatchewan residents, that seniors in the North have worked hard to help build their province. There's a definite need for a new long-term care facility in Creighton and surrounding area. Saskatchewan families are forced to separate and this causes many hardships, including complex income tax filing with Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

They're fighting to have long-term care so they can keep their loved ones close to home and in their community. The area also takes into account the east side of northern Saskatchewan where there is very little. So they're asking for this, and they would like to have a facility for their elders in their communities. And they've asked me to present this petition and continue to fight for them and for the seniors that deserve respect and dignity.

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

Treat northern Saskatchewan senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility for Creighton and the surrounding area.

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

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

**Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the

federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Swift Current, Regina, and Pilot Butte. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to immediately restore all emergency services to affected rural hospitals. I grew up in a small town, but I've been a city dweller for most of my life. And I've always lived near an emergency room, so I know the comfort that comes with close access to health care. But too many across this province live in fear that they won't have access to an emergency room during a life-or-death situation.

And they have reason to be concerned. Of the 12 hospitals that were chosen to be closed, 11 of those communities have had serious service disruptions with their emergency room services under the Sask Party. Residents of these communities aren't taking these closures lying down. The recently created Facebook group, Citizens Concerned about Rural Health Care, has grown to 2,600 active and engaged members. They're taking action. A 91-year-old woman in Biggar went door to door collecting signatures.

Of course resources should be shifted if needed to COVID-19 outbreaks, but closing 12 rural emergency rooms before there was a surge in cases was premature and it was wrong. Saskatchewan people have done their part to flatten the curve, and we expect government to do their part too by putting people first and ensuring we've got access to health care that's there when we need it. Years of under-investment in health care have been laid bare by this crisis. We need to reopen these ERs [emergency room] right away and to keep them open until or unless COVID-19 cases surge.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the government to enact legislation to immediately restore all emergency services to affected hospitals.

I have pages and pages of petitions in my hand, Mr. Speaker. They are signed by individuals from Indian Head, Moosomin, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, Wolseley, Montmartre, Balcarres, Carnduff, Alida, Carievale, Gainsborough, Oxbow, Glen Ewen, Avonhurst, Alameda, Redvers, Bienfait, Biggar, Landis, Handel, Saskatoon, Springwater, Rosetown, Sonningdale, North Battleford, Perdue, Ruthilda, Carlyle, Kipling, Manor, Kisbey, Churchbridge, Kenosee Lake, White Bear Lake, Wawota,

Arcola, Estevan, Frobisher, Northgate, and Sinaluta. I do so present.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Provincial Budget

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before COVID-19 people were already stretched and stressed under the struggling economy presided over by this government. Since the arrival of COVID-19, things have gotten worse, and people are even more concerned and worried about what comes next.

Well what comes next is exactly what the Sask Party is desperate to avoid discussing, desperate to hide, Mr. Speaker. We have a budget for the first time, a budget that excludes, leaves out key information — fiscal and economic projections — and raises huge concerns about coming cuts and privatization of Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. Weasel words from the Premier to try to avoid that scrutiny is reassuring no one. We need to see the numbers, Mr. Speaker.

So my question for the Premier today is, will he release the projections, those economic and fiscal projections, before the end of the session and give us a full picture of the road ahead and the Sask Party's plan before we go to a general election?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the Finance minister indicated yesterday, we're very proud to be the first jurisdiction in Canada to come forward with a full accounting for how we have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic from a health care perspective, but also a full accounting of how that response has impacted the finances here in the province of Saskatchewan, both on the expense side as well as on the revenue side, Mr. Speaker. We see no other jurisdiction coming forward with their budget. We see the federal government saying they may have some type of a snapshot here at some point in the future. But no other jurisdiction has come forward with a full accounting, Mr. Speaker, of the provincial finances and how the COVID-19 response has impacted those finances, aside from this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's also incumbent on us to identify that we are doing quite well in this province when it comes to that financial impact, and more importantly the impact to the economy here in Saskatchewan. The Toronto Dominion has revised its outlook over the course of the next year for this province, Mr. Speaker. They've improved our outlook by 2 percentage points, Mr. Speaker. We have done very well when it comes to the COVID-19 infection rates that we have in this province, Mr. Speaker. We've done very well with respect to, yes there has been an impact on our economy here in the province, but it's been less than other areas of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to being able to say we will be doing very well in the economic recovery in Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — Just a word of caution: "weasel words" has been ruled unparliamentary in the past. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Finance minister has repeatedly claimed that her government will balance the budget in three to four years, Mr. Speaker. That's a very convenient time frame, as that's exactly the time frame for which this government has left out key information, Mr. Speaker, deliberately left out of their cut-and-paste budget.

We know the Sask Party doesn't like seeing movies made in Saskatchewan, but Saskatchewan people have seen this movie before. We know the Sask Party playbook. When they get into trouble, when they don't tell us what their plans actually are, when they wait until after an election, that's when we see cuts to health care and education. That's when we see privatization of our Crowns, Mr. Speaker. We heard the big resounding "no" from the Finance minister when asked about these projections, Mr. Speaker.

Why did the Premier direct the Finance minister to leave this standard information out of the budget? And will he reveal those numbers now? Will he commit to bringing those forward before the end of the session? If not, what is he trying to hide from Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, there's absolutely nothing that is left out of this budget, Mr. Speaker. This is the only budget that has been introduced post-COVID response, Mr. Speaker, in the nation of Canada. We're very proud to be the first that is moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

What is included in this budget is a 5 per cent lift to our health care budget, Mr. Speaker. What is included in this budget is a 2.4 per cent lift to our education budget, Mr. Speaker. We're building schools in communities right across this province, more of those announced today, as well as renovating and adding to the schools that are currently operating, Mr. Speaker. What is in this budget is a 4 per cent lift to our communities' most vulnerable, to the social services budget here in the province, Mr. Speaker. That is what is in this budget.

In addition to that is \$2 billion in infrastructure stimulus, Mr. Speaker, to all communities included in that \$2 billion. Included in that \$2 billion is \$150 million in municipal economic enhancement program, Mr. Speaker. It has only been provided once in the province before to ensure that our municipalities can fully participate in the infrastructure that we know they need, that our communities need, Mr. Speaker, the infrastructure that is continuing to support families.

And yes, we'll support the economic recovery in this province, Mr. Speaker. There are many things that we have with respect to our COVID response that are in this budget, Mr. Speaker, that are supporting strong communities, strong families, Mr. Speaker, and supporting the people of this province.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not so sure I'd be boasting about presenting this warmed-over last year's budget as the first budget in the country. Being the first to do a bad job isn't something to be proud of, Mr. Speaker.

You know, the Minister of Finance has repeatedly said that this government will balance the budget in three to four years, Mr. Speaker. And yet at the same time as she says that, there's no projections, no fiscal numbers going forward, and there's been no description of how that would be achieved. Nothing about what this government plans to cut, nothing about what they plan to sell, nothing about the costs for people they plan to hike, Mr. Speaker. Both of those things cannot be true. We can't hear that there's a plan for a budget to be balanced in three to four years, and there's no plan at the same time.

So my question to the Premier is, which of these assertions is true? Will the budget be balanced in three to four years? Or does the Finance minister have no idea how she'll balance the budget? On which of these assertions is the Finance minister telling the truth?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — It's disappointing, Mr. Speaker, that the only members, the only people in Saskatchewan quite frankly, who don't believe in recovery and growth is the members opposite in the NDP [New Democratic Party]. They have absolutely no understanding of recovery and growth.

The TD Bank [Toronto Dominion Bank] believes Saskatchewan can recover and grow, and he should read that report today because it says:

... the province has enjoyed an edge relative to most other provinces. Saskatchewan has suffered a smaller drop in employment and hours worked during the pandemic, and currently has the lowest unemployment rate outside of Manitoba.

Saskatchewan's relatively diverse commodity sector has shown its mettle in recent months, holding up relatively well in the face of sharply contracting global activity.

Mr. Speaker, what does the RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] bank have to say? "... Saskatchewan is weathering the storm from a position of relative strength, with one of the lowest net debt-to-GDP ratios among the provinces."

What does the BMO [Bank of Montreal] have to say, Mr. Speaker? It says, "The key message here is that the economy has fallen into a deep hole caused by COVID and decline in oil prices, but should be well into recovery mode next year."

Mr. Speaker, what does the National Bank of Canada have to say? "Given the high degree of uncertainty . . ."

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

[13:45]

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people have stepped up in incredible ways in recent months. At great personal hardship, they've done the work to flatten the curve, and they deserve better from this government. They deserve better than a Finance minister who says, oh, we'll start talking about what she describes as the tough budget decisions, we'll start

talking about that after the election, Mr. Speaker.

People deserve better and they know better. The last time this government held back what they were going to do after an election, what did we get? We got the sell-off of STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. We got a doubling of the PST [provincial sales tax]. We got cuts to health care, to education, to social services, and we got a government that was rolling out the red carpet to potential buyers for SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and SaskTel, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard these funny numbers now. Apparently the Finance minister wants to look into the future now, so let's look into the future. Will this Finance minister, will this Premier commit to tabling these projections by the end of this session? Will the Premier commit to tabling these numbers by the end of the session? Or is he admitting that he doesn't want people to see those numbers, that he doesn't want people to know what he's hiding about his future plans?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, what the people of Saskatchewan want and deserve is a government that believes in the people of Saskatchewan, a government that believes in the province of Saskatchewan, a government that believes in recovery and growth. And they are not going to be sucked in with the fear-and-smear campaign of the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

There is no province giving those projections. There isn't a national government giving those projections. There's too much uncertainty. We are still in a pandemic, Mr. Speaker. There's too much unpredictability. There is no playbook for this, Mr. Speaker, and province after province will tell him that, if he would just take the time to listen or read economic reports, Mr. Speaker.

We don't know the spending habits of our citizens as we reopen. Mr. Speaker, we have not completely reopened. We don't know the default rates on deferred revenue such as the utility bills. Mr. Speaker, we don't know the oil industry recovery rate. We do not know. We do not have enough data available, Mr. Speaker, and we don't know the global recovery. We cannot give those projections yet.

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

### Security of Electronic Health Information

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, last fall LifeLabs was hacked, and more than 93,000 Saskatchewan people had their personal health information breached. The Information and Privacy Commissioner's investigation, released this month, revealed that the SHA's [Saskatchewan Health Authority] contract with LifeLabs breached privacy laws, that the SHA wasn't properly notified about the breach, that the SHA hasn't adequately investigated the breach, and that this government hasn't done enough to prevent this from happening in the future.

The commissioner is calling for a "full audit" of the contract to

bring it into compliance with our privacy laws. Will the Premier commit to that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The commissioner has raised some important issues, as the member opposite had said. We've received the report. The ministry and the SHA are going through it carefully, Mr. Speaker. The SHA, as they review the commissioner's recommendations, will be supporting them, Mr. Speaker. As far as to the member's question about the audit, I would expect an answer to that as soon as the review is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, this report came out on June 9th. They've had a chance to look at it already. More than 90,000 people were impacted by this breach, and yet the commissioner found the SHA hasn't adequately investigated the issue.

Just as concerning, the private company that did not fully comply with the investigation claimed ownership over personal health information of Saskatchewan people. Seriously, Mr. Speaker? What has the government gotten us into?

The Information and Privacy Commissioner recommends that if LifeLabs fails to meet the basic recommendations to protect people's health information that the agreement should be terminated. To the Premier: will he commit to that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we received the report I think it was a couple of weeks ago. SHA and the ministry are reviewing it in detail. Discussions are under way, Mr. Speaker. No decisions have been arrived at in what's going to happen. Obviously we consider any breach like this extremely serious. But, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to make a knee-jerk reaction. We're going to let our officials do their due diligence and we will report back in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, for this government's entire run, the Sask Party has been mismanaging eHealth. Has the minister tried turning it off and turning it back on again?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we actually take the issues at eHealth very seriously, I guess unlike the members opposite. Mr. Speaker, there's been a number of issues at eHealth. I had a conversation this morning with the board Chair about the auditor's report, Mr. Speaker. We're doing everything we can to support them resource-wise, Mr. Speaker.

We expect eHealth will take care of people's data as secure as possible, Mr. Speaker, and beyond that, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if there was actually a real question in there or if that was

just flippant.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, we've tried serious. We're looking for serious answers here. Today's eHealth audit on security breaches and portable devices is just the latest on a massive list of problems that have cropped up under this minister's watch. He's overseen vendor-sponsored junkets to sporting events in the States, sole-source contracts and conflict-of-interest issues, and most recently a malware attack that crept through eHealth's records for 17 days without being detected.

eHealth doesn't know what personal information has been taken, who took it, or where it's being housed. It is outrageous, and this minister should be ashamed. Saskatchewan people have no reason to trust this government's ability to manage this file.

Will the Premier call a full security and privacy investigation into eHealth today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I had a conversation on telephone this morning with the Chair of the board of eHealth. The board is meeting with eHealth today to go through the auditor's report. Mr. Speaker, obviously they're very concerned, as am I, as is our entire government, Mr. Speaker.

The recommendations that the Provincial Auditor had made, I expect eHealth will take those very seriously and make every effort to implement them, the ones that haven't been so far, Mr. Speaker.

And as far as the overall question that the member opposite has made in regards to security of people's data, personal information, Mr. Speaker, my expectation and the expectation of the government is that eHealth will answer that challenge. It's important that people are relying on it and that they be a reliable source of IT [information technology] for government, Mr. Speaker. We'll do everything within our power to ensure that that happens.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, this failed experiment has now compromised thousands of Saskatchewan people's personal health information. Enough is enough. Saskatchewan people have funnelled hundreds of millions of dollars into eHealth, only to have the most sensitive details of their health records put at risk. This project has been a resounding failure under this government's watch.

Will the minister admit this has been a failed experiment? And what's the plan to deal with it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Reiter:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said, we take the Provincial Auditor's recommendations extremely seriously. It's our expectation that eHealth will . . . It's our expectation that

eHealth will meet those expectations and that they'll implement the Provincial Auditor's report, Mr. Speaker.

As far as the malware attack, that's not unique to Saskatchewan or to government, Mr. Speaker. There's many organizations around the world that have suffered similar attacks. The important thing, Mr. Speaker, is that moving forward that all possible security devices are put in place, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our citizens' data is protected.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I spoke to the Chair of the board this morning. They recognize the seriousness of this situation. They're meeting with their senior management right now to ensure going forward that the Provincial Auditor's recommendations are implemented.

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

#### **Auditor's Recommendations for Foster Care**

**Ms. Rancourt:** — The auditor reported the need for the Ministry of Social Services to consistently follow established policies to ensure that kids in foster homes get the care they need. Basic policies like home safety checks, obtaining criminal record declarations, and annual reviews of foster families are not being followed. Some homes are not getting the proper background checks until 14 months after being approved. Others haven't had criminal record checks in nearly three decades. How safe is this, Mr. Speaker?

Does the Premier agree that by ignoring his policies, his own policies, he's letting vulnerable kids down?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And we want to thank the auditor for the great work that she does as well as we want to thank our foster families and the number of our workers that work with these vulnerable families, Mr. Speaker.

There is a number of steps that has been taken since we formed government to improve our children in care, but we know that there's always more improvement that can be done. This is a continuous improvement area within government that's of critical importance, and ultimately number one — the safety of our children must be our first priority.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, the officials have gone over those recommendations. They've implemented one fully and they will be working on the others with the Provincial Auditor.

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

**Ms. Rancourt:** — This auditor's report shows that under this government's watch, the foster care system is putting children, 86 per cent of whom are Indigenous, at serious risk. The auditor said, "Effectively monitoring the children's safety and providing support to foster families is crucial in contributing to the health and well-being of the children who are placed in foster care." But the government isn't doing that. Why isn't the government doing background checks on foster parents? What's the plan to make

sure those checks happen in order to protect vulnerable kids?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The officials have assured us that they will be more diligent in doing those background checks. What they have also done, Mr. Speaker, they've implemented and greatly improved the training for our foster families, implemented a lot of content for cultural training for our foster families. They have added an incredible amount of resources to seek family members so children, even if they have to come out of care of their parents, are with a relative. They have increased the number of in-home supports for our foster families and for families to keep children at home with their families with supports. So they have done a lot of great work. Can there be improvement? Always, Mr. Speaker, and they will be following the recommendations of the Provincial Auditor.

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

#### **Funding for Schools**

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor also found serious problems with the state of our kids' classrooms in her latest report. She found that 87 per cent of schools she examined were more than 50 years old, and that they were "on average in poor condition, similar to the provincial average."

Mr. Speaker, this isn't an isolated issue; it's a concern all across our province. But crumbling classrooms are nothing new in Saskatchewan, and today's announced dollars will barely put a dent in the 1.3 billion needed to fix up our schools. Why has the Sask Party allowed our schools to fall in around our children? And when will they come to the table with the resources school divisions need to fix up our schools and keep them safe?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, this government takes its investment in education very seriously — the largest education budget in the history of the province. In the budget, Mr. Speaker, 10 new schools. We announced another six schools today, Mr. Speaker: four new ones, two significant renovations, Mr. Speaker. That shows a commitment to addressing the challenges in the school divisions, Mr. Speaker. Certainly there's more work to be done.

But over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, since we've had the privilege of forming government, a 618 per cent increase in capital funding, Mr. Speaker. And that includes a preventative maintenance and renewal budget, Mr. Speaker: \$45 million in the budget this year to help school divisions with preventative maintenance and renewal, Mr. Speaker, a program that wasn't in the budget when those people had the privilege of forming government, Mr. Speaker. So this government's commitment to public education on the capital side is well known, Mr. Speaker: significant investment since we've had the privilege of forming government.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor's own words, "not a drop in the bucket." That's simply not sufficient, Mr. Speaker. The government's own documents show that 1.3 billion — billion — is what's needed to fix up our schools, and that minister . . .

[Interjections]

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Difficult hearing the question. I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, the government's own documents show that \$1.3 billion is what's needed to fix up our schools. That's 1.3 billion. And that minister is bragging about an announcement that adds up to less than 10 per cent of what's needed. Now is the time to invest in our classrooms, get them fixed up, and put people back to work. This half measure does not get the job done and the minister knows it.

What is the Sask Party's plan to address the other billion dollars needed to repair our schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, here's the reality. Since we've had the privilege of forming government over 12 years: 53 new schools and 26 significant renovations, Mr. Speaker. Our record, \$1.86 billion in capital investment by this government, Mr. Speaker, compared to the record that they had when they were in government over 16 years: \$347 million, Mr. Speaker.

The commitment of this government to address the needs in our school divisions is clear, not just with our capital investment with respect to new schools and significant renovations, Mr. Speaker, but with our preventative maintenance and renewal budget, Mr. Speaker. Significant funds have been going to school divisions to address the needs in those classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Provincial Budget

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question earlier. We've got a government that says they're going to balance the budget in three to four years but is unwilling to give us any fiscal projections, unwilling to tell us how they plan to do so. So I ask again: is that the commitment from the Premier? If it is, what is he going to cut? What will he be selling off? What taxes will he be raising to do that? Or does he just expect people to trust him? Is he going to release those projections? Is he going to release his plans before the end of this session and before the election? Or does he just expect people to trust him?

Because you know what? We know how that went before. People trusted Brad Wall. He said he wouldn't sell off the Crowns. STC was gone. He rolled out the red carpet for buyers for SaskTel and SGI, Mr. Speaker. We know that trust would be misplaced, Mr. Speaker. What is the Premier's plan? Or is he just expecting people to go on blind faith?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to answer that question. It was asked a little earlier this week, and I think we're making progress because earlier this week — maybe it was late last week — it was a plot. We were plotting, Mr. Speaker. Now we're planning.

Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the plan that we have put forward, Mr. Speaker, the most up-to-date, the most comprehensive financial plan that has been put forward, post the COVID-19 response in the nation of Canada, one that we're very proud of, Mr. Speaker. Here's what the people of the province can rest assured that we are planning.

We have set aside \$200 million to ensure that we can address any COVID outbreak that may come over the course of the next number of months. Mr. Speaker, we put aside \$50 million. Mr. Speaker, we're going to be very straight with the people here today. We're going to talk about the \$50 million for the small business emergency payment that went out to ensure that our small businesses that drive the economy in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, have some operation funds over the course of the last number of months.

The temporary wage supplement, Mr. Speaker, a program that we worked with and cost shared with the federal government. Our self-isolation support program, Mr. Speaker, so that people that may be feeling ill don't have to go to work and spread this virus, Mr. Speaker, \$2 million there.

We've invested heavily in VIDO-InterVac [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-international vaccine centre] to find a cure, a vaccine to this virus, Mr. Speaker. We continue to invest in agriculture and energy, in the economy, in the economic drivers of our communities, Mr. Speaker.

This is what the people of Saskatchewan can count on, is increases in health care and education and social services and increases in investment right back into the community where they live.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

#### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 183, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019* without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 183 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?



**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 183 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 183 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

#### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Ms. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 184, *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister's requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 184 and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 184 — *The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Consequential Amendments Act, 2019/Loi de 2019 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Fisheries (Saskatchewan) Act, 2019*

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

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 184 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the Assembly now adjourn. Pleasure of the Assembly to adopt his motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:08.]



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