



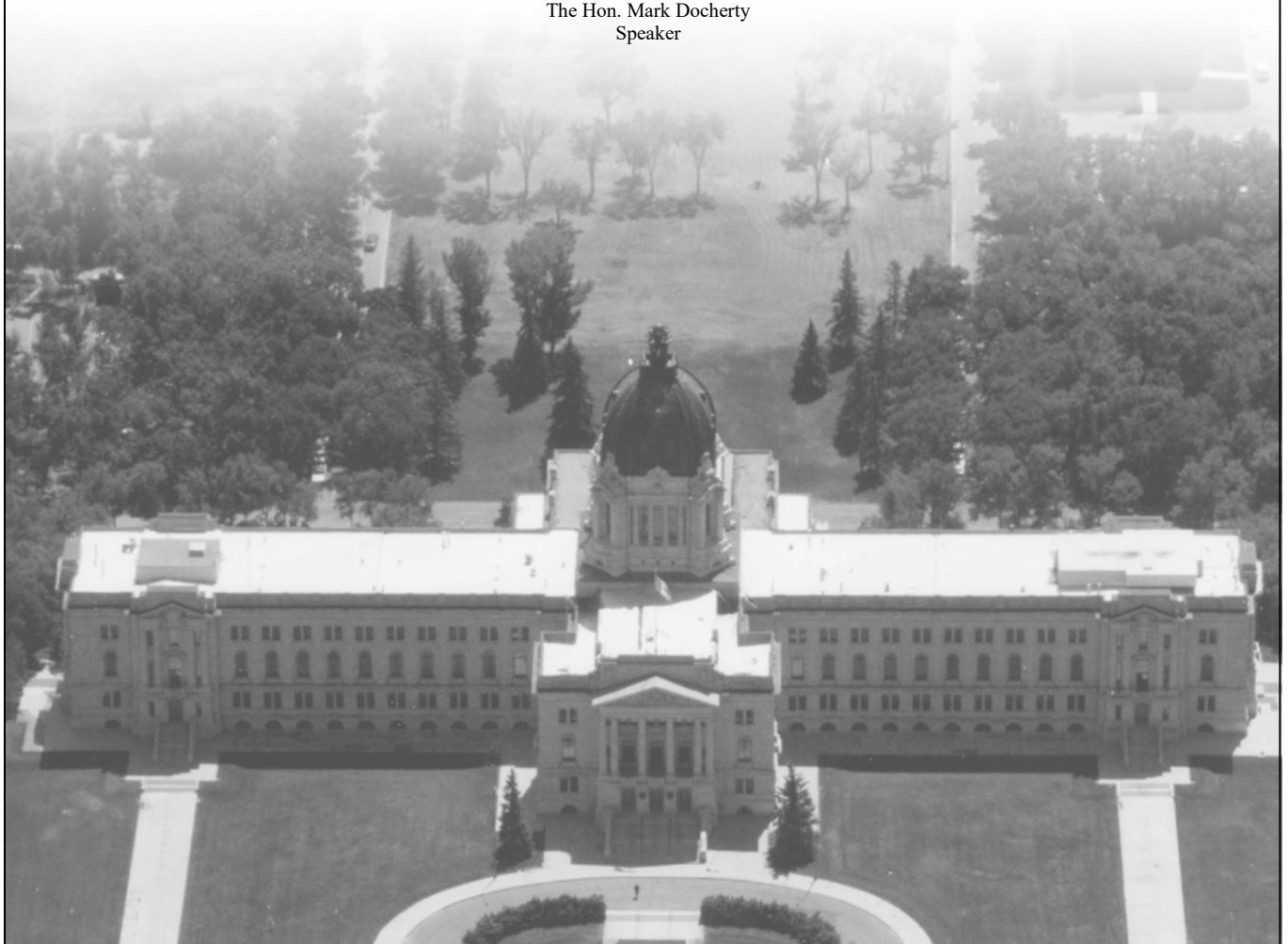
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

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Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Vacant — Saskatoon Eastview

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

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 a useless, ill-advised carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, under the pretense that it's something more than what it really is, which is just another job-killing, opportunity-robbing tax.

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 Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Wakaw Student Earns Full Scholarship From Rodeo Association

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize an exceptional student from my constituency, Hannah Gaudry. Hannah, who is a graduate of Wakaw School, received a full scholarship from the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and will attend Eastern New Mexico University.

Mr. Speaker, Hannah has been a rodeo rider for eight years now and has been part of the Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association for six years, competing at the national level. In 2019 Hannah began handing out portfolios filled with her academic and rodeo accomplishments. She handed them out to coaches and scouts in Wyoming at a roping event. Later in that year, she was in Las Vegas where she was then approached and offered a tour with the New Mexico University. Her scholarship, which will cover the entirety of her education, was finalized this March.

Mr. Speaker, when she attends university in New Mexico, she will be focusing on a biology education and touring in Texas for the rodeo. When she returns to Canada, she plans to go to medical school. Hannah is very hard working, Mr. Speaker, and has inspired many in our community.

I now ask all members to join me in congratulating Hannah Gaudry on her scholarship and wish her well in her education and rodeo career. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Meewasin.

Support for a Saskatchewan Film Tax Credit

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party wiped out Saskatchewan's film industry with the stroke of a pen when they eliminated the film tax credit. This short-sighted move cost us hundreds of jobs, millions of dollars in economic spinoffs, and forced many of Saskatchewan's bright, creative minds to leave the province.

According to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, in a report the Sask Party tried to bury, the film tax credit paid for itself 44 times over, turning a million-dollar-per-year investment into a net economic benefit of \$44.5 million a year to our province, Mr. Speaker.

We're now the only province in western Canada without a tax credit. BC [British Columbia], Alberta, and Manitoba have seen their film industries thrive, while in Saskatchewan, our once-vibrant industry has been ruined. To date, of the thousands of people who kick-started Saskatchewan's film industry in the 1990s, only a few dozen remain. And while our neighbours to the east and west reap record-breaking filmmaking production volumes, Saskatchewan has been left in the dust.

I want to thank people like Alyson Ford, who have worked tirelessly to support this industry and have recently launched a petition calling for the return of the film tax credit which, as of this morning, has over 3,600 signatures. It's time to reverse this failed and damaging cut by bringing in a new film tax credit. We can support Saskatchewan filmmakers, tell Saskatchewan stories, create jobs, and grow the economy with a thriving creative industry.

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

Indian Head Bakery Delivers Meals and Spreads Kindness

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a brighter note, the staff of the Indian Head Bakery were saddened to hear that they had to close their storefront due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop them from connecting with their community each day. In addition to their pickup and delivery service, the owners of the bakery, Lisa and Bart Horsman, along with their daughter and son, Kate and Chance, and Melanie Monaghan, came up with a creative way for customers to share a meal while still being apart.

They created the High Five campaign, allowing customers to donate a lunch to a friend or a loved one for just \$5. Many people who received a meal even turned around and returned the favour by donating back to say thanks. In fact, Mr. Speaker, donations rolled in from Alberta to Manitoba in denominations from \$20 to \$1,500 by a local farmer. As the donations rolled in, lunches rolled out — anywhere from 120 to 150 lunches a day, Mr. Speaker.

The bakery hasn't gone without being noticed. Today I found out from the bakery that they have been nominated for a provincial ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] award. They were also nominated, and received, the Conexus Kindness campaign fund for \$5,000. Bart, the owner, in true form, divided that into

10 different envelopes — one for each employee.

Mr. Speaker, I know all members want to join me in thanking Melanie Monaghan and the Horsmans for going above and beyond for their community. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Resumption of In-Classroom Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budget introduced last week failed in so many ways to meet the needs of Saskatchewan during this time of COVID-19 and in the years to come. In particular, in education we saw per-student numbers falling once again, Mr. Speaker, and school divisions and teachers rightly concerned about the threat of future cuts if this government is re-elected, especially when this government will not be clear about their plans.

Mr. Speaker, we also see this in the wholly inadequate guidelines released by the Minister of Education for the return to school in September. Families and teachers are excited to get kids back to school in September, but they want to see a real plan. Mr. Speaker, a loose set of guidelines with no funding attached is not a plan. This budget should have accounted for those costs. To the Premier: will he direct his Minister of Education to show his work and commit to adequate funding for our schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we speak, there is the education response planning team that has been assembled by this Minister of Education. They're working together, being represented from all sectors from the education sector, Mr. Speaker, including the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, including, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. They're working on precisely what school can look like this fall, Mr. Speaker.

It is the intent of this government that children will be, our students will be able to return to our schools this fall, Mr. Speaker. There has been an increase to the education budget of about 2.4 per cent this year, again making it the largest education budget in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker, a budget that we are very proud of that is investing in our students, Mr. Speaker. It's investing most notably in the facilities in which those students attend in, Mr. Speaker. And we are undertaking the hard work to ensure that they can return safely to class this fall.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This budget failed to keep up with enrolment. We've got falling per-student funding numbers. It's done nothing to identify the widely identified problem of overcrowded classrooms and complex classrooms. And, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing in here to deal with the challenges and additional funding that will be required to operate schools safely in the time of COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. And "we'll see" is not a good enough answer.

Yesterday we learned that Manitoba is making a more detailed plan. They've added a plan with three scenarios: a scenario for in-class learning with near normal conditions, in-class learning taking additional public health measures into consideration, and remote learning from home with limited use of school facilities. This is consistent with what's been worked on in Alberta and other jurisdictions across Canada.

This government likes to suggest that anyone who raises concerns over these plans are fearmongering. Mr. Speaker, does the Premier think that the Premier of Alberta and the Premier of Manitoba are fearmongering when they plan for all outcomes and not just the best case scenario?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — No, Mr. Speaker, I do not. I think the one that is fearmongering is the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, he is actively attempting to create panic and fear among the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

There is investment that is going into our education sector of 2.4 per cent this year, Mr. Speaker. There's work going on with respect to classroom composition. There's work going on with our sector partners with respect to a return to school policy, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to other provinces in this nation, Mr. Speaker, both British Columbia and Quebec have allowed for their children to return to school this spring already, Mr. Speaker. And in the case of Manitoba, they have put together some guidelines as their children are returning to school this June.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fear that we identify is out there among parents and teachers who are raising this issue over and over again, Mr. Speaker. And it's not just us. A CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] survey said that only 18 per cent of families are ready to send their kids back to school . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . They're chuckling because it's the CBC. They don't think that's a real outlet, apparently. But that survey showed that 18 per cent of parents, only 18 per cent feel ready to send their kids back. And when it comes to the plan that's been put in front of them, they have received . . . The parents and teachers of this province are giving this government a failing grade, Mr. Speaker.

Listen, my son's excited to go back to school in September. I'm excited to send him back to school in September. Believe me, I want him to go back to school in September. But I want to be sure, as do parents across the province, that it's safe. And these inadequate guidelines don't get us there. Doesn't our province, don't our students and our teachers deserve the same forethought and planning that Alberta and Manitoba have put in place with their multiple scenarios?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there's one thing we agree on here is we're going to provide the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to send his children back to school this fall, Mr. Speaker. And we are doing the hard work with our partners in the

educational sector to ensure that that can be done safely, Mr. Speaker. That work is undergoing, as I've said. We're working with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the Ministry of Education, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, Mr. Speaker.

I would also say that that work is funded adequately, Mr. Speaker, with \$2.57 billion going into our Ministry of Education this particular year, Mr. Speaker. 1.94 billion of those dollars is going to flow through to our school divisions to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that they'll be able to return to school this fall, to ensure that our teachers can be in the classroom, Mr. Speaker, and to ensure we are doing the heavy lifting now, the work to ensure that they can do so safely, as safely as possible, as safely as anywhere in Canada.

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

Reporting on Conditions in Long-Term Care Facilities

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're all hoping for. We haven't seen them come anywhere close yet.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received an email from a health care worker here in Saskatchewan raising very serious concerns. This same email went to the Premier and went to the Minister of Health. Now we know with the history of this government — when folks raised issues in Oliver Lodge, someone lost their job; we saw the hush memo to physicians a little over a year ago, Mr. Speaker — that this government likes to make sure their health care workers don't speak out.

So my question to the Premier is, can he assure this House that a health employee sounding the alarm about quality of care in Saskatchewan will face no repercussions from this government or the Health Authority?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've discussed this on the floor of the Assembly many times, Mr. Speaker. We made changes to regulations last fall to protect health care workers under whistle-blower legislation, Mr. Speaker. Officials tell me that they're working right now on legislation for protection, specifically for all those in the health care field. The intent is to introduce that next fall.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the concern is that the member opposite is raising. I remember when he was a health care worker, Mr. Speaker, and I met with him, and I think he had no concerns about raising issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear all the time from front-line health care workers who are afraid to speak up for fear of retribution from this government. That's the reality of the culture they've created.

Mr. Speaker, in this email, the nurse we're discussing is pleading for help. The heat in the Last Mountain Pioneer Home in

Strasbourg is unbearable. And despite having gone through OH & S [occupational health and safety] and, in her words, "every other road you can imagine" to get the facility's necessary electrical upgrades, she's gotten nowhere. I'll quote. She says here, Mr. Speaker:

Year after year we collect data to prove that the heat is an issue, and year after year we hear the same story. Maybe this year we'll install . . . Maybe this year we'll get . . .

Mr. Speaker, she describes risks of dehydration, of serious skin issues, of behavioural challenges that are worsened by the intense heat, and the impact on those seniors who can no longer speak up to raise concerns for themselves. She's fed up, and rightly so.

It's supposed to be 30 degrees in Strasbourg today. What's that going to feel like in the Last Mountain Pioneer Home? In her words, "We don't need it this year. We need it now." Can the Premier commit to fixing the heat in Strasbourg today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen the email yet that the Leader of the Opposition raises. I certainly will, Mr. Speaker, and there will be not an issue with the health care worker raising that issue, Mr. Speaker.

We've spent a great deal of money on capital in the time that we've been in government, Mr. Speaker. It's on the record many times, the capital projects that have went forward — long-term care facilities, health care facilities, hospitals, Mr. Speaker. We are also in the process of announcing a number of maintenance projects around the province, Mr. Speaker. You'll see a number of announcements coming in the very near future on that, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime, I'd be happy to look into the issue that the Leader of the Opposition raises.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This email was sent a couple of days ago to the minister, the Premier, and the local MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I've actually visited this seniors' home in Strasbourg, Mr. Speaker, and heard directly from folks there about understaffing and about the facility issues there. The same kind of stories we hear all over the province, and yet this Premier has stood up and said that there are no problems in long-term care, Mr. Speaker.

This is not an isolated incident. Families, front-line staff, health care representatives, and even Sask Party MLAs have been sounding the alarm about crumbling and unsafe care in long-term care for years. The nurse we're discussing writes, Mr. Speaker, "Gentlemen, I'm going to be blunt. Enough is enough. Our staff and residents cannot be subject to this brutality." Brutality, Mr. Speaker.

This government has neglected the needs of seniors in long-term care for far too long, and health professionals shouldn't have to scream from the rooftops and risk retribution from a vindictive government just to make sure that the seniors they're caring for get adequate care. How many other long-term care homes have pleaded for help to deal with critical facility issues? And will the Premier stand up and say that the issues in Strasbourg will be

addressed today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully disagree with the Leader of the Opposition on this issue. Mr. Speaker, it's been well documented. We built, I think it's 13 long-term care facilities, with more under way, Mr. Speaker. Meadow Lake, just the other day the Minister of Rural and Remote Health announced . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked me if I'd been visiting these places. Yes I have, Mr. Speaker, and I've had family in long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker.

I don't recall many long-term care facilities being built under the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker, but they are being built under this government. Mr. Speaker, in fact just lately, just a few weeks ago the Minister of Rural and Remote Health announced that there is two more being added to the list of facilities being built. Mr. Speaker, that's in Grenfell and in La Ronge, Mr. Speaker. It would be interesting to see what the member from Cumberland does on that vote, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that we inherited a massive capital shortfall, Mr. Speaker. We're building many, many facilities and that's going to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The most recent CEO [chief executive officer] tour report for the facility in Strasbourg mentions understaffing, but there is zero mention of the heating and cooling problems there. This is just one example of how these non-independent reports are not telling us the whole truth.

The minister has said the Ombudsman can investigate long-term care, but the minister has the power to call for that investigation. Will he direct the Ombudsman today to do a full investigation and ensure she has resources necessary to put an independent and complete eye on the mess in long-term care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I would remind the members opposite that it was this government that initiated the CEO tours so that families and residents had an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns they did with senior management. Originally, Mr. Speaker, it was with the individual health authorities. Since the amalgamation, it's with senior management and Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Mr. Speaker, we rely on the CEO tour report. We rely on Accreditation Canada. We rely on surveys that we do, Mr. Speaker. And to get to the point of the member opposite's question, Mr. Speaker, that's an independent officer of this legislature. If they so choose to do an investigation, we would co-operate fully.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, there is no independence in those

CEO tour reports. And the reality is those tour reports don't reflect what is going on in our long-term care homes. You just need to visit and talk to staff to see that what's written in those reports does not indicate what's really going on, or is just a small fraction of the picture.

Mr. Speaker, everyone but this government is sounding the long-term care alarm. Instead, they are choosing to turn a blind eye to these very crucial issues and ignore their unfulfilled election promise in 2016 to increase staffing levels. Operators of affiliate care homes told media last week, this government isn't providing them enough funding to keep pace with the growing medical needs of seniors. The executive director of Mont St. Joseph in Prince Albert told Postmedia they have been "hollering from the highest tree tops" to get more funding to provide the care the seniors need. He says he won't be able to meet the COVID-19 protocols without extra funds.

There are ongoing disasters in long-term care homes in every corner of this province, and this budget does nothing to address these concerns. When will they finally show leadership and adequately fund long-term care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, first of all the member opposite referred to . . . I can't remember the wording she used, but basically a disaster across the country in long-term care. I think she's referring to the COVID situation, Mr. Speaker. Largely because of protocols that have been put in place and actions that have been taken, luckily that hasn't had a significant impact in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, but we need to be cautious. We need to be careful moving forward on that.

Mr. Speaker, to the question about the person from St. Joseph's in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker, I've met with Brian Martin on a number of occasions, Mr. Speaker, and generally the topic revolves around amount of staffing, how much staffing is available, Mr. Speaker. We recognize that there's ongoing conversations that need to happen with that, Mr. Speaker, but I would remind everyone that under this government that there's 700 more long-term care workers in that profession, Mr. Speaker, across the piece — care aids, LPNs [licensed practical nurse], RNs [registered nurse], Mr. Speaker.

We know we've got more work to do, Mr. Speaker, but we're committed to looking after our seniors in this province.

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

Development in Wascana Park

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people were probably surprised to learn there was anywhere in Saskatchewan where you could lease prime lakeside land for a dollar a year. But I guess if you know someone who knows someone, anything is possible.

Turns out it's possible if you're a big Sask Party donor, and you want to build on public land in Wascana Park. And we can see in returns released last week that those same insiders donated over \$10,000 to the Sask Party last year. Another example of this

government letting the wealthy and well-connected get ahead while everyone else struggles.

Will this government reverse their takeover of the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission] board so we don't see this kind of pay-to-play in our park ever again?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. I guess I'll start at the beginning. The project, the lease that she's talking about for a dollar a year, was started in 1955, and it was actually started under their government for this organization. So I think it's important to know that the lease is with the CNIB, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and we renewed that lease for them. And now they're in the process of developing this project.

And they talk about the board. The board actually is a representation of the money that is funded within that organization. Three members from the Government of Saskatchewan, one member from the city of Regina, and one member from the University of Regina. It's proportionate, and so we will continue on with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I know this line of questioning is very uncomfortable for this government, considering they tried to shut me down on these questions in committee earlier this week.

Mr. Speaker, Wascana is the jewel of our city. My constituency captures neighbourhoods along the shores of the lake, and the people I represent want it preserved — something the Regina members on that side of the House don't seem to care about. From what I got from the minister Tuesday, this is an "independent project" and that's why she says she's "not privy to the types of discussions" regarding size, scope, and feasibility of building.

Does that minister from Estevan and all of those Regina Sask Party MLAs really have no interest in upholding the master plan of Wascana Park?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And once again I thank the member opposite for the question. Wascana Centre does have a master plan that she notes. It's been in place since 1913 and it guides the development within the park. This plan originally called for more commercial entities within the park than we see today.

Some of the commercial entities that we actually see there is the Willow, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind which we're talking about today, the CBC. It's got several different organizations which are already there. So these businesses are very good stewards of our park and they take care of the buildings that are there and they fit in that park, Mr. Speaker.

Any decisions on whether or not to proceed is a collective decision from the board, and anything that will come forward through the process that is happening right now with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. And we look forward to the results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Access to High-Speed Internet in Rural Areas

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. High-speed internet is absolutely essential in the 21st century. It's vital for farmers. It's vital for rural businesses. It's vital for everyone, especially in the middle of a pandemic. But there's nothing new in this budget for rural communities that need improved access to high-speed internet. This is a government that's letting rural people down. They're taking them for granted.

Does the Sask Party agree that high-speed internet should be accessible to all Saskatchewan people? And why didn't the Sask Party make that important investment in this budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the member opposite . . . and I'm pleased to have this discussion because I think it's something important for the citizens of our province to know. Right now SaskTel covers 99 per cent of the province with wireless and with internet. There are over 900 cell towers in the province. There are also more towers in the North than anywhere else. There's 175 in the North and there's more towers coming all the time.

SaskTel is wanting to partner with rural Saskatchewan-based internet service providers. They're working on formal agreements with some of those people. They want to continue to have that expansion, and since September of 2019 they've announced 15 new 107-metre macro towers that triple the coverage area of the small sites. There are seven towers of those that are in service now. The remaining eight will be in service through the summer and fall of 2020.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking in the range of well over 900 towers across this province. Communities that will be included in some of this expansion will include not just Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert — the major centres — but Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, the Battlefords . . .

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

AgriStability Program

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to see the minister tell rural people to their face that their high-speed internet coverage is enough.

Mr. Speaker, farmers are looking to this government to deliver on high-speed internet, but they're also looking for better supports when it comes to AgriStability, especially given the challenges of these last two seasons.

Farm groups have been raising the alarm that the current program

just isn't working for Saskatchewan farmers. Now BC and PEI [Prince Edward Island] have stepped up to support their farmers, but the Sask Party is missing in action. In fact, they're spending roughly half of what they did last year.

[10:30]

The minister has confirmed that it would only take \$20 million to remove the reference margin limits in AgriStability. So why won't the Sask Party step up to the plate, invest the dollars needed to fix AgriStability, and support the farmers of this province when they need help?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Agriculture is the backbone to the economy in this province — always has been and always will be. On AgriStability, the provincial ministers have met with the federal minister. We have put an offer on the table to the federal minister, through the pandemic period to the end of the program year which is 2023, that the federal government would fund at 90 per cent and the provinces at 10 per cent.

The federal minister has denied that offer but has come back to the table with absolutely nothing. I raised it on the call this week earlier with the federal minister that we would like to see some offer come forward from the federal government on AgriStability on some program mechanism, Mr. Speaker. That's where the program is at now. If any changes have to come to AgriStability, Mr. Speaker, the member knows full well you need 7 out of 10 provinces to make any changes to the program.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well that this government can do the things in its power and they can make these changes and they can invest in AgriStability on their own.

Mr. Speaker, the farmers of this province just finished, in the last month or two, finished the harvest of last year because it was such a terrible year. Before that we've got pricing challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the farmers of this province are voting with their feet. They're saying that the AgriStability program isn't good enough the way it is. It needs dollars. The minister said \$20 million. So why won't the Sask Party step up to the plate and, again, invest the dollars to fix AgriStability and support the farmers of this province when they need the help? Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you why. It's because they're taking them for granted.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it ironic that the member opposite is even talking agriculture. For 17 years they did nothing for agriculture in this province, Mr. Speaker. They closed 31 rural service centres, Mr. Speaker. They cut services, Mr. Speaker, to the agricultural community. And if they were so dedicated to the agriculture and are so concerned about it, why are they supporting their carbon tax, Mr. Speaker? If there's an industry that's impacted by the carbon tax in this province, it's the agriculture industry, Mr. Speaker.

And I must say, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite should know better than to say that. And I will quote him in committee, Mr. Speaker, if I can. I've got to find his quote. He said, Mr. Speaker, to the effect that — not verbatim — saying that, what's a thousand dollars to a farmer if he's paying it for fuel or if he's paying it for something else or if it's a carbon tax?

Mr. Speaker, there isn't a farmer out there that'll spend a thousand dollars on absolutely nothing and get nothing for it. And that's what the carbon tax does for the farmers, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 199, *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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. 199 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. 199 — *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act*

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — 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. 199 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 Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 201, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2019*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 201 and the bill be now read a third time. Leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 201 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2019/Loi modificative de 2019 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 201 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — All in favour of the motion, say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All opposed to the motion say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Recorded division has been requested.

[The division bells rang from 10:37 until 10:51.]

The Speaker: — Okay, the question before the Assembly is a third reading motion on Bill No. 201. Those in favour of the motion. I recognize the Government Whip.

[Yeas — 44]

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The following members are in favour of the motion:

Moe	Beaudry-Mellor	Bonk
Bradshaw	Buckingham	Carr
Cheveldayoff	Cox	D'Autremont
Dennis	Doke	Duncan
Eyre	Fiaz	Francis
Goudy	Hargrave	Harpauer
Harrison	Hart	Heppner
Hindley	Kaeding	Kirsch
Lambert	Lawrence	Makowsky
Marit	McMorris	Merriman
Michelson	Morgan	Nerlien
Olauson	Ottenbreit	Reiter
Ross	Steele	Stewart
Tell	Weekes	Wilson
Wyant	Young	

The total number of members in favour of the motion is 44.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion. I recognize the Deputy Opposition Whip.

[Nays — 13]

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition members who are opposed to this motion are as follows:

Meili	Beck	Belanger
Chartier	Forbes	McCall
Mowat	Pedersen	Rancourt
Sarauer	Sproule	Vermette
Wotherspoon		

The total members who are opposed to this motion are 13.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion 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 Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 197, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in

Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the minister.

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 197 and 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. 197 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2019*

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — 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. 197 be now read a 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 Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 198, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 198 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. 198 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2019*

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — 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. 198 be now read a 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 Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its eighth report. I move:

The eighth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies now be concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the eighth report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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. I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 10:57.]

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Premier

President of the Executive Council

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Minister of Advanced Education

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Lori Carr

Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Provincial
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Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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