



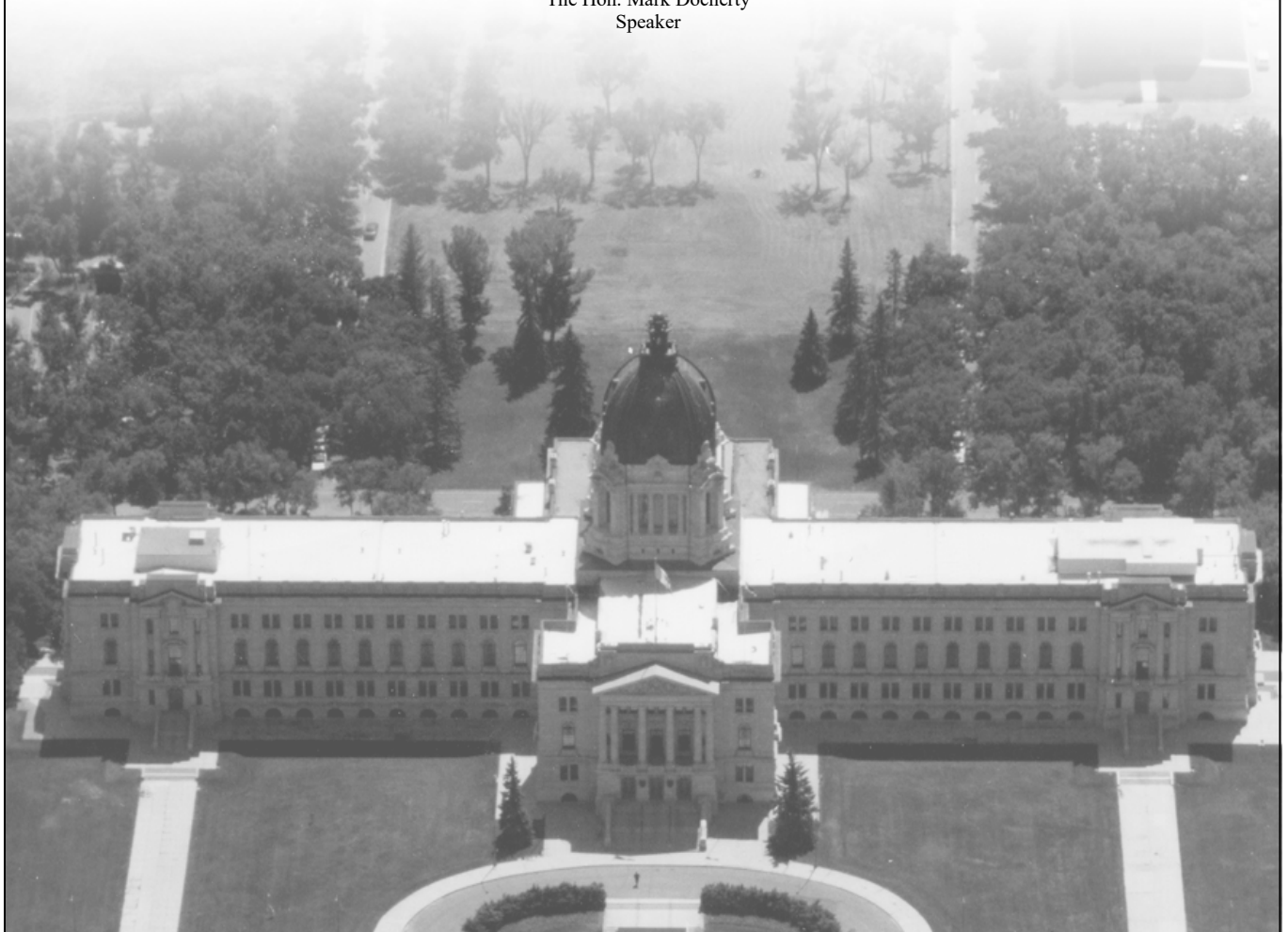
FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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

Beaudry-Mellor , Hon. Tina — Regina University (SP)	Makowsky , Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Beck , Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Marit , Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Belanger , Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)	McCall , Warren — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Bonk , Steven — Moosomin (SP)	McMorris , Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Bradshaw , Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	Meili , Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Brkich , Greg — Arm River (SP)	Merriman , Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Buckingham , David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	Michelson , Warren — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Carr , Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Moe , Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Chartier , Danielle — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)	Morgan , Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Cheveldayoff , Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Mowat , Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Cox , Herb — The Battlefords (SP)	Nerlien , Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
D'Autremont , Dan — Cannington (SP)	Olauson , Eric — Saskatoon University (SP)
Dennis , Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Ottenbreit , Hon. Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Docherty , Hon. Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Pedersen , Yens — Regina Northeast (NDP)
Doke , Larry — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Rancourt , Nicole — Prince Albert Northcote (NDP)
Duncan , Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Reiter , Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Eyre , Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ross , Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Fiaz , Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Sarauer , Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Forbes , David — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)	Sproule , Cathy — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Francis , Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Steele , Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Goudy , Hon. Todd — Melfort (SP)	Stewart , Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Hargrave , Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Tell , Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Harpauer , Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Vermette , Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Harrison , Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Weekes , Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Hart , Glen — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wilson , Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Heppner , Nancy — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Wotherspoon , Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Hindley , Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Wyant , Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Kaeding , Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Kirsch , Delbert — Batoche (SP)	
Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	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 Buriannyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the internet
Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.
<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

Saskatchewan people and our Prairie Resilience plan.

[Prayers]

I'd like to read the prayer:

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Sask Party government to address the lack of support for child care centres in the province. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed the petition wish to draw our attention to the following points: that child care is essential to the economy, yet most centres struggle to balance their budget. This issue threatens both the number of child care spaces and the quality of care.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good citizens of Carrot River, St. Brieux, Tisdale, Arborfield, and Martensville. I do so present.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Mr. Speaker, of course this was before the pandemic. Since then the concerns have only grown more urgent. Quality child care has an enormous positive impact on a child's future outcomes and yields high rates of economic return. Yet, Mr. Speaker, funding for child care centres has been flat and those professionals who work in child care centres toil under appallingly low wages. Child care centres are institutions of early learning and childhood development. It is appropriate that they have the same tax treatment as schools, Mr. Speaker. It's also appropriate that they deserve the level of support that befits their role; this we've seen through this pandemic as essential workers essential to parents, to children, and our economy.

Provincial Budget and Lead-Up to Election

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier doesn't get it. He doesn't get why we're here. When he finally agreed to come back to the legislature, Saskatchewan people expected to see a real plan. Instead, what they got was a cut-and-paste rehash of the same budget that was out of date in March. They tried to squeeze it through then. It didn't make sense then and it certainly doesn't make sense now, especially since he's left out and hid huge pieces of what goes into making a real budget, Mr. Speaker.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan recognize that licensed non-profit child care centres provide programs that are foundational to a healthy society by including them in *The Education Act* and exempting all licensed non-profit child care centres in Saskatchewan from property tax through changes to appropriate legislation.

Now we were flexible. We know the Premier promised to come back for 28 days of assessment of a budget. We said, 14, that's okay. We take this work seriously. We take the current moment seriously, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the Premier is not taking this session seriously. He's not taking his responsibilities to Saskatchewan people seriously. And that's why I've written him today about a return in September to get a real budget, Mr. Speaker, so that we can have a full accounting of the \$200 million contingency fund, and so that we can finally see the projections for revenue and expenditure that this government has chosen to hide, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions have been signed by people right around the province. Those that I am tabling today come from Moose Jaw, Melfort, St. Brieux, Rose Valley, Saskatoon, Milestone, Regina, and Punnichy. I do so present.

Will the Premier commit today to returning in September and presenting a real budget?

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this is a tax that does absolutely nothing to help the environment. It's just a tax. It shackles our industry in Western Canada, from farming to mining to oil extraction. It also affects our lifestyle, increasing costs to take our children to play sports, increasing costs to operate our schools, therefore increasing costs to education.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition is asking for essentially here today is a do-over. Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants a mulligan on this session. There is going to be no do-over here, Mr. Speaker. We have achieved for this session what we set out to achieve. We have passed the legislation that's been in the House. We have introduced and, very shortly, we will be passing a budget, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of this province, the first provincial budget or national budget to be introduced and passed post-COVID, Mr. Speaker, in the nation of Canada.

I know the opposition supports a carbon tax along with their brethren in Ottawa, but really they should be supporting

We're not coming back to the legislature this fall for a debate. We are going to have a much, much larger debate here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, a debate in community after community, from corner to corner in this province that is going to culminate with a vote, Mr. Speaker. It's going to

culminate with a provincial election on October the 26th.

Mr. Speaker, in that election, Mr. Speaker, people of this province are going to have a choice. They're going to have a choice. They're going to be able to choose which party is best to engineer the economic recovery of Saskatchewan, post-COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. They are going to be able to choose which party is best to grow the economy of Saskatchewan, this province, Mr. Speaker. We are very confident in the plan that we are putting forward. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition and the NDP [New Democratic Party] are looking for a second opinion on theirs, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had enough. Saskatchewan people have had enough of a Premier who doesn't take his job seriously, Mr. Speaker. Members on this side have spent this session advocating for the needs of Saskatchewan people, asking the tough questions, and raising the real anxieties that Saskatchewan people are presenting, Mr. Speaker.

People looked at this budget expecting a real plan, and instead they saw nothing to deal with the huge challenges in long-term care; nothing to deal with the challenges of coming back to school safely in September; a budget that said we're going to lose 16,000 jobs, and just presented that as the way it's got to be with no plan, no action to address those job losses.

Mr. Speaker, we raise these questions about the people's concerns across this province, and the Premier stands up and says oh, everything is fine, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has taken the concept of social distancing a little too far because he's completely out of touch with the reality of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

People are really hurting. Real people are experiencing real concern. They deserve a real budget and a real plan so that when we come out for an election, they've got real information on which to make a real choice.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there is going to be no do-over. We are putting forward a real plan for recovery in this province, a real plan for growth, Mr. Speaker. And October 26th the people of this province are going to have the opportunity to really vote with who they believe has a better plan to grow this economy, to recover the economy, Mr. Speaker.

We're not coming back to the legislature. We are going to have a much larger debate on the doors, Mr. Speaker, on the telephones, Mr. Speaker, in community after community across this province. We're putting forward our plan, Mr. Speaker. We're confident in our plan and we're going to put it to the people of this province in October.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader . . .

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well maybe when the Premier . . . Pardon me? . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, sorry.

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

Mr. Meili: — Pardon me, Mr. Speaker. I thought you had. Mr. Speaker, this Premier is hiding his true plans. He's not telling people what he plans to cut. He's not telling people what he plans to sell off. He's not telling people how many public jobs will be lost, Mr. Speaker. He wants to tell us that everything's fine. He wants to say, just trust us, Mr. Speaker. Well "just trust us" doesn't cut it, Mr. Speaker, not in a time like this, not any.

And what this Premier has presented is an incomplete, lazy document that left out huge portions of what makes a real budget. No projections of the revenues to come; no projections of the deep pain he plans to cause Saskatchewan people if he gets a chance to be re-elected, Mr. Speaker. It's an insult to Saskatchewan people. It's a slap in the face to people who are out of work, to people that have no access to child care, to people who are worried about how their kids are going to go back safely to school in the fall, Mr. Speaker.

What we want to know, what people want to know, what people deserve to know is why the Sask Party is so desperate to hide their plans. What are they so ashamed of that they won't come back in September and present a real budget and a real plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been very focused in government, Mr. Speaker, up to and including coming into this House. Mr. Speaker, we were focused on the necessary restrictions that were put in place, Mr. Speaker. We were focused on the resources that we've provided to people and to businesses across this province, Mr. Speaker.

Now we are focused on the recovery, the recovery of the economy here in the province of Saskatchewan. We are doing that through the first step, Mr. Speaker, which is our Re-Open Saskatchewan plan which will, for all intents and purposes, be complete today, Mr. Speaker, with all businesses across the provinces that will be allowed, will be announced to be open today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that Re-Open Saskatchewan plan is a methodical, it is a strategic plan, and it is a safe plan to reopen not only our businesses in this province but to reopen our communities, our schools, Mr. Speaker, and to get back, Mr. Speaker, to the life that we enjoy in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, all of this has been done, Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with the budget that was introduced and will shortly be passed in this House, which is another step in setting the stage so that we can get back to not only recovering the economy here in Saskatchewan but growing that economy and starting to hit the targets that we had set out in our growth plan, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of this province. And we have every intent of continuing to achieve the targets that we put in that plan, Mr. Speaker. Because this province has what the world needs as the world recovers, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue to provide it.

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

Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — We came back to this Assembly to scrutinize a budget, one that was supposed to step up to this historic challenge that we're facing. But that's not what the Sask Party presented. This budget fails that test by every measure. It fails to make the investments in people that are needed to secure our recovery. It fails to give the straight goods when it comes to the budget — their mismanagement and their damaging plans for cuts and sell offs. And it fails to present anything new to put people back to work. In fact the only thing in this budget related to jobs is the Sask Party's admission that 16,000 Saskatchewan people will lose theirs.

How is it that the Sask Party thinks this cut-and-paste budget that leaves us in recession is good enough for Saskatchewan people? Why won't they step up and commit to coming back with an actual budget that'll put people back to work?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, not only is it sad that the NDP do not believe in the people of Saskatchewan and the fact that we can recover and we can grow this great province, Mr. Speaker, they actually can't criticize the existing budget. So they have to fearmonger for what may happen in the future, Mr. Speaker.

Because they don't want to criticize the fact that the health budget is up almost 5 per cent, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to criticize that education is up over 2 per cent, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to say that that is something they don't want in the budget, but they're going to vote against it, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to say that they don't want the increases to our community-based organizations that do the heavy lifting for the vulnerable population in this province, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to say that that's a bad idea. But they just hate the budget so we're going to fearmonger for down the road, which is what they do every single budget and every single election year, Mr. Speaker.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, what does 2007, 2011, and 2016 have in common? What they have in common is the NDP are going to talk about selling the Crowns.

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

Procurement for Construction Projects

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Saskatchewan New Democrats have full faith in Saskatchewan people and are committed to the kind of recovery that works for them. But we have zero faith in that minister and that Sask Party cabinet minister, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party's damaging choices have left Saskatchewan people and our economy vulnerable. And their plan contains nothing new to ensure Saskatchewan workers and Saskatchewan companies benefit from infrastructure spending.

[10:15]

The best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour. And their past behaviour is one of handing contract after contract to out-of-province company after company. Why should

Saskatchewan people accept the pinky swear of the Sask Party government this time that they're actually going to hire Saskatchewan workers? And when will we see a budget that commits to a Sask-first approach to procurement that will actually fire up our economy and put Saskatchewan people back to work in the jobs they deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, last year as part of executive government procurement, 90 per cent of executive government procurement was procured from Saskatchewan companies retaining Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. In the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, of the 10 largest procurements in the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, tens of billions of dollars, 90 per cent of that procurement went to Saskatchewan companies, employing Saskatchewan workers.

Now I heard yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition being critical of our plan to introduce community benefits into our tendering, which we've already started to do, Mr. Speaker. I met with the Building Trades, contrary to the assertion that the Leader of the Opposition made yesterday, Mr. Speaker. I met with the plumbers and pipefitters to talk about our plans. Incorporating community benefits into our tendering, Mr. Speaker, will ensure that Saskatchewan workers are working on those contracts, Mr. Speaker. It's all part of our recovery plan — seven and a half billion dollars in capital — over the next two years, Mr. Speaker. That's a real plan to put Saskatchewan people back to work.

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

Funding for Infrastructure

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's rather astounding that the Sask Party would put up a guy that presided over a billion-dollar overrun on the bloated bypass contract that went to Paris, France, Mr. Speaker, to answer that question.

This budget, plain and simple, doesn't get it done for Saskatchewan people. Their so-called budget is totally inadequate in responding to the historic challenge that Saskatchewan people face. The Sask Party doesn't even come close to stepping up to addressing the backlog of \$6 billion in schools and hospitals and care homes that are in desperate need of repair. Now is the time to invest in infrastructure, but the Sask Party's plan is a fraction of what's needed and, of course, time and time again, when they do spend some dollars, they ship them out of province, Mr. Speaker. By any measure, from the hidden plans to the inadequate response, this budget is a failure.

Why won't the Sask Party come back with their real plan to invest in infrastructure and create jobs in our province, instead of the one that waves the white flag and leaves us in recession?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I'm not sure the member listened to my last answer, Mr. Speaker — seven and a half billion dollars in capital investments in this province over the next two years. That includes the \$2 billion stimulus fund which we announced about a month ago, Mr. Speaker, which is all aimed in ensuring

Saskatchewan workers get back to work, Mr. Speaker.

We're addressing the capital backlog in this province. Significant investments in schools: 10 in the budget and another six as part of the stimulus funding, Mr. Speaker. More money, Mr. Speaker, to do maintenance in schools. Preventative maintenance is over \$50 million — a program that the New Democrats didn't bother having, Mr. Speaker; a program that is being touted by the school divisions as important to addressing the capital needs in their school divisions.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to support the capital needs in this province, Mr. Speaker. And if the member opposite doesn't think that seven and a half billion dollars is a significant investment, Mr. Speaker, then I'm not sure what is.

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

Funding for Health Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, it's frankly remarkable that this government didn't add a penny to the health budget for operating and COVID pressures since their February estimates. These aren't copy-and-paste times, Mr. Speaker. There are pressures across the board in health care, whether it's loss of lives to suicide, the overdose crisis ravaging our cities, or the thousands of people on surgery and MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] wait-lists. These are essential services, not contingencies.

Why didn't this government create a real budget to address these issues instead of hoping to scrape funds together from a contingency fund that has already been spent six ways from Sunday?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as the COVID response, Mr. Speaker, it's been documented many times in committee and on the floor of this House that there's been many expenses that when we unfortunately had to scale back on much of the health care system to prepare for COVID, Mr. Speaker, that funds were redirected.

There were funds that weren't spent for surgeries, Mr. Speaker, for diagnostics, that could be redirected to COVID. Mr. Speaker, we're ramping those services back up now. Mr. Speaker, there's other costs that are fixed costs. Staff salaries, in most cases, staff salaries are paid whether they were working on the COVID response or whether they were working on their normal positions, Mr. Speaker.

In the instances where possibly if there is a second wave — we certainly hope there isn't, or not a significant one, Mr. Speaker — and we need additional funding, the Minister of Finance has very eloquently laid out how that will be paid for.

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I do agree with the member opposite though. There are, absolutely, there are many pressures in many areas of health care for finance, Mr. Speaker. That's why since we formed government we've increased the health care budget by 65 per cent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Long-Term Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, while other jurisdictions took a hard look at the risks associated with COVID-19 and the current conditions for seniors in long-term care and stepped up with resources to keep them safe and well cared for, this government didn't provide an additional cent over the February estimates.

The budget didn't even mention seniors, aside from a previously announced long-term care project. That minister knows that these care homes are in crisis and the auditor continues to raise concerns about care. Will the minister recognize that failing to support the struggling long-term care sector was a mistake? And will the Sask Party come back with a real plan to put resources in place to ensure that seniors get the dignified care they deserve?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, we recognize the importance of long-term care for our seniors in this province. We take that matter very seriously, Mr. Speaker. As far as the COVID response, Mr. Speaker, while we need to remain diligent and we will remain diligent, many protocols were put in place to protect our seniors. There's cohorting of staff, Mr. Speaker. There was restrictions put on visitors.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize what's happened in other provinces, some with catastrophic results, Mr. Speaker. We were determined not to let that happen in Saskatchewan, but again, Mr. Speaker, we will remain diligent.

And as far as overall long-term care, Mr. Speaker, we recognize we inherited a massive infrastructure deficit, Mr. Speaker. We've built 13 long-term care facilities. We've got one on the way in Meadow Lake. We've got one just announced in Grenfell, one announced in La Ronge, Mr. Speaker, and there's more to come.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, despite those words, the government isn't listening. Just yesterday a family shared a story of their loved one's experience in long-term care in Outlook with Postmedia. The family of 95-year-old Catherine Bourgeois said they were mortified by the care she received in long-term care.

The SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] transferred Catherine to a care home that wasn't secure enough to meet her dementia needs, and she was frequently able to leave the facility. She developed a fungal infection in part because she wasn't getting bathed. The family later learned Catherine had only received two baths in 53 days.

To the minister: does he actually think that two baths in two months is acceptable? These stories are the norm, not the exception. Will the minister show some leadership and come back with the resources seniors need, like the seven and half million dollars they promised four years ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, while I can't speak to individual situations in the health care system, Mr. Speaker, I will say this. There are many processes put in place for families who are concerned about the care that their loved one's receiving, Mr. Speaker. We ask them to first of all talk to the staff at the facility. If they're not satisfied with that, they can talk to management at the facility. Mr. Speaker, they have the opportunity to reach out to quality care coordinators around the province that do an exceptional job in helping to coordinate care, Mr. Speaker. They can also speak to the provincial quality care coordinator. Failing that, Mr. Speaker, they even have the avenue of going to the Ombudsman.

Mr. Speaker, I would say this. The home that the critic . . . The home that the member opposite is referring to in the news story is in Outlook, Mr. Speaker. That's the very same home that my mother-in-law lived in for many years, Mr. Speaker. The care she received until her passing was exceptional. I have nothing but good things, Mr. Speaker, to say about that facility and about the outstanding people who work there.

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

Resumption of In-Classroom Education

Ms. Beck: — The Sask Party has received a failing grade from teachers, from staff, and parents when it comes to education. And their catch-all slush fund isn't instilling any confidence. If you've read the news lately, you'd know that teachers have raised concerns about the upcoming school year. Parents want a plan for schools to safely reopen in the fall. And retired educators are criticizing the top-down decision making that this government has once again embraced.

Their copy-and-paste budget, Mr. Speaker, needs a control-alt-delete, and we're running out of time for the reboot that this budget needs. Their \$200 million contingency will have to cover an unreasonable number of bases. So my question is this: will the government table a real budget with a real plan for education in the fall?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, that's a remarkable allegation, Mr. Speaker. Since when is engaging the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], the Ministry of Education top-down, Mr. Speaker? It's engaging professionals in the education sector to help plan a safe return to school. Mr. Speaker, we've said on many occasions, and if the member would listen, Mr. Speaker, that returning children to school in the fall in a safe way with teachers is our top priority, Mr. Speaker.

We've relied on the advice of the chief medical health officer, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that the plans from school divisions were due today in terms of how those plans are going to be implemented in various schools around the province, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be very careful to scrutinize those plans, Mr. Speaker.

It's nothing but fear and panic from those members opposite. Mr. Speaker, the politics of fear don't work in this province. They didn't work in 2007. They didn't work in 2011. They didn't work

in 2016. And they're not going to work in 2020.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's very disappointing that that minister characterizes the very real and pressing concerns of our front-line staff as fearmongering, and he should be ashamed of himself.

The president of the STF says, and I quote, "We know that social distancing in schools is going to be very difficult. We have buildings that are at or over capacity." Mr. Speaker, in fact that number is 78 and growing. He says, Mr. Speaker, that the guidelines can't be enforced in most classrooms. Schools that have managed increased enrolment with portables won't have enough bathrooms to accommodate the guidelines. If the government had thought to track class sizes, they might be able to calculate the capacities that schools will require for social distancing.

Why won't the Sask Party table a budget that accounts for the needs in the return-to-school guidelines? What, Mr. Speaker, are they hiding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, the guidelines that have been provided to us by the chief medical health officer are just those — they're guidelines, to help ensure that children return to school in the fall safely, Mr. Speaker. They're aimed at ensuring that we protect our children and our teachers and all the other educational professionals in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. The response planning team has been excellent in providing guidance on a number of issues, Mr. Speaker. And as I've said, the return-to-school plans from schools and school divisions are due today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that children return to school in the fall in as normal a situation as possible, Mr. Speaker. As part of that, we know there's going to be some additional cost savings within the school divisions, totalling in the millions of dollars per school division, Mr. Speaker, based on the numbers that we have. And including, Mr. Speaker, the fact that we have a \$200 million contingency in this budget to deal with those effects of COVID-19, Mr. Speaker. We will be well prepared for children to return in a safe way in the fall.

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

Ms. Beck: — That \$200 million contingency is inadequate and goes across all ministries, Mr. Speaker, and that minister knows it.

Schools have until today, as the minister said, to submit their back-to-school plans — today, Mr. Speaker. Time is running out and funding simply has not materialized. Hand sanitizer and distancing where possible simply is not going to be enough, Mr. Speaker, and that minister knows it.

[10:30]

What if the pandemic back-to-school plan requires more bathrooms, more subs, more teachers, more classrooms, Mr.

Speaker? Teachers and staff are already stretched to the max . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, the minister would like to poke fun at the very real concerns that teachers have in this province, and I suggest that he listen to his constituents who have these concerns . . . without the additional duties and challenges already that will be required for returning to school this fall.

Parents want to send their children back safely, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sask Party put their money where their mouth is and table a budget that actually allows the safe return to schools and makes it a priority?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Done. Again, Mr. Speaker, we tabled a budget in this Assembly, the first budget in the nation of Canada, with yet another increase to education, Mr. Speaker, the largest education budget in the history of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the critic referenced a failing grade, Mr. Speaker. When there's a failing grade, then there's quite often a request to retake the test, if you will, or a do-over, is what we are seeing in this Assembly here today. Mr. Speaker, there is going to be no do-over of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

There is going to be a much larger debate that happens this fall. It's a debate that, yes, we're going to, if a past indicator is any indicator of future behaviour, Mr. Speaker, we are going to put our record to the people of this province — our record of building schools across this province, hiring teachers to put in those schools, Mr. Speaker — versus the NDP record of closing a school a month, Mr. Speaker, 176 schools total, Mr. Speaker. Our record of building hospitals, hiring doctors, hiring nurses versus a record, Mr. Speaker, of closing hospitals, 52 hospitals closed under the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, there is going to be no do-over in this legislature this September, Mr. Speaker. There is going to be a much, much larger debate in this province, Mr. Speaker. It is a debate where we are going to put our record before the people of this province. It is a debate where we are going to put this budget before the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. And it is a conversation where we are going to put forward, Mr. Speaker, our plan to recover and grow the economy in the province of Saskatchewan.

And on October 26th, the people of this province are going to have a choice. They are going to have a choice between recovery and growth, Mr. Speaker, and a cut-and-paste plan for 2007 from the NDP. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to October the 26th.

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 Bill No. 210, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2020* without amendment.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — 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. 210 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. 210 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 210 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'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 211, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2020* without amendment.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — 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: — Minister has requested leave to waive consideration of the whole on Bill No. 211 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. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 211 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — 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. 211 be now read the 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.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the 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 Crown and Central Agencies to present its ninth report. The ninth report focuses on the committee's scrutiny role in its review of annual reports, the provincial audit reports, and for the period of September the 11th, 2018 to June 29th, 2020. During this time our committee reviewed 44 reports and financial statements released by Crown corporations or related entities, and reviewed chapters in three Provincial Auditor reports.

I would like to thank the Office of the Provincial Auditor and the Legislative Assembly Service for the support they provide. I would also like to thank CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] and all Crown corporations for all their work and attendance at our committee meetings.

I move:

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies that the motion 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 Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Doke: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates to present in its ninth report. I move:

That the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services now be concurred in.

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

That the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services now be 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. I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 10:38.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Beck	7035
Bradshaw	7035

QUESTION PERIOD

Provincial Budget and Lead-Up to Election

Meili	7035
Moe	7035

Provincial Economy

Wotherspoon	7037
Harpauer	7037

Procurement for Construction Projects

Wotherspoon	7037
Wyant	7037

Funding for Infrastructure

Wotherspoon	7037
Wyant	7037

Funding for Health Care

Mowat	7038
Reiter	7038

Support for Long-Term Care

Mowat	7038
Reiter	7038

Resumption of In-Classroom Education

Beck	7039
Wyant	7039
Moe	7040

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Bradshaw	7040
----------------	------

Standing Committee on Human Services

Doke	7041
------------	------

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 210 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

Harpauer	7040
----------------	------

Bill No. 211 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2020*

Harpauer	7041
----------------	------

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