



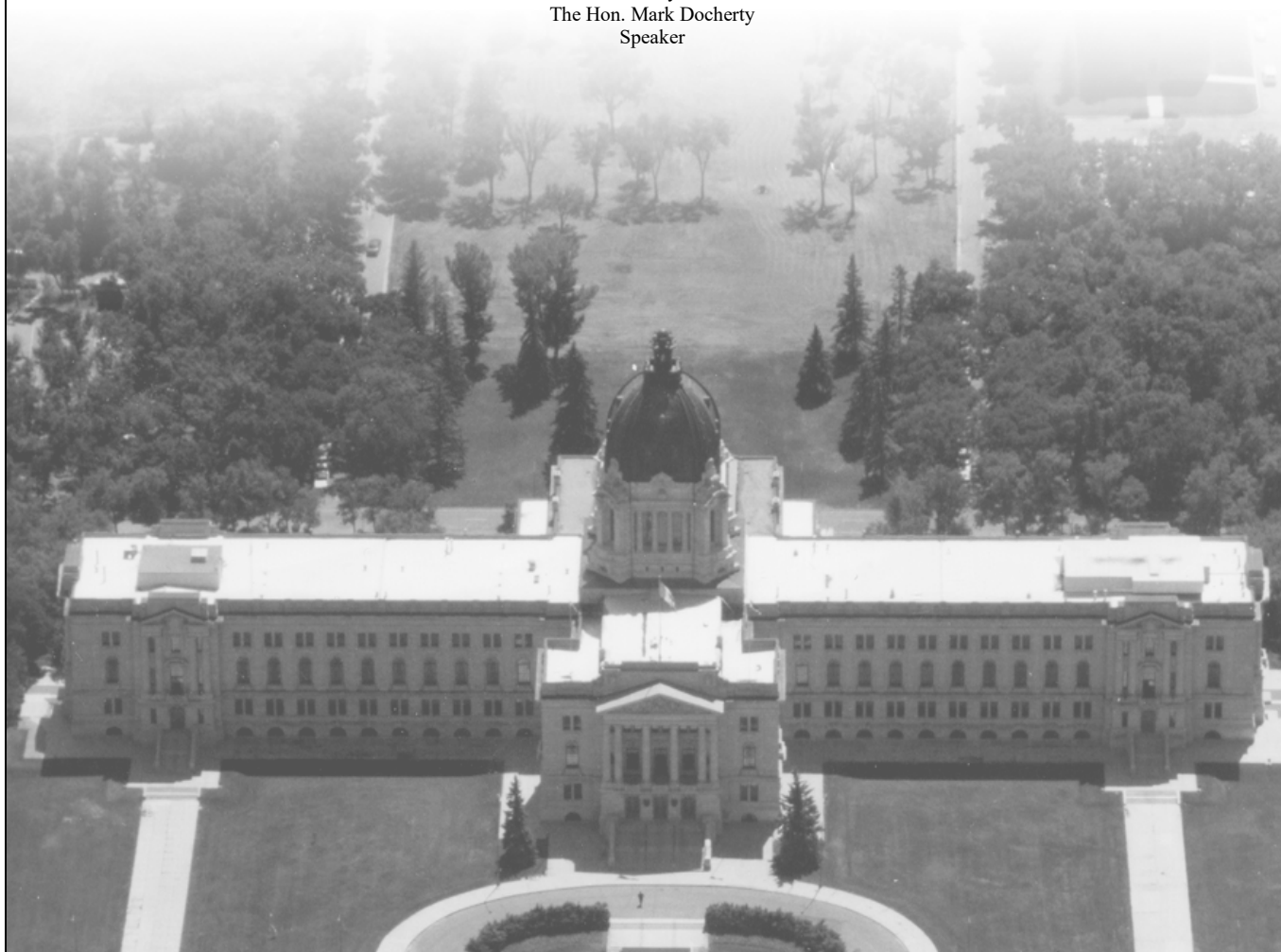
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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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Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I'd like to table the 2019-2020 Information and Privacy Commissioner annual report:

Pursuant to section 62 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; section 52, *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; and section 60 of *The Health Information Protection Act*, I am submitting three copies of my 2019-2020 annual report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 29th, 2020, pursuant to the letter of June 2nd, 2020.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Care Centre Goes Above and Beyond for Elders

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to recognize an exceptional care centre in Saskatoon University, Sherbrooke Community Centre. Each week the members of the community would virtually gather for their favourite weekly events like the church service, Friday concerts with Wes, or The Don Show.

They were able to stay connected through iPads and laptops which were generously donated by businesses in Saskatoon. This means the residents choose ways to bring joy into their lives and the staff are there to support them in any way they can. Each neighbourhood is unique and is fit for their personal style. They also kept active and fit through the establishment of home gyms and green spaces that the staff created to ensure they were getting enough fresh air while being able to socially distance.

Mr. Speaker, the community's artist in residence, Alana Moore, also came up with a creative way to stay connected during what could have been a lonely time. She encouraged elders to contribute to their very own magazine, chronicling their pandemic experiences.

Mr. Speaker, Sherbrooke isn't just a resident-centred community, but a resident-directed community. There's also a veterans' village, where the women and men who have served our country are able to live and socialize with the dignity they deserve.

I now ask all members to join me in thanking the Sherbrooke Community Centre staff for going above and beyond for their elders.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government's Grade on Education

Ms. Beck: — For years the Sask Party has continued to let down our teachers and school-based staff, our children, and their families. Our schools have huge maintenance deficits. Classrooms are crowded and complex and per-student funding has dropped year after year. Mr. Speaker, this was all before a global pandemic upended education as we know it. Family, students, staff, and teachers have gone the extra mile in the last several months to ensure that the best was made of these challenging times. For these efforts, we are truly grateful.

But for schools to be able to respond and adapt to the challenges that fall will bring, this government should have put in place clear, funded guidelines and a plan for more than just the best-case scenario. Instead, in true Sask Party fashion, we've got vague announcements, no real consultation, and not an extra dime for education.

For the new education budget to be a complete copy and paste of the pre-pandemic budget, one that failed to cover the cost of basic growth and inflation, is irresponsible. The NDP [New Democratic Party] has heard concerns from countless teachers and families, and this government needs to get back to work and provide a real plan for a September return to school. Teachers were already overstretched with classrooms overflowing without the added challenges that COVID-19 will present.

Teachers, school-based staff, families, and members on this side of the House give the Sask Party's plan for education a failing grade.

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

Alone Together Greeting Cards

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The phrase "alone together" is one that we've heard over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. As people work to stay physically distanced, we still can maintain a sense of community. One woman from Harris, Saskatchewan has taken that phrase to a whole new level.

Mr. Speaker, before COVID-19, Kathleen would serve the community by providing coffee to the retirees at the New Horizons Centre. Once physical distancing measures came into place, Kathleen knew she had to find another way to support her community. Mr. Speaker, Kathleen drew upon her experience of designing greeting cards to create a personalized card for every household in Harris. She spent over 400 hours designing 120 personalized cards with a handwritten note that reads:

Dear Friend,

What difficult, uncertain times we are in. It's hard for all of us. Really hard. Thank you to everyone for keeping Harris free of COVID-19.

No one knows for how long, but if we hang in there we will get through this.

ALONE TOGETHER!

Stay safe,

Kathleen.

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen's dedication to making her community a better place is the epitome of the Saskatchewan spirit, and I ask all members to join me in thanking Kathleen Ritchie for making Saskatchewan a better place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Budget

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to be here today although I know the Premier didn't want to. He didn't want to be in the legislature this month. He didn't want to present a budget. He wanted to coast until the election with no scrutiny and no accountability. That was their plan.

But Saskatchewan people demanded more. They demanded a real budget. Unfortunately they didn't get one, Mr. Speaker. What we got instead was the same old Sask Party playbook: a failure to invest in people; failure to address the understaffing in long-term care, failure to fund a proper plan to make sure our schools are safe in September; a failure to support the families and businesses who have stepped up in so many ways during COVID-19 but have been left behind by this government, Mr. Speaker.

In the 10 question periods since we started this session, Mr. Speaker, the Premier and the cabinet have pointed 13 times to the same contingency fund. They're spending the same dollars over and over again. A pre-election slush fund is not a plan, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Premier stop this shell game? Will he be honest with Saskatchewan people, present real projections, present a real plan for a recovery that puts people first?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the budget that we introduced here now two weeks ago today, there was much of that budget that was similar to the spending initiatives that we had put forward back when the legislature closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Speaker. But there are significant additions in this budget for us to deal with not only the health care delivery that we have ahead of us but to ensure that the businesses, the jobs, the way of life that we have here in Saskatchewan can continue.

And I would point to \$50 million being put into the small-business emergent payment program, Mr. Speaker, where small businesses have been to repeatedly apply and receive \$5,000 during a time when they were required to be closed. The \$2 million for the self-isolation program, Mr. Speaker, essentially ensuring that individuals do not have to attend work if they're feeling under the weather to ensure that if they do have COVID-19 that they aren't spreading it to their co-workers.

We have partnered with the federal government on the temporary wage supplement as well as a number of other initiatives around rent supports, Mr. Speaker. I've been working weekly with the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and all of the other premiers across this nation to ensure that these initiatives are as effective as they can be, Mr. Speaker.

And we've put an additional \$2 billion into infrastructure here in the province to foster the recovery that we know is possible, Mr. Speaker, and . . . [inaudible] . . . every intent for us. And we have faith in the economy and the people of this province that we will recover and grow, not only back to where we were pre COVID, Mr. Speaker, but continue to grow beyond that.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This spring the Premier wanted to hide from the Assembly. Now he's hiding behind a slush fund for this year. Next year? Year after? He's just plain hiding. No projections, no indication what this Premier plans to cut, what he plans to sell to try to get back to balance, Mr. Speaker.

This is not an extraordinary request. These are the basics. Will the Premier commit to releasing the standard projections for revenue and expenditure? That is the question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier commit to releasing those numbers, or will he just be telling the Saskatchewan people that they have to accept that they're not getting a truthful budget, they're not getting an honest picture of our province's finances?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is the first jurisdiction to move forward with introducing and what we feel will be passing a budget in the nation of Canada post COVID, accounting for not only our health care costs but also our supports for individuals, businesses, and the broader economy in our province, thereby enhancing the Canadian economy. First jurisdiction in Canada to come forward with the full accounting of what those costs are, Mr. Speaker.

I guess the Leader of the Opposition, I would ask him if he's aware of any other jurisdiction or the national government that has come forward with anything near the budget that has been introduced in this House, including all of the COVID supports that we had put in place, Mr. Speaker. Or would he commit to coming forward with the cost of his recycled plan, his cut-and-paste plan, Mr. Speaker?

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

Third Party Liquor Warehousing

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government hid the numbers and hid the cuts before the last election and they're hiding the numbers before the next election. It's the same old Sask Party playbook.

And when it comes to Crowns, the playbook is to say one thing and do another, Mr. Speaker. Take SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], for example. This government says their current bill only applies to warehousing and distribution of

specialty liquor. But the legislation tells the true story, Mr. Speaker. It's all up for grabs. It's all up for grabs, Mr. Speaker, and the Premier hasn't been shy. He hasn't shy about leaving the door open to selling off more Crowns, to cutting more in health care and education, to bringing in more health care privatization, Mr. Speaker. It looks like SLGA will be the first to go, but mark my words: more will follow.

Mr. Speaker, will this Premier release his true plans? Will he tell us what he really plans to cut and sell off? Or will he admit that this budget is nothing but smoke and mirrors, a distraction to try to save the hard questions until after the election?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, a lot in that question. He mentioned SLGA. What we see once again — we're getting close to the election — it's the same old NDP with the fearmongering and scare tactics, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we've been using private warehouses in Saskatchewan for decades and that has worked well. Every other province in Western Canada does what we are proposing here, and last time I checked, Mr. Speaker, the sun is still rising in the east in our country.

You know, we currently rely on those warehouses in those other provinces to supply us with specialty products. The downside of that, Mr. Speaker, it takes a very long time. It's on their schedule. What this proposes to do is bring those products within Saskatchewan, allow that to take place, you know, and this will complement the distribution centre, Mr. Speaker, and keep jobs right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is a few of the members opposite are on board with this. As a matter of fact the member from Riversdale said, "I think it's a good idea to establish the opportunity to create those jobs here in Saskatchewan instead of relying on out-of-province warehouses for those specialty orders." Mr. Speaker, we agree with that. That's what we're doing here. You know, we're going to keep jobs . . .

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

Provincial Economy

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2017 with numbers nowhere near as bad as what we see under this government today, they doubled the PST [provincial sales tax]. They cut health care. They cut education. They cut social services, Mr. Speaker. They killed off STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] and they rolled out the red carpet for potential buyers of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] and SaskTel.

Today with our finances in a disaster, Mr. Speaker, they won't reveal their standard projections for revenue and expenditure. Mr. Speaker, these are the basics. They won't say which fees and taxes they'll be raising. They won't say which jobs and wages they'll be cutting. They won't say which Crowns they'll be selling. They won't say which services they're ending, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

Somehow, however, the Minister of Finance can say that she'll balance the budget in three to four years. Mr. Speaker, they've got the destination but they've got no road map and they've got no gas in the tank. Mr. Speaker, will this Premier stop with the spin? Will he level with Saskatchewan people? What will he be taking from them to try to deal with his fiscal mess?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I have said is I have said that we have a solid structure here in Saskatchewan with our finances, that our revenues do surpass our expenses, Mr. Speaker. That is what I have said. I have said that we have the strength in Saskatchewan that we can recover and we can grow. Mr. Speaker, that is what I've said. I have said that we will not be looking at cuts or tax increases, that we will simply grow the economy. That's what I have said, Mr. Speaker.

But what about the members opposite? And I've said that a number of times: the members opposite want to add over a billion dollars in operating costs to the existing budget expenditures, and they have said nothing about how they're going to pay for it, Mr. Speaker. Not one word. They just roll out their old ideas. They put them in a package; they put a bow on it. And they say, look what we're going to do and we don't have to answer for how we're going to pay for it; and we have no plans of ever balancing again, Mr. Speaker. That's what they're going to do.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — And that bow, Mr. Speaker, it's made in Saskatchewan. Let's review some of the facts, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party blew through dollars during the best days, didn't save a dime, piled on debt as they mismanaged project after project, projects like the billion-dollar overrun on the bypass, the scandal that wasted millions out at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub], the carbon capture debacle. Of course I could go on.

And while they did that, they outsourced project after project to out-of-province and out-of-country companies, Mr. Speaker. They left our province and its people vulnerable and exposed, as well as our finances, as we've seen with the latest credit downgrade.

In face of this historic challenge, people deserve honesty from their government. Is this Sask Party government finally willing to show some contrition, some humility, and own up to the fact that it's their choices that hurt our economy, our finances, and left Saskatchewan people vulnerable and exposed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the fact that our debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] is among the strongest in our entire country speaks to the strength of how we've managed finances within this province. The fact that under this government we have a AAA credit rating, which never happened when the NDP were in government, speaks to how we're handling the finances within this particular government. Mr. Speaker, the fact that bank after bank after bank . . . their reviews of our budget and how we are well positioned to recover speaks

well to how we are handling the finances of the province, Mr. Speaker.

But time and time again, the members opposite have just run on fear. They have nothing but that. That is so desperate, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be the fourth election they're going to try to do this. And how has that worked for them, Mr. Speaker? Because they have diminished in numbers and they will not increase with this tactic.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Long before COVID-19, the Sask Party made choices that took the slowing economy and stuck it in recession. And that's clear in the real numbers, unlike the ones that are printed in the Sask Party's so-called budget. The Sask Party built this budget with GDP numbers that are simply wrong, Mr. Speaker. Stats Canada and RBC [Royal Bank of Canada] have already reported in the actual numbers for last year, not forecasts. And the reality is that the Saskatchewan economy experienced the largest contraction in Canada of 0.08 per cent.

This impacts the budget and the forecasted revenues. This information was released by Stats Canada on June 1st, but the Sask Party is still trying to pretend that the economy grew last year with outdated forecasts. The debt-to-GDP, as mentioned by the minister here today? Well that reporting was eliminated altogether this year, and it's increasing by 33 per cent this year alone. And of course they scrapped multi-year planning.

Why wouldn't this Sask Party government build a budget based on reality and the facts instead of political spin and outdated numbers in their status quo plan that leaves us in recession?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite wants to talk about the economy. Let's talk about the economy, and let's talk about how our economy in this province has come through this pandemic as well or better than any other jurisdiction in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. The numbers are, the reality is that we have the second-lowest unemployment rate in the entire country. The numbers are, the reality is that as far as the number of hours worked, Mr. Speaker, we saw the smallest decline in the entirety of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we do have one of the very best economic records in the entirety of Canada. The numbers bear it out. The member quoted some banks, Mr. Speaker. This from Toronto Dominion just last week: "... 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." Mr. Speaker, from the Toronto Dominion Bank of Canada. I'll take their word for it, not his.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's all political games from that minister all the time, Mr. Speaker. The facts speak for themselves. Stats Canada reported the decline of 0.08 per cent, the largest contraction in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Yet the Sask Party wants to hide that and they put growth of 0.4 for last year, which has an

impact on the budget.

Instead of levelling with Saskatchewan people and providing all the information as to the true state of our finances and the economy, of course they've hid that information. They included the wrong numbers in the budget, Mr. Speaker, creating flawed forecasts for the current year.

They scrapped multi-year planning and the fiscal and economic forecasts that accompany that reporting. They said that it's just too uncertain to even model scenarios with potential ranges of impacts for the coming years. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister has said that they actually have a plan to balance in three to four years, all while bringing forward a status quo budget that will leave us in recession. Both things can't be true. Why won't the Finance minister simply level with Saskatchewan people about their plans and about this budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have great faith in the people of this province. We have great faith in the entrepreneurs in this province. We have great faith in the job creators of this province, Mr. Speaker, and they have come through in this pandemic. They have delivered the best economic performance of any jurisdiction in the entire country, Mr. Speaker, an effective unemployment rate the second lowest in Canada outside of Prince Edward Island.

Wholesale trade, April 2020, increased, Mr. Speaker, during the pandemic by 1.6 per cent. Retail sales, the smallest decline of any jurisdiction in Canada. You can go through stat after stat after stat. It shows the same thing, Mr. Speaker. Our job creators, our entrepreneurs, our people, our public have done an incredible job through this pandemic, have delivered the best economic performance of any jurisdiction in the country, Mr. Speaker, and I have great faith in them, not the members opposite.

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

Procurement for Construction Projects

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's clear this government isn't stepping up with a plan for recovery, Mr. Speaker, and in face of this historic economic challenge they've tabled a status quo plan of course that leaves us in recession. Take the construction sector, Mr. Speaker. Just as our economy was slowing down, the Sask Party slammed on the brakes at the worst possible time by adding the PST to construction labour.

And now, of course, it is a time for us to be investing in our hospitals and our schools and our health care infrastructure to put people back to work, but under the Sask Party's failed procurement approach, investing in infrastructure isn't a plan for recovery. It's maybe more of a plan for Kansas City or for Alberta or for Montreal or for Paris, France, Mr. Speaker, but not for Saskatchewan.

There are two things the Sask Party could do in this budget that they've chosen not to. Why won't the Sask Party take the damaging PST off construction labour? And why won't they fire up our economy with a Sask-first procurement plan to get Saskatchewan workers back to work?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, here's the reality. Over the last year, 90 per cent of procurement that has been tendered by executive government, Mr. Speaker, has gone to Saskatchewan companies. Mr. Speaker, this morning I got a report that with respect to Crown corporations over the last year, again over 90 per cent of procurements that could be procured within Saskatchewan went to Saskatchewan residents, Saskatchewan companies.

Mr. Speaker, we've met with a number of representatives from organized labour. The plumbers and pipefitters I met with last week, Mr. Speaker, at the Building Trades, they're very encouraged with the work we're doing in terms of introducing community benefits into our tendering package. The idea of course is to make sure that we're having as many Saskatchewan people, as many Saskatchewan companies working in Saskatchewan to help with the recovery, Mr. Speaker. We began this work in 2014 with our plan to revamp procurement. We continue to make very, very good progress, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to work to make sure that we support the workers and the companies in this province.

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

Support for Film Industry

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Talk is one thing, Mr. Speaker, but where the rubber hits the road you only need to read the *Carlyle Observer* this week to see that the highway upgrade of \$2.4 million is being done by another Alberta contractor.

This budget fails to secure our economic recovery. The only thing this budget has related to jobs is the Sask Party's admission that more than 16,000 people will lose theirs. They're waving the white flag while Saskatchewan workers are being handed a pink slip, Mr. Speaker. That's simply not good enough. Now is the time to get people back to work and get our economy moving again.

Take the film industry, an industry that was killed when this government scrapped the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. Manitoba, BC [British Columbia], and Alberta have all seen massive increases in production and in jobs and in investment, Mr. Speaker. Here in Saskatchewan more than 3,600 people have signed a petition to bring that industry back, Mr. Speaker. At these times of historic challenges, Mr. Speaker, why didn't the Sask Party include anything at all in the budget to help build back the film industry in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. We've been over this subject many, many times and in this budget we were able to keep our funding to Creative Saskatchewan at \$7.3 million. Now that helps the film industry, Mr. Speaker, but all the creative industries here in our province: all the media, all the music, book publishing, visual art, digital interactive, all those sectors. So we think that, along with the Arts Board and the lottery fund, there is quite a bit of funding out there for all the different entities in the creative sector, Mr. Speaker.

In '19-20, Creative Saskatchewan provided 1.6 to 10 projects including *Cagefighter*, Mr. Speaker. That was a big production here in our province. So we see through those investments, there is film production happening in our province, Mr. Speaker. Of course we value balanced budgets here in our province. We have to make tough decisions at some times, Mr. Speaker. We have a grant system with Creative. It's not an open system any longer so that will keep moving forward.

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

Support for Solar Industry

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Speaking of damaging choices, Mr. Speaker, that have hurt our economy and workers and businesses, look no further than last fall when the Sask Party cut the rooftop solar program and decimated the solar industry. This shut down local businesses and put local workers out of their work long before COVID-19. Time and time again, the Sask Party's choices made our economy and our finances even more vulnerable.

We have a world-class solar resource, and it just blows my mind that this budget, at this time as we face this historic challenge, that the Sask Party wouldn't choose to fire up this important industry. Why on earth did the Sask Party choose to not crank up the solar industry, create jobs, create investment, put people back to work?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we certainly are. In this province we're taking advantage of the resource that we do have. SaskPower just announced last week the second of the 10-megawatt utility-scale solar plants to be built in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

That's on top of the work that's being done through the power generation partner program, where for the last two years, and I suspect for a third year, we will invite applicants to submit their solar projects to be built in Saskatchewan where SaskPower, for a price, will purchase that power, Mr. Speaker.

And we do have a program going forward that allows people to generate their own electricity to offset their own use, to have solar panels on their own roof, Mr. Speaker, without passing the cost on to people that cannot afford solar panels or choose not to or are not situated for that. So, Mr. Speaker, we certainly are going to use the resources that we have available, including solar power, in Saskatchewan.

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

Support for Small Businesses

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government isn't getting the pandemic recovery right, and they're failing to support local businesses that are hurting so bad right now, Mr. Speaker. We know that there's thousands of small businesses who need support and whose cash flows were devastated, were denied access to the small-business support program.

Despite announcing \$50 million in this program, this government has only spent half of that. It's not because there weren't businesses that badly needed the help, Mr. Speaker. It's that they didn't qualify under this government's very narrow set of rules that shuts out so many businesses and leaves them high and dry to fall through the cracks, Mr. Speaker.

We've been pushing for this in the community with small businesses in our province, and we've pushed it in committee, but all small businesses have received is nonsense gotcha politics and spin from that minister. It was on full display in the committee the other night. Will this minister finally commit to fix this program to ensure that all small businesses that have had their cash flows devastated get the help they need and deserve to weather this terribly challenging situation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of our entrepreneurs and our job creators and our small-business people in this province. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in earlier questions, because of them we have come through this in a stronger economic position than any other jurisdiction in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the other fact with regard to the small-business emergency program that was referenced, this is the most generous program in the entire country. That's not a debatable or arguable point, Mr. Speaker. They can squawk all they want. The reality is that this program is the most generous, the most open for application of any in the country. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, the best way for businesses to do well is to be in business.

Mr. Speaker, what happened at phase 2 when retail businesses were going to be reopened in this province? I'll tell you what happened. The Leader of the Opposition and the NDP demanded that they stay closed. Demanded that they stay closed. Said they could not open up, Mr. Speaker. We on the other hand felt that these businesses could operate responsibly, could operate safely and, Mr. Speaker, we were right and they were wrong. And because of that, Mr. Speaker, we have seen the best economic performance. We have seen fewer people out of work than other jurisdictions in the country. And we're going to continue to work with our small businesses. We're going to continue to work hard with them and we're going to continue to move forward.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on House Services

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to report that the committee has considered certain estimates and is presenting its 16th report. I move:

That the 16th report of the Standing Committee on House Services be now concurred in.

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

That the 16th report of the Standing Committee on House Services 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 Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to present its fourth report, which reflects the work of the committee for the period October 23rd, 2019 to June 29th, 2020.

I want to give a genuine thanks to Deputy Chair of the committee, the member from Indian Head Milestone; and all members of that committee for their engagement and constructive work. I want to thank the Provincial Auditor for her leadership, her work, and that of her office. And I want to thank all the auditees that are engaged in this important work and that come before us as a committee.

I move:

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

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

That the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 112 to 114.

The Speaker: — Ordered, 112 to 114. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:07.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe

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
Capital Commission

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Central Services

Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Environment

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave

Minister of Crown Investments

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Government Insurance

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of Trade and Export Development

Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Gene Makowsky

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority

Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit

Minister of Agriculture

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman

Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety

Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan

Workers' Compensation Board

Minister Responsible for The Global

Transportation Hub Authority

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Water Security Agency

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Corrections and Policing

Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan

Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Deputy Premier

Minister of Education

Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and

Priority Saskatchewan