

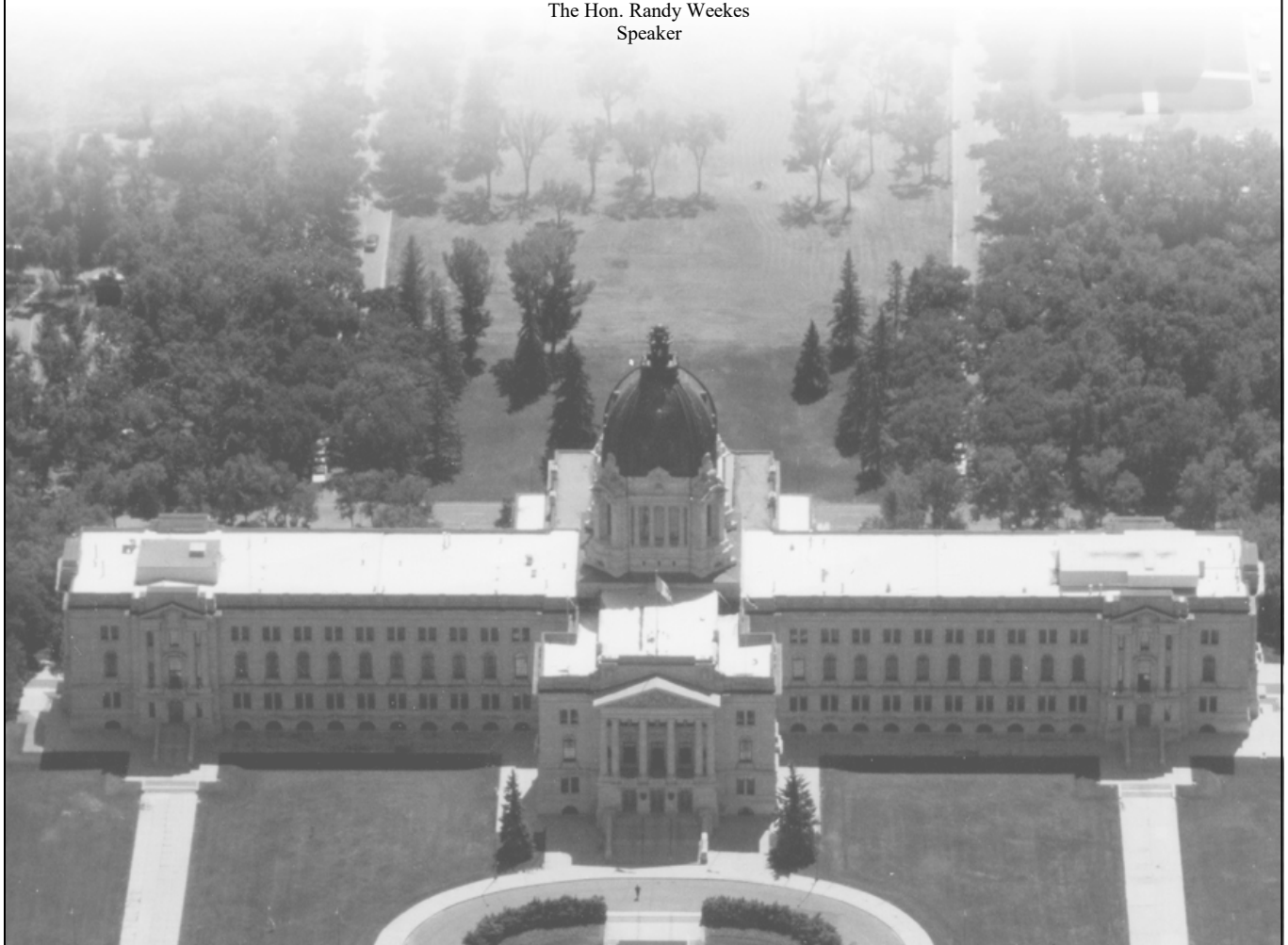
FIRST SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
1st Session — 29th Legislature

Lieutenant Governor — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)
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Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
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Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)
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Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
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Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
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Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
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Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
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Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

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CONTENTS

Report of the Standing Committee on House Services	
Mowat	261
Harrison, J.	261
ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Bowes	262
Meyers	262
Conway	262
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Remembering the Humboldt Broncos Bus Tragedy	
Meili	263
Goudy.....	263
Transgender Day of Visibility	
Conway	263
Recognition of Business Communities and Front-Line Workers during COVID-19 Pandemic	
Domotor	263
Recognition of Health Care Workers during COVID-19 Pandemic	
Jenson	264
Stick It to COVID Campaign	
Ross, A.	264
Lumsden Named Hockeyville Finalist	
Stewart.....	264
QUESTION PERIOD	
Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic	
Meili	264
Moe.....	265
Management of Provincial Economy during COVID-19 Pandemic	
Wotherspoon	266
Merriman	266
Harrison, J.	266
Public Health Measures to Control COVID-19	
Mowat	267
Merriman	267
Support for Education during COVID-19 Pandemic	
Beck.....	268
Duncan.....	268
PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	
Standing Committee on House Services	
Mowat	269
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Membership of the Board of Internal Economy	
The Speaker.....	269
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
TABLING OF ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES	
Harpauer	269
The Speaker.....	269
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY	
(BUDGET DEBATE)	
Harpauer	269
Wotherspoon	274
Motion for Resumption of Budget Debate	
Harrison, J.	276

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — Why is the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services on her feet?

Ms. Mowat: — To request leave to move a motion of concurrence for the fourth report of the Standing Committee on House Services, recommending that ordinary time of sitting shall apply during the Easter week period.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Chair has requested leave to present a report and move a concurrence motion for the Standing Committee on House Services. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Deputy Chair may proceed.

Report of the Standing Committee on House Services

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to present its fourth report to the Assembly. It was previously filed with the Clerk on February 1st, 2021, pursuant to rule 136(6). I move:

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

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

That the fourth 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: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Why is the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on House Services on her feet?

Ms. Mowat: — To request leave to present a report and move a concurrence motion for the Standing Committee on House Services, recommending temporary modifications to the Legislative Assembly's rules, procedures, and practices to facilitate sittings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Chair has requested leave to present a report and move a concurrence motion for the Standing Committee on House Services. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Deputy Chair may proceed.

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to present its fifth report. There is a lot of work that has gone into this report, and it's nearly 50 pages long, looking at all of the different rules that we need to bring into place to keep members and all the staff of this Assembly safe.

Largely, the opposition agrees with these rules. And there is one exception to that, and that is section 3 of the rules, which is the masking requirement. So the opposition disagrees with the section that allows members to remove their masks while speaking. If masks were required back in December when we sat in the fall sitting, they should definitely be required now. As we look at variants of concern running rampant in Regina, our ICUs' [intensive care unit] over capacity, we should be doing our part to limit transmission in this space as well.

So we support the other rules that are being put in place in this report and would like to thank the Clerks for their efforts and also the Government House Leader for working back and forth on all of the other rules, but we can't support these rules for that reason. I move:

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Opposition House Leader for her comments. Also I want to very much thank the Clerks and the Table Officers for the efforts that they put in over the last number of weeks and months in preparing what is a very extensive package of revisions to our standing orders such that we can participate in debate in the Chamber in a safe and effective fashion. So I want to thank them.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your leadership in this as well. And it's been a challenging back and forth and I really do want to, because of that, thank the Opposition House Leader for her very collaborative work on this. And I think we've come to a very good place, and you know, obviously the Opposition House Leader put on the record her one area of disagreement.

But we are very comfortable having worked with Dr. Shahab through this entire process, who literally was in this Chamber himself with a measuring tape to make sure that we were distanced and that we had the appropriate Plexiglas, which we have in front of every one of our desks. It doesn't necessarily show up on TV, but there's Plexiglas in front of all of the desks and at the Chair and the Speaker's Chair as well. So we are very comfortable, as is the public health professionals, that we are able to operate in a safe fashion in this way, and we look forward to doing so over the course of this session. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

That the fifth 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: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No. On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To move a subsidiary motion for the implementation of the recommendations of the fifth report of the Standing Committee on House Services.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader may proceed.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the recommendations of the fifth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted as a sessional order for the period April 6th, 2021 to October 1st, 2021.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That the recommendations of the fifth report of the Standing Committee on House Services be adopted as a sessional order for the period April 6th, 2021 to October 1st, 2021.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No. On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to present this petition today calling for pay equity legislation. These citizens would like to bring to our attention the following points: Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation. Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in Canada, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work, that must be corrected with pay equity legislation. The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which has not been

pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan.

While *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce pay equity legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by people from Regina and Moose Jaw. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Meyers: — Mr. Speaker, Nav Canada is currently reviewing the air traffic control tower at the Regina airport. Though it is a private company, the federal government has three elected members on the board of directors and the Minister of Transport will have oversight to the fate of this tower. The aviation industry has been one of the hardest hit during COVID-19 but will still play a vital role in the economic recovery of this province.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the federal government to advise Nav Canada to reconsider its position on closing the airport traffic control tower at the Regina International Airport and to halt any final decisions until the global pandemic has subsided.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Regina.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to present a petition on behalf of signatories from Regina on this government's cruel and short-sighted decision to claw back CERB [Canada emergency response benefit]. We are the only jurisdiction to do this west of the Maritimes. And the sum total that this Sask Party government offered to folks on assistance during the pandemic was a one-time payment of 50 bucks. Under the government's new, much-touted basic assistance program, people stand to receive less than half the amount that it would require to inch them over the poverty line, Mr. Speaker. If you cannot work in Saskatchewan due to a disability, this government thinks you also are entitled to an amount below the poverty line.

Who else is condemned to live in poverty in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? One in four children, most of them between the ages of zero and six. And it's no small mystery with this kind of support system. It's a recipe for pain and hurt and massive costs down the line as those children struggle to stay healthy, struggle to stay

out of trouble, struggle to thrive in the classroom and to join the workforce, Mr. Speaker. At the very moment when more people than ever, through no fault of their own, will come to rely on assistance and food banks when the economy is sputtering and stagnating, this government decided to claw back.

So with that context, I will read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Government of Saskatchewan to stop clawing back money from those on Saskatchewan income assistance programs who received federal CERB payments, return to those on Saskatchewan income assistance programs CERB money already clawed back, and significantly increase income assistance rates as the first step towards raising them above the poverty line.

I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Remembering the Humboldt Broncos Bus Tragedy

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 6th, 2018, 16 lives were lost and many more forever changed by the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. In the aftermath of this tragedy, we saw the best of Humboldt, the best of Saskatchewan, and the best of Canada in the outpouring of support for the victims, their families, and the community of Humboldt and the whole hockey community.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is April 7th, Green Shirt Day, a day to honour, remember, and recognize all the victims and families of the fatal crash. Green Shirt Day is also a day to continue Logan Boulet's legacy of inspiring Canadians to register as organ donors. Mr. Speaker, on April 7th, 2018, Logan Boulet went on to save six lives with his generous gifts. Logan's impact of course went beyond those six lives because his impact inspired more than 150,000 Canadians to become registered organ donors. That's the Logan Boulet Effect.

[13:45]

Tomorrow I ask all members to wear green and to join me in expressing our sorrow, our solidarity, and our commemoration with the Boulet family and all the families, friends, and communities impacted by this terrible event.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 6th is a day that many of us will never forget — an anniversary of great loss in our province but also a day of great strength and courage that were on display on the world stage. A day where tragedy tore families apart but compassion and love brought our world a little closer together.

Mr. Speaker, most of us remember where we were when we first heard of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. We will never forget that surreal shock that hung over us that moment and during the days that followed. I will personally never forget the grief and

brokenness in the room that day as their parents were waiting to hear the outcome of the crash on each precious life.

Mr. Speaker, the local response was immediate and immense. The first responders and medical staff pulled together, and towns who had been playoff rivals showed that we truly stand together as one on the Prairies. Mr. Speaker, watching the outpour of support for those suffering and their loss reminded us of just how important family, friends, faith, and community are to making it through the struggles of life. As the proverb says, "Two are better than one for if they fall, the one will lift up his friend. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

Mr. Speaker, through this tragedy we learned that we need one another. As we put our hockey sticks out on our front porches, let's send up a prayer remembering those whose lives were changed that terrible day. And let's remember moving forwards in life that you and I can be that loving neighbour for the next one in need because that's what truly made Humboldt strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Transgender Day of Visibility

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as human rights critic to recognize Transgender Day of Visibility which took place on March 31st. Today I honour and celebrate the strength of transgender communities and individuals across Saskatchewan. Unlike the Transgender Day of Remembrance which is observed annually in November, March 31st is a day of celebration. Today we highlight their outstanding contributions and we acknowledge the generations of struggle, activism, and courage that have allowed for increased recognition and visibility of transgender and non-binary-gendered folks.

It is also a day to bring attention to the ongoing fight against transphobia. So today we also send our support to those who remain invisible either by choice or necessity, and we commit to the work ahead. When governments continue to debate their rights and even legitimacy, this NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition stands in solidarity with transgender communities. Despite some progress, too many still face barriers to health care, education, and in the workforce. As legislators, we must take tangible steps to make our province a safer place for gender-diverse communities, and we must work to dismantle the barriers that hold them back.

I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in a continued push for a safer and more inclusive society for transgender individuals in communities across Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Business Communities and Front-Line Workers during COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From early mornings to extra hours in the evenings, our business communities and

front-line workers have been working tirelessly for over a year to protect our communities from COVID-19. Our grocers, educators, trades workers, and first responders have continually adapted to the ever-changing environment that we live in. And for that we thank them.

It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that many families have been hit hard because of this pandemic. And as a government, we will continue to support them as we have since COVID-19's arrival. Mr. Speaker, our province has united to combat this virus and we can now see the finish line in sight, and our front-line workers have been instrumental in this progress.

As a government, we thank you for your dedication and adaptability. We thank you for the sacrifices you have made. We know there have been many tough decisions along the way, but because of your efforts, we are getting closer to being able to gather safely and begin to return to normal together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing our business communities and front-line workers across the province.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

Recognition of Health Care Workers during COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For one year our health care workers have been working hard to protect our communities from COVID-19. They worked long hours and have sacrificed so much to keep our loved ones safe.

Mr. Speaker, today our government would like to recognize the long-term care staff who have become surrogate families for our loved ones in care as they have celebrated birthdays and holidays with them in our absence, and have kept them safe and comfortable during this pandemic. We'd also like to thank the ICU workers and hospital staff who come face to face with COVID-19 every day and have worked tirelessly to keep their patients healthy. We thank the vaccination staff who are administering immunizations that will serve as the key to us being able to return to life as normal again.

And we have said many times in this House, we offer our thanks to Dr. Saqib Shahab who, with his compassion and professionalism, has navigated us through each stage of this pandemic. He is Saskatchewan's doctor and has become a very important part of our history.

I now ask all members to join me in thanking our health care workers and Dr. Shahab for their efforts and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Stick It to COVID Campaign

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has launched a province-wide multimedia campaign encouraging Saskatchewan residents to get vaccinated entitled "Stick it to

COVID." This campaign is calling on all Saskatchewan residents to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated when it's your turn.

Mr. Speaker, part 1 of the campaign featured a montage video narrated by ER [emergency room] nurse Leah Sawatsky, who highlights the importance of getting the vaccine so we can all return to the activities we love and miss, whether it's dancing, cheering on our Riders, or spending time with family. The vaccine will be our best avenue to getting back to normal.

Part 2 will see ads featuring real Saskatchewan people, like Rider great George Reed or ICU physician Dr. Hassan Masri, who share insight as to why the vaccine is so important to them and their community.

Mr. Speaker, our vaccine rollout has been one of the most effective in the nation because we know that getting our vaccine when it's our turn is the best way to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. So, Mr. Speaker, I will echo Leah Sawatsky's words and say, "We are stronger than this virus. When it's your turn, roll up your sleeve and stick it to COVID."

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

Lumsden Named Hockeyville Finalist

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kraft Hockeyville is a national competition where communities rally together for their hometown rink for a chance to host an NHL [National Hockey League] pre-season game as well as win \$250,000. And today I'm proud to announce that Lumsden community sports centre is in the final four of the competition.

Mr. Speaker, Lumsden is a hockey town, and the rink is the heart of that community. It's where young kids make their first friends out on the ice, where we can cheer for local sports heroes, and where we come together to celebrate community. Mr. Speaker, the community rink plans to use the funding toward facility upgrades to ensure the rink can continue to support the growing town. It will also dedicate funds to help further develop the girls' hockey program, giving them equal space and equal opportunity to be part of a sport that we all love.

Mr. Speaker, voting starts on Friday, April 9th at 9 a.m. Eastern Time and ends the next day at 5 p.m. I now ask every member of this Chamber, as well as those listening in today, to vote for Lumsden. Vote early and vote often. Let's put Lumsden on the map as Kraft Hockeyville 2021 champion.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to start this session by sharing our deepest sympathies with all of the Saskatchewan families who have lost loved ones and with those who are currently praying for their friends and family who are fighting for their lives today in the province's ICUs.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, we've had the worst COVID rates in 2021 in this province, the worst in the entire country. And we've

lost far too many seniors, and now we're seeing younger people getting sicker and dying. In the face of these overwhelming facts of the failure on COVID-19 here in Saskatchewan, will the Premier admit that he didn't get it right on COVID-19, that he's failed Saskatchewan, and that his inaction has cost this province lives and livelihoods?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I would share, with the Leader of the Opposition, our condolences and all of our thoughts with all of the families that have lost loved ones over the course of the past year across this province, across this nation, and around the world. I would also share with all of those that are currently going through COVID, with a COVID infection, with a member of their family or a close friend that our thoughts and prayers are most certainly with all of those people that have struggled through this, what is now just over a year event, Mr. Speaker; what is really the largest health and economic crisis that this world has faced since the Second World War. Mr. Speaker, that most certainly is the case.

What we have done in this province, from day one and continued through to today, is to take a balanced and measured approach, an approach that ensures that we are not only protecting Saskatchewan families but we are providing supports for those families through this past year and through this COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Speaker, we have always had an eye to our provincial health care capacity to ensure that we have capacity to care for those that may need it.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have also always had an eye to ensuring that we are having the least degree of negative impact on families, on people, on our general society, Mr. Speaker, ensuring that we continue to respect people's personal freedoms that they enjoy in this nation and in this province, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue, as we move through this pandemic, to follow the advice of Dr. Shahab and ensure that we are trusting the people of this province to ensure that we can continue to manage our way through what we hope is the last number of weeks, possibly couple of months, of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know in what world you would describe hundreds of people dying, leading the country in cases this year, as the least negative impact.

Mr. Speaker, this Premier, this Premier has failed the province when it comes to COVID-19 at a time when Saskatchewan people need and deserve leadership. The Premier dithered on mask use earlier in the pandemic, giving greater fuel to those who would resist evidence-based public health measures.

And last session we agreed, we agreed that we would wear our masks in this House so that we would protect each other, protect the staff, and set a good example. And yet today when we're dealing with the more aggressive, more contagious, and more deadly variant of the virus, the Premier rises without his mask.

My question to the Premier is, why does he think it's more important for the people of Saskatchewan to see his face than it is to protect his colleagues, the staff, and to set a good example

for the entire province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question from the member opposite. The fact of the matter is, as I mentioned earlier, this government has taken a balanced and measured approach throughout this pandemic. That includes ensuring the safety of Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan families, communities across this province.

We've seen those measures, on the advice of our chief medical health officer, be increased in the city, our capital city of Regina, as we have a higher concentration of the variants here. Mr. Speaker, we've seen in the organization of this year's session, Mr. Speaker, a sheet of Plexiglas between the speakers that are here. I have one, as every other member of this Assembly does. That's to ensure that we are keeping people in this Assembly . . . setting the example, and keeping people across the province safe, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to work with our chief medical health officer. We'll continue to work with the folks across this province to ensure that we have that balanced and measured approach of safety protocols, of public health measures that are in place, keeping people safe, Mr. Speaker, but we are always also going to ensure that we make every vaccine that we are delivered available to the people of this province, as ultimately our path through this global pandemic in this province, in this nation, around the world, is mass access to vaccinations, Mr. Speaker, and we're doing everything we can to ensure that's available here.

[14:00]

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are members in this House who are immune compromised. There are members in this House who have family members who are immune compromised. There are seniors in this House.

Mr. Speaker, we've all seen the show; it's nothing to write home about, Mr. Speaker. Why does the Premier think it's more important that we see his face than it is to protect staff, colleagues, and set a good example for Saskatchewan people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I, as well as our caucus, Mr. Speaker, continue to set a positive example on behalf of the people of this province, as we see people doing each and every day in community after community, Mr. Speaker. Myself, been down in Regina since we had put on the travel advisory, Mr. Speaker. I know members of the governing caucus will be remaining here until either session ends or that travel advisory ultimately is lifted, Mr. Speaker. That is setting an example on behalf of the people that we serve across this province.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said from the outset, we have taken a balanced and measured approach, respecting people's personal freedoms in this province, Mr. Speaker, and that includes all members in this House.

Mr. Speaker, we have also taken the approach that our way through this global pandemic is to ensure that we have access to vaccinations, vaccinations for everyone in Saskatchewan. That's why we have over 200 clinics that are operating across the province, that have and will continue to operate across the province, providing those vaccines to members in community after community, Mr. Speaker. That's why we are leading the nation in what is a very robust vaccination rollout — just under 20,000, now, vaccines per 100,000, Mr. Speaker. That's leading the nation of any province here in Canada, Mr. Speaker. It is a statistic that we are very proud of because ultimately this is the way for the people of Saskatchewan to get back to a normal life.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about a balanced approach. Is he honestly telling the people of Saskatchewan that hundreds of people dying, that the worst rates of COVID-19 in the entire country, the worst second wave and heading into the worst third wave, that that is simply the cost of doing business?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Here is what I would tell the people of Saskatchewan, and it would be no surprise as I have mentioned it many times in the media avails that I have been a part of, as the Minister of Health has, as have others on the governing side, Mr. Speaker, have in their local communities in any of the media that they have done.

Mr. Speaker, we have some very significant public health measures that are in place across this province, even more significant in our capital city of Regina. What I would ask and tell the people of this province is to respect those measures that are in place. They're there to not only keep you safe, but there to keep those around you safe as well. Mr. Speaker, what I would tell everyone in this province is we are working very hard, and the Ministry of Health, the Saskatchewan Health Authority under the careful guidance of the two ministers of Health, are working very hard to ensure that when we receive a vaccine from the federal government, that vaccine is being made available as quickly as possible; that vaccine is safe.

And we would ask people to either dial for an appointment or get in line at one of the vaccination centres that we have, the drive-through vaccination centres, Mr. Speaker, and take their shot when it's their opportunity because that ultimately is our way through this pandemic. That ultimately is our way back to normal and that is our way back to a solid economic recovery and opportunity for all of us in our communities across Saskatchewan.

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

Management of Provincial Economy during COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government's failure to manage the pandemic has allowed COVID to take an even greater toll on lives and livelihoods. Families have watched in horror as outbreak after outbreak caused suffering and cost lives, particularly in long-term care. And our schools are struggling to

find ways to manage with this government's failures all while students' learning gaps only grow. And 23,000 people have lost their jobs.

This government has been missing in action throughout the pandemic, and they have failed to protect lives and our economy. When will we see this government finally step up to get this virus, to get this pandemic under control, to save lives and so that those 23,000 Saskatchewan people can get back to work in jobs they can count on?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, we've been working very hard since this pandemic came into Saskatchewan over a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, we've been working on all fronts. We've been working on the health care front. We've been preparing for this, Mr. Speaker. We've also been working on the economic front, and we've also been making sure that we're keeping in touch with people on their mental health, Mr. Speaker. It's not as simple as just doing it on one front as the opposition pointed out. We want to make sure that everybody in this province is protected, Mr. Speaker, and that means protected on many fronts.

What we have done since March of last year, Mr. Speaker, is being able to maintain the balance between our economic prosperity in this province with the safety of the people that are in this province and that are being impacted negatively by COVID, Mr. Speaker.

And now that we're on this path, Mr. Speaker, we're getting towards the end of it where we can get through on our vaccines, Mr. Speaker. We have one of the best rollout-of-vaccine programs in this country, and I'm very proud of what we have done as a government to be able to help with that, Mr. Speaker. And I'm also very proud of the front-line workers that were able to deliver that for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, that's a pile of rubbish. That minister knows full well that that government has failed to save lives, to protect lives, and to protect our economy, Mr. Speaker.

Budgets are about values, and the investments we make reflect our priorities. On this side of the House, our priority is prosperity with good jobs for Saskatchewan people. Under the Sask Party, 23,000 Saskatchewan people have lost their jobs this past year. Young people looking for good jobs are leaving the province.

There's simply no time to waste. We need investments in a real jobs plan to get Saskatchewan people back to work now. When will we see a real jobs plan, one that will get people working and one that works for people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The NDP need to pick a lane. On the one

hand, they stand up in question period and lament losses of jobs, which is a negative, Mr. Speaker, in a very real way, and then in the same breath, literally, they demand the economy be shut down. Mr. Speaker, you can't have it both ways.

We have tried to strike a balance between protecting lives and livelihoods, and I think we have done that very successfully, Mr. Speaker. We have one of the lowest — if not the lowest through the last 12 months — unemployment rates in the entire country.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, how there would be tens of thousands of more people out of work right now, and that would be if the NDP ever had the opportunity to enact their policy, which right now tomorrow would put 80,000 people out of work on the unemployment line, Mr. Speaker. Those people right now are at work. And we're doing that, Mr. Speaker, because we have a great deal of faith in small business owners and those who work in small businesses to be able to operate in a responsible fashion, which they have been doing so for the last year. Mr. Speaker, if it were up to them, they would all be out of work tomorrow.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know what's bad for the economy is a dangerous spike in the variant, like we see right now in Regina and across Saskatchewan, that threatens lives and livelihoods at this very time, Mr. Speaker. A bunch of rubbish from that minister as well here today.

Saskatchewan families were having a tough time before COVID-19 hit. We were in a recession before the pandemic hit, as a province, an economy that was damaged by the choices of the Sask Party. Now the Sask Party has failed to contain the pandemic, making matters worse. 23,000 people have lost their jobs, and thousands are leaving the province.

Our construction sector and our restaurant sectors have been hit incredibly hard by this pandemic and by this government's decision to impose the PST [provincial sales tax] on both these sectors. Will the Sask Party finally admit that these expansions of the PST were damaging mistakes, reverse those choices, fire up these industries, create some jobs, and get this economy back on its feet?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, the ability of the member opposite to be talking out of both sides of his mouth is astonishing. On the one hand, they are demanding — and they did again today — for the last five months, demanding literally, daily, the entire shutdown of the economy. Tens of thousands of people being put out of work. Nearly 100,000 people being put out of work, in which we know nearly one-third of those jobs would never come back, Mr. Speaker.

They stand up then and say, well why are not more people working? Meanwhile they're demanding they be all put out of work. They wonder why, Mr. Speaker, they have no credibility on the economy. And that's why.

Mr. Speaker, the public had an opportunity not that long ago to decide which economic plan that they felt was more credible for

this province to recover through the COVID-19 pandemic. We put our plan in front of the public. They put their plan in front of the public, Mr. Speaker, and this is the result.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Public Health Measures to Control COVID-19

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, that minister appears to be listening with only one ear and employing hyperbole yet again.

This government has failed to control the third wave. For most of 2021 Saskatchewan has led the nation in caseloads. And now this government has led us to a position where we have more people in intensive care than we've ever had during the pandemic. And it's only set to get worse. And today the lineup at the Regina vaccine clinic sits empty. Does the minister recognize that swift action saves lives? Why has this government insisted on waiting until it's too late to act?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. And I will agree with the member opposite, swift action does save lives. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we are getting vaccines into people's arms as fast as they hit this province. That's why for the last two months, Mr. Speaker, we have led the country in vaccine percentages administered. Many times, Mr. Speaker, going over 100 per cent of the vaccines that have delivered, Mr. Speaker, because our great health care workers were able to pull out a sixth dose on that, Mr. Speaker.

We absolutely share a very big concern with what is happening in Regina. That is why we have tightened up our restrictions in Regina, Mr. Speaker. That is why we have moved to takeout only at restaurants. That's why we've reduced the services for worship services, Mr. Speaker. And we've strongly recommended if you go anywhere in or out of this city, Mr. Speaker, you will see that travel is not recommended in or out of this unless it's essential.

These are the steps that we have continued to take with Dr. Shahab's guidance and the local medical health officers to be able to provide a safe environment. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report Saskatchewan in general is trending very much in the right direction lately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, what we've led the country on are COVID case numbers in 2021. Day after day after day, we have led the country. Variants are ravaging our communities. Our ICUs are over capacity. And physicians are pleading to the public to step in and do what this government will not. The situation is clearly out of control, and now Moose Jaw and Weyburn are on the same trajectory as Regina was weeks ago, when the Premier decided to relax restrictions.

Thirteen months into this pandemic is not too late to be proactive, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier commit to extending Regina's public health measures to Moose Jaw and other communities that are on the same deadly track as Regina?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to report that . . . Yes, there were some challenging times that we saw at the beginning of this, and again localized in Regina with the variant, there are some challenges. That's why we have increased the measures. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that since a high of the middle of January where we were at 11.7 in our test positivity rate, Mr. Speaker, as of last week it was 5.4. So I would think that's moving in the right direction. And that's the difference between people that were tested and actually tested positive, Mr. Speaker.

Again there's mixed messages coming from the members opposite. They're saying we need to create more jobs on one hand, Mr. Speaker, and the member from Rosemont just got up and said that. Now the House Leader on the other side is saying, shut down Moose Jaw. Mr. Speaker, which is it? Again they need to pick a lane on this, Mr. Speaker.

But what I can absolutely confirm to the House, Mr. Speaker, is we are getting more vaccines into the Moose Jaw area, into Weyburn area, into Regina, and all across this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this is not a good news story, good news day, no matter how the Minister of Health would like to spin it.

[14:15]

This government has not only failed to control the spread of the virus, it has failed to be transparent with information that could help keep people safe. New data from an infectious disease specialist from the U of T [University of Toronto] suggests that in the first nine months of the pandemic, 10 times as many people died from COVID-19 than were officially reported. It's possible that hundreds of deaths are missing from our official counts. Will the minister commit to a full review of these excess deaths to determine the causes of these deaths and commit to a full public reporting of the findings?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the member is talking about studies from the U of T. What I would like to put on the record is I trust the people that are right here in Saskatchewan to be able to deliver us the information. And they have been delivering that information to Dr. Shahab and his team continuously, even before the pandemic actually hit our province, Mr. Speaker. We are continuing to work with everybody that we can, Mr. Speaker, to be able to provide a wholesome and very inclusive package for people.

Now again, Mr. Speaker, this is on protecting them, making sure that they are safe, making sure that they're adhering to the public health guidelines, moving those public health guides and localizing them when we need to, Mr. Speaker, getting vaccines across our province, up into the North and into the far North, targeting our health care workers to be able to make sure that they're getting the protection that they need, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the path to this is through vaccines. We will

continue to work with the great people that are delivering these vaccines across our province in our mobile clinics, in the drive-through clinics, and our appointment-based system to make sure that people can get back to normal as quick as they possibly can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Education during COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Beck: — On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we're not ignoring the facts, nor are we ignoring the concerns from countless worried teachers, staff, parents who are looking for leadership from this government. Yesterday a teacher with COVID tweeted from the hospital, condemning the Premier's pandemic inaction. Schools in Regina, Moose Jaw, and across the province are once again back to remote learning, adding to confusion and uncertainty in the coming weeks. Students are missing out on important in-class learning. High school students are struggling to get the credits that they need to graduate.

Mr. Speaker, students with additional needs do not get enough support at the best of times, and moving to remote learning amplifies those needs while limiting access. Will the minister admit that he's failed in not only keeping kids safe, but in supporting their learning needs as well?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question. And certainly I do, to answer my first question in the session, I want to thank our school divisions and our teachers and kids right across this province, Mr. Speaker, and their families that are doing a tremendous job in the midst of a global pandemic, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to meet with a number of school boards over the last number of months, in the last number of days, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we certainly did provide over \$150 million to allow those school divisions and schools to provide additional supports to students, Mr. Speaker, whether that be through technology or other means, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to work with school divisions to ensure that they have the ability to make the decisions that work best for them at a local level. Thank you.

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

Ms. Beck: — It won't be long until students get a report card for the most difficult year of their school career. Mr. Speaker, our caucus has a preliminary report card of our own for the Sask Party. Keeping schools safe: fail. Rolling out a rapid testing plan: fail. Listening to parents and teachers: fail. Providing necessary supports for students: fail. Taking leadership and responsibility: Mr. Speaker, that is a big fail on the part of this government.

The final exam is today — the budget. And what remains to be seen, Mr. Speaker: will the Minister of Education, the Minister of Finance, and the Sask Party government be able to redeem themselves and squeak out a passing grade? What is in this budget to ensure that schools are kept open and that schools are kept safe?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to what this government has done in conjunction with leaders in the education sector, Mr. Speaker, we put together a safe restart, a back-to-school plan, Mr. Speaker, last fall. We passed on that account, Mr. Speaker. \$155 million provided to school divisions to provide for sanitation, additional teachers, additional staff, additional technology, Chromebooks, laptops — you name it, Mr. Speaker — we passed on that front as well, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the fact that, yes, that families have been impacted, students have been impacted. But, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the fact that there are over roughly 200,000 people — whether it be students, teachers, staff, other people — that come into contact in schools, Mr. Speaker, and we've had to this point about 1,500 cases related to people that interact with our schools, Mr. Speaker, we have kept schools safe. We have passed on that.

And, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the question of the upcoming budget, Mr. Speaker, I think we're going to see a pass in a couple of minutes on that as well.

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. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Standing Committee on House Services to present its third report to the Assembly regarding standing committee membership that was previously filed with the Clerk on January 14th, 2021. Pursuant to rule 136(6), I move:

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

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

That the third 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: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership of the Board of Internal Economy

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, pursuant to section

67 of *The Legislative Assembly Act*, 2017, I hereby inform the Assembly of the membership of the Board of Internal Economy, effective January 7th, 2021: Hon. Randy Weekes, Chair, Speaker; Hon. Jeremy Harrison, executive council nominee; Hon. Everett Hindley, executive council nominee; Terry Dennis, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], government caucus nominee; Nadine Wilson, MLA, government caucus nominee; Carla Beck, MLA, opposition caucus nominee; Vicki Mowat, MLA, opposition caucus nominee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

TABLING OF ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to submit the estimates and supplementary estimates accompanied by the message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: — Would you please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2022, and supplementary estimates no. 2, of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2021, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Honourable Russell B. Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

Please be seated. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY (BUDGET DEBATE)

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, and esteemed colleagues, today I have the great honour and responsibility of delivering the 2021-22 budget, my fourth budget as Saskatchewan's Minister of Finance and my second during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Before I begin, it is important to recognize today's tragic overtones. It was on this day, April 6th, 2018, that my constituency of Humboldt-Watrous suffered a loss that no community should ever have to endure. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families and victims who are still struggling with unimaginable loss. We stand with you.

I usually begin the budget address by recognizing and introduce all the many guests in the Assembly. Today for the second year in a row, due to the pandemic, there are no guests to join with us for the budget presentation. So like so many other meetings this year, I expect many people are joining us remotely by watching online or on TV. So welcome to all of our virtual guests.

Mr. Speaker, the 2021-22 budget will protect, build, and grow Saskatchewan. It will protect Saskatchewan people through the pandemic as more vaccines are received and life begins to return

to normal. This budget protects the health and public safety of Saskatchewan people and the province's economy in the fight against COVID-19. It makes record investments in health care, education, social services, and the protections of people and property.

This budget will build Saskatchewan. It invests in new long-term care facilities, hospitals, schools, highways, and vital municipal infrastructure. It also invests in Crown capital for power generation, telecommunication, natural gas networks, and other vital services to help stimulate the economy and to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people.

This budget will grow Saskatchewan through incentives and key investments, and it will keep life affordable for families while at the same time fulfilling commitments in our government's election platform, which was strongly supported by Saskatchewan voters last fall.

Mr. Speaker, as the effects of the pandemic ease over time, Saskatchewan's economy is forecast to grow. Our economy has fared better than most through this global health crisis with continuing high levels of employment and growth in housing starts, wholesale trade, and international exports. This budget includes incentives and investments that create jobs, save Saskatchewan people and businesses money, and strengthen the pace of our recovery and growth in our province.

Throughout this pandemic we have witnessed Saskatchewan's resolve as our people made the sacrifices required to protect not only themselves but also their families, friends, neighbours, and co-workers. When this pandemic is over, we will witness Saskatchewan's resilience as our economy recovers and grows, as businesses reopen and more people return to work, and as Saskatchewan recovers to an even stronger position than we were before.

Resolve and resilience, a strong recovery, and a strong Saskatchewan: that is what we have to look forward to in the months ahead as we emerge from the pandemic, though we're not there yet. That is why this budget's first priority is to protect, to protect Saskatchewan people through the rest of the pandemic, as more and more people get vaccinated so that life can return to normal.

Mr. Speaker, our government has dedicated a total of 4.8 billion to help protect Saskatchewan lives and livelihoods in the fight against COVID-19. That includes 1.5 billion in this budget, which followed a \$2 billion investment in last year's budget, and a further 1.3 billion of support is in place for the next two years. This year's record health budget of 6.54 billion, up 359 million or 5.8 per cent from last year, will strengthen the provincial health care system to protect families and communities.

A \$90 million increase in this budget will support Saskatchewan's comprehensive COVID response. This includes the mass vaccination rollout, purchase of more personal protective equipment, supporting contact-tracing measures, expansion of testing and assessment sites, additional provincial laboratory capacity, supports for long-term care, and coverage of additional physician costs. This budget provides the Saskatchewan Health Authority with a 3.96 billion grant this year, up more than 221 million or nearly 6 per cent compared to

last year.

This budget invests a record 458 million for mental health and addictions programs and services, which is up 23.4 million or 5.4 per cent from last year. The increase includes more than 16 million primarily for hospital-based mental health and addiction services, physician visits, and prescription drug costs.

[14:30]

It also includes 7.2 million for targeted mental health and addiction services, including specific youth-focused initiatives, investments in suicide prevention and expansion of harm reduction and addictions treatment. There is 850,000 for 12 additional provincial addiction treatment beds, plus two pre-treatment beds at the addiction treatment centre located at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan.

This budget will spend 6 million to hire approximately 100 continuing care aids who will help long-term care clients with personal care, meals, and medication. It's the first year of our three-year \$18.4 billion campaign commitment to hire 300 continuing care aids to work in long-term care and to work in existing and expanding home-care services in rural and remote areas.

This budget also keeps our election commitment to support children with autism and their families, with 6 million to expand the autism spectrum disorder program to provide individualized funding for children age 6 to 11.

We are fulfilling another platform commitment through a \$5 million increase to expand eligibility under the Saskatchewan insulin pump program, which means the cost of an insulin pump will now be covered for everyone in Saskatchewan who needs one. The funding will also cover continuous glucose monitoring for children and youth under the age of 18.

A \$6.7 million increase in this budget will reduce ambulance fees for seniors to \$135 per trip, down from \$275, meeting another election commitment.

Emergency medical services will receive a 6.6 million increase to provide for additional ambulances in Regina and Saskatoon and address delays when transferring patients, along with other improvements.

This budget invests 1.4 million to add a new STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] helicopter to deliver emergency care faster to rural and remote areas and to save lives. Total provincial funding for STARS is now 11.88 million.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency receives an additional 7.6 million increase in this budget, bringing its annual grant to 204 million, the highest ever.

Education spending across government is 3.75 billion in this budget, up more than 391 million or 11.6 per cent compared to last year. This includes spending on pre-K [pre-kindergarten] to grade 12 education, post-secondary education, and career training programs and commissions. The Ministry of Education will support pre-K to grade 12 students with 2.66 billion in this budget, up nearly 60 million compared to last year.

Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive 1.96 billion in operating funding for the 2021-22 school year, a \$19.2 million increase. This is the largest ever budget for school divisions. This includes fully funding the 2 per cent salary increase in the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.

Federal-provincial safe schools funding of 155 million has been provided over the last year to help school divisions and independent schools during the pandemic. More than 20 million of that funding will carry over into the 2021-22 school year.

An increase of 2 million in this budget brings child care funding up to 75.5 million and will create 176 additional licensed home-based spaces and 51 new licensed centre spaces. This is part of our government's four-year platform commitment to provide 750 new licensed child care spaces.

This budget also provides a significant multi-year investment to help grow the long-term financial sustainability of post-secondary institutions with additional funding to protect the post-secondary sector from challenges created by the pandemic. Our government will invest 735 million in 2021 into the post-secondary sector in this budget. Beyond the typical base budget, government will invest an additional 60 million to support and grow post-secondary institutions — 30 million will be in this budget, the 2021-22 budget, and another 30 million in '22-23.

For the first time, Saskatchewan is providing this multi-year funding commitment to the post-secondary sector, which was developed collaboratively and is focused on shared priorities. 678.5 million is for operating and capital grants, up 4.4 per cent compared to the previous year, as well as 39.8 million for student supports, which is a 10 per cent increase. This includes an increase in the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship from \$500 to \$750 annually per eligible student to help with tuition costs, fulfilling another campaign commitment.

This budget provides social services and assistance with 1.56 billion, up more than 66 million or 4.5 per cent compared to last year.

This budget meets our election commitment to increase benefits to seniors with 3.5 million in additional funding for the seniors' income plan. The investment will help low-income seniors enjoy a better quality of life with maximum payments increased by \$30 a month effective July 1st. This is the sixth increase our government has made to the seniors' income plan since 2008. By the end of this term of our government, we'll have quadrupled the maximum seniors' income plan benefit from \$90 to \$360 per month, after it had been kept frozen for 16 years by the previous government.

This budget also provides 246,000 to meet our campaign commitment to further enhance communication services provided by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

This year the Ministry of Social Services will provide increased funding of 6.7 million to community-based organizations, including a 4.2 million increase for those working with people with intellectual disabilities and a \$2.5 million increase for those supporting at-risk children, youth, and families. This increase

recognizes the critical role that CBOs [community-based organization] play in protecting the province's most vulnerable during the pandemic. It is part of our government's total \$9.1 million lift for CBOs which are also funded across government.

This budget includes government-wide funding of more than 660 million, an increase of nearly 49 million for enhanced programming and increased utilization for people with disabilities. Since 2008 our government-wide funding for people with disabilities has increased by \$445 million or 207 per cent.

This budget includes an increase of 8.2 million for new residential care spaces to support children and youth with developmental and complex behavioural needs through private treatment and group homes. And it includes a \$1.6 million increase to PRIDE [parent resource information drug education], a specialized training program that supports foster families to care for children with more intensive needs.

A \$3 million increase in this budget will support more extended-family caregivers. A \$1.4 million increase for in-home family supports is aimed at preventing children from coming into the care of Social Services. And an additional 500,000 to Sanctum 1.5 will support high-risk expectant mothers, with enhanced outreach and coordination of services.

This budget provides more than 845 million for the protection of Saskatchewan persons and property, up 38.6 million or 4.8 per cent compared to last year. This includes 92.4 million for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, which is committed to the protection of people, property, and resources across the province. The agency is coordinating the province's non-health COVID response through its provincial emergency operations centre.

This budget also invests 12.8 million through the new purchase of aircraft to help modernize the province's wildfire suppression fleet.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will further protect the people of Saskatchewan with 163.6 million in this budget, up 8.4 million or 5.4 per cent compared to last year.

The Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety will receive 230.8 million in this budget, up 23.8 million or 4.7 per cent compared to last year. This includes more than 3.2 million for the gang violence reduction strategy, which provides addictions programming in provincial correctional facilities and intervention services to individuals who want to leave gangs, as well as about 110,000 to support the creation of a new police and crisis team for the Estevan region to address increased volumes of mental health calls. 243,000 will be provided to the internet child exploitation unit, known as ICE, to allow them to continue to investigate these horrific crimes that target our most vulnerable Saskatchewan residents, our children.

Mr. Speaker, as Saskatchewan emerges from the pandemic, growth and a strong capital plan will be the foundation of our province's economic recovery. This budget provides 3.1 billion in capital investment to further stimulate the economy and to support more than 17,500 jobs.

It invests 162 million in health care capital, including 7.6 million for the 80-bed La Ronge long-term care facility; 3.6 million for

the future Grenfell long-term care facility; planning-stage investment of 500,000 for new Watson and Estevan long-term care facilities; and 500,000 of planning dollars for replacement of long-term care beds in Regina. This budget provides 5.7 million for urgent care centres in Regina and Saskatoon, 1.4 million for Weyburn hospital planning, and 1.4 million for ongoing work on the program and design plans for Prince Albert's Victoria Hospital.

This budget also invests 830 million into operating capital, building and improving Saskatchewan's roads and highways, which is up 115 million or 16 per cent compared to last year. This budget provides more than 553 million for transportation capital, including 520 million for beginning the twinning work on Highway 3 west of Prince Albert; for multiple passing lane projects on Highway 2, 3, 12, 14, and 16; three sets of passing lanes on Highway 7 from Kindersley to the Alberta border; two sets of passing lanes and widening on Highway 5 from Saskatoon to Highway 2; completing passing lanes and other improvements on Highway 39 from Corinne to Estevan; as well as projects that will improve the safety and efficiency of highway corridors around the province.

This budget invests more than 33 million in transfers related to municipal infrastructure for the rural integrated roads for growth program and the urban highway connector program and the community airport partnership program, as well as 530,000 for a new shortline rail infrastructure program.

This budget provides nearly 190 million for education capital, up 22.3 million or more than 13 per cent compared to last year. This includes nearly 102 million to support 21 ongoing capital projects which will build 16 new schools and renovate an additional five schools. Construction of a new elementary school in Weyburn will be completed this year and construction will begin on a new joint-use facility in Regina to replace Argyle and St. Pius elementary schools.

This budget also provides 8.8 million as part of the stimulus funding to complete 15 school maintenance projects, the second year of a \$25.9 million total commitment. A further 10.3 million will fund relocatable classrooms, and nearly 68 million will fund ongoing preventative maintenance renewal and emergency funding.

Since 2008 our government has invested \$2.1 billion to build 57 new schools and undertake 28 major renovation projects across Saskatchewan. Our government will continue to build more schools for a growing Saskatchewan, a far cry from the record of the previous government that closed 176 schools, about one a month over their 16 years in office.

Mr. Speaker, this budget invests more than 324 million in government services infrastructure, up more than 109 million compared to last year. This includes 52 million for the construction of the remand centre at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre and 3.8 million to replace and expand the Saskatoon Correctional Centre urban camp.

[14:45]

There is also about 70 million in this budget for maintenance and upgrades to dams and canals, and 18.9 million for phase 1 of the

Lake Diefenbaker irrigation expansion project, a large, transformational, multi-year project. This budget also includes more than 244 million for municipal infrastructure.

Saskatchewan Crown corporations will spend 1.6 billion on major Crown capital projects this year, including more than 937 million by SaskPower to improve our province's electricity system to meet demand and maintain reliability. SaskPower's sustainable program is being supported by 50 million of economic stimulus capital in the coming year. It will bring the total to 272 million. Fully 28 per cent of SaskPower's capital plan is dedicated to ensuring reliability of the electrical grid.

SaskEnergy will invest nearly 277 million this year to maintain and expand its natural gas distribution system to meet increased demand in a growing province.

SaskTel will invest more than 323 million this year to improve its networks and will complete its \$107 million Wireless Saskatchewan program in 2021-22 with an investment of 7.5 million to improve cellular services for rural customers.

The growth plan targets a further 30 billion in capital investment by executive government and Saskatchewan's Crowns over the next decade. The investments in this budget moves towards that goal, helping to build a strong Saskatchewan.

As Saskatchewan emerges from the pandemic, our government remains committed to the growth plan goals of a strong economy, a growing province, and new jobs over the next decade. This budget includes record funding for workforce development of more than 39 million to strengthen Saskatchewan's recovery from the pandemic. Nearly 18 million is being provided for employment assistance for people with disabilities to remove barriers, provide supports, and develop the skills people need to fully participate in the workforce. This budget also provides 8.1 million, an increase of 700,000 for the Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant, to help ensure employers have a skilled workforce with the competencies to be productive and competitive.

As Saskatchewan's economy recovers and creates new jobs over the next decade as outlined in the growth plan, our government will focus on competitiveness, seeking new markets, increasing trade, growing exports, as well as ensuring that value is added to Saskatchewan's products sold around the world.

This budget includes 200 million for the accelerated site-closure program, to support Saskatchewan-based oil and gas service companies and the more than 2,000 jobs in that sector. The program is federally funded and cleans up abandoned oil and gas well sites.

This budget takes additional measures to attract investment and create jobs in the oil sector by modernizing and expanding the high water-cut program, changing the royalty status to make high water volume wells more viable and promote increased production. Fulfilling a growth plan commitment, this budget also provides oil producers with 3.8 million in annual royalty relief to help them invest in new methane emissions reduction projects and help support capture and commercialization of associated natural gas instead of venting and flaring.

This budget will simplify and reduce the royalty rate on sodium

sulphate production to add value and bolster Saskatchewan's presence in growing potash fertilizer markets. To ensure the growth of export markets, this budget increases funding for international trade offices by 5 million to 9.3 million. Four new trade offices will be added this year, complementing Saskatchewan's existing offices in India, Japan, Singapore, and China.

This budget includes nearly 175 million to fulfill another campaign commitment to provide all SaskPower customers with a 10 per cent rebate on their power bills this year. In May every Saskatchewan driver will receive a rebate on their vehicle registration from the Auto Fund. On average rebates will be about \$285 per vehicle, putting \$285 million back into the pockets of Saskatchewan residents. With these rebates, Saskatchewan people will pay the lowest total utility rates in Canada this year, making life more affordable and strengthening our province's economic recovery from the pandemic.

Our government is helping Saskatchewan small businesses through the pandemic with the small-business tax rate reduction. The rate was reduced from 2 per cent to zero, effective October 1st, 2020. The rate will increase to 1 per cent July 1st, 2022 and return to 2 per cent on July 1st, 2023 as Saskatchewan recovers from the pandemic.

The Saskatchewan home renovation tax credit provides a 10.5 per cent tax credit up to \$20,000 in eligible home renovations completed between October 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2022. The tax credit will help create jobs in the building trades and making life more affordable for Saskatchewan people.

This budget extends the Saskatchewan technology start-up incentive for 5 years to encourage investment in technology bringing new products to market, and create jobs. The program offers a non-refundable 45 per cent tax credit to Saskatchewan investors. To date the incentive has attracted 22 million in investment, benefitting 62 tech companies and creating 144 new jobs.

This budget also invests 3 million into the Agriculture Technology Venture Capital Fund. This initial investment is part of the \$15-million commitment announced last summer to further Saskatchewan global leadership in the ag-tech sector.

And this budget includes more than 4 million in operating funding to grow the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, known as VIDO, in addition to previous commitments of 15 million to support VIDO's centre of pandemic research, and 4.2 million for vaccine development and to support construction of a new vaccine manufacturing facility. Domestic vaccine production is vital to protecting Canadians through the current and any future pandemics. The work being done at VIDO will make Saskatchewan the leader in Canada in research, development, and production of new vaccines.

This budget also invests 16.5 million in capital projects and upgrades in Saskatchewan's parks, including development of a new serviced campground at Cypress Hills, and new group pavilions at Pike Lake, Blackstrap, Echo Valley, and Buffalo Pound provincial parks.

This budget also helps Saskatchewan communities by fulfilling

our campaign commitment to reinstate the community rink affordability grant, providing \$2,500 per ice surface. This \$1.7 million program helps cover eligible operating costs, COVID-related costs, and minor capital improvements for more than 600 ice surfaces in more than 350 communities across Saskatchewan.

This budget also helps ensure the viability of service clubs that provide supports for veterans and their families in communities across Saskatchewan. Total funding through the Saskatchewan veteran service support program will grow from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million this year, another election commitment kept by our government.

As promised, our government has also reinstated the active families benefit, helping to keep life affordable for families by providing \$150 per child enrolled in sport, recreation, and cultural activities. The benefit provides an extra \$50 to families of children with a disability.

In the election campaign last fall we made 14 specific campaign commitments to make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, this budget fulfills all 14 of those commitments. Mr. Speaker, that means we did what we said we would do.

This budget strengthens communities across Saskatchewan through 276 million in municipal revenue sharing. Since 2007 municipal revenue sharing has increased by 118 per cent, providing a stable, predictable source of funding for Saskatchewan's rural, urban, and northern communities. This budget includes more than 465 million of total investment into municipalities, including revenue sharing, the province's portion of infrastructure funding, and a number of grants and initiatives from multiple government ministries.

This budget includes more than 193 million in targeted investment that will help meet the priorities of Indigenous communities, businesses, and organizations. This includes 35 million in emergency pandemic support, replacing gaming agreement transfers to First Nations and Métis organizations, as casinos continue to be impacted by the pandemic.

While Saskatchewan's economy has fared better than most throughout the pandemic, it has still had a significant impact on the province's economy and finances. Saskatchewan's real GDP [gross domestic product] is forecast to grow by 3.4 per cent in 2021, but that follows a projected 4.2 per cent contraction in real GDP in 2020.

It is difficult to overstate the impact of the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has produced the largest economic shock from a single event since World War II. And the pandemic has presented stronger waves and persisted longer than we first anticipated in Saskatchewan and globally, when we set our path to balance in late summer of last year. As a result our plan to recover will take longer than expected.

In this budget we keep every promise we made in our election platform, and we remain committed to a return to balance but it's unlikely we will meet the time frame that we had set out. A course has been set however to meet the fiscal challenge. Mr. Speaker, our government will manage carefully without reckless

cuts or large tax increases that would threaten both the pandemic response and a strong recovery.

This budget has a forecast deficit of 2.6 billion. We project the province's fiscal path will steadily improve over the next three years, with smaller deficits of 1.7 billion in 2022-23, 1.2 billion in '23-24, and 770 million in '24-25. And a return to balance is now expected in 2026-27.

Revenue is forecast at 4.5 billion in this budget, with most revenue categories forecast to increase compared to the latest '20-21 forecast. This budget includes a few changes that will improve tax fairness, including the taxation of vapour products and heat-not-burn tobacco products. This budget will introduce a road-use fee for electric vehicles at the time of registration to ensure that all road users contribute to road maintenance and replacement.

Expense of 17.1 billion is projected in this budget. That's an increase of 1 billion compared to last year. This budget protects lives and livelihoods by providing significant support to protect Saskatchewan people, the economy, and jobs throughout the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, our government continues to manage debt responsibly. Saskatchewan's net debt-to-GDP ratio is the lowest in Canada, and our province has the second-highest credit rating in the country when ratings from the three major rating agencies are considered. Total public debt, including Crown corporation debt, is projected to be 27.8 billion at March 31st, 2022, which is up 4.2 billion compared to last year.

Mr. Speaker, this budget will protect our province through the rest of the pandemic as more Saskatchewan people become vaccinated and life begins to return to normal. It provides direct funding to fight the pandemic as well as record investments in health care, education, social services, and protection of people and property.

This budget builds. Capital investment at 3.1 billion will help our economy and it will create jobs. This budget will grow our economy and create jobs in Saskatchewan by attracting more investment in our province and driving a strong recovery going forward.

The 2021-22 budget is the right budget for Saskatchewan people. Our government's priority is to protect people and businesses by investing in needed supports, services, and programs. By building, by investing in needed projects, our government will keep Saskatchewan strong. It's the right plan to help Saskatchewan recover and grow and to plan a post-pandemic path to balance.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, this budget protects, builds, and grows Saskatchewan. It charts a clear course for our province through the remainder of the pandemic and into the strong recovery that will follow. Thank you.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, seconded by the member for The Battlefords:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise here today on Treaty 4 territory and the homeland of the Métis, in the Saskatchewan legislature, to respond to the budget that was just presented. I too would like to welcome all those individuals that are joining us here today, and we look forward to all of them filling the gallery once again next year.

Mr. Speaker, we are battling the greatest public health pandemic of our time. Lives and livelihoods have been lost, are being lost, and are threatened. As we speak today, our province and its people face a dangerous and overwhelming spike in the COVID-19 variant. The stress, uncertainty, and hardship is real for the people of our province. These are extraordinary times.

In the face of this historic challenge, this is a budget that fails to rise to the occasion from a Sask Party government that has failed Saskatchewan people, a government that is tired, seemingly disinterested, and lacking the courage to fulfill its duty to the people of Saskatchewan to use the tools at its disposal to protect lives and livelihoods. This budget does nothing to get control of the dangerous COVID-19 spike that's been made so much worse by that government's inaction.

Failing to protect Saskatchewan people is an abdication of one of the most basic duties and sacred responsibilities of a government. And while Saskatchewan people have tirelessly, selflessly, courageously stepped up to the aid of one another, demonstrating the best of Saskatchewan, this is a government that's failed to show up for work. This is a government that's been missing in action. While Saskatchewan people toil tirelessly on the front lines, the Sask Party MLAs have avoided accountability and their duties in this legislature, sitting less than any other legislature in Canada by far. And while the Sask Party MLAs fail to do their jobs, this budget will leave countless Saskatchewan people without a job.

Failing to secure an economic recovery that's so desperately needed, this is a budget from a government that clearly fails to grasp the situation that people face and what's at stake. At stake are the lives of Saskatchewan people. At stake are their livelihoods. In this battle with this pandemic, we witness a damaging lack of courage and failure to lead by that government.

And the costs couldn't be higher. It's costing Saskatchewan people more suffering, loss, and death. It's costing lives. It's costing our health care services and our hospitals' capacity to provide care. This inaction and failure to contain the virus has resulted in our province having the worst COVID rates in Canada this year. And of course it's costing our economy, costing so many hard-working Saskatchewan people and local businesses their livelihoods.

These are Saskatchewan people. These are our neighbours, our friends, our co-workers, our families, our loved ones. They deserve so much better. But instead this government, this budget takes the same approach as this government's pandemic response — weak half measures that don't get the job done for

Saskatchewan people.

Specifically the Sask Party fails families by taking no responsibility for their lack of action to prevent the severe second and now third waves of COVID-19. Not including a jobs plan that works for people and that gets people back to work in jobs they can count on. Not removing the Sask Party's job-killing PST on construction labour and on restaurants, an industry that has been beat up so hard through this pandemic, leaving Saskatchewan workers with the lowest minimum wage in Canada and no paid sick days during a pandemic. Not investing in hard-hit areas like long-term care and in our classrooms. Not acting to diversify our economy and take advantage of the real opportunities in renewable power and green technologies to create sustainable jobs for the future.

Not stepping up to invest in making rural internet and cellular connectivity happen through SaskTel, something so important to quality of life, and something that has the potential to unlock incredible economic opportunity. Not even mentioning sky-high wait times for surgeries, which were already increasing drastically before this pandemic hit, allowing for-profit long-term care to continue unchecked despite the tragedies.

And despite Saskatchewan producers and farm groups being united in their call and having earned the support of the federal government for the lion's share of funding, this government continues to block the needed fix to AgriStability that was so damaged by cuts.

In speaking to trust, this budget contains three clear broken commitments. Of course, the government said during the election they would balance the budget in 2024. Despite all the evidence that made that clear, that simply wasn't on. That wasn't their plan; that wasn't their intent. Honesty matters, Mr. Speaker.

They said there would be no tax increases for families. Instead in this budget, property taxes for families are being hiked by this government, driving up the cost of living and slowing our recovery.

And now we see this government wasn't straight to families in the last election about their key election promise to increase staffing in our hard-hit long-term care facilities. Instead of the 300 continuing care aids the Sask Party promised during the election, and that they swore they were already hiring last year, only 100 will be funded and hired. This despite the fact that the costing document from the election contains funding for those 300 long-term care aids year after year.

Mr. Speaker, in face of the tragedy we've witnessed and that so many have endured in long-term care facilities, I simply can't fathom why the Premier would break such an important commitment. It's inexcusable. The Premier owes seniors, residents in long-term care, their families and loved ones, and the hard-working staff in our care homes a deep apology, and to correct his action, and to keep his word.

The truth is when it comes to what matters most to Saskatchewan families, this government simply can't be trusted. Honesty matters and so do these investments, especially now. This is a government abdicating its responsibilities when it comes to protecting people, and a government without a vision or a plan

for the future, offering no hope to Saskatchewan people at this critical time.

The facts are that due to the cuts of this government, our students' classrooms were at a breaking point before this pandemic. This year has exacted a terrible toll on students, with serious learning gaps developing and widening. Instead of stepping up to ensure that classrooms and students have the investments they need, if you can imagine, this budget will result in further cuts in classrooms across Saskatchewan.

Most of us have a decent understanding of the real mental health and addictions crises this province faces that's ravaging lives, families, and communities. Suicides and overdoses are stealing far too many loved ones, far too many with full lives ahead of them. This was the case long before the pandemic and certainly exacerbated by the pandemic. This budget is woefully inadequate on this front, as this government has been for years. It's long past time to fix our broken mental health and addictions services and to make them accessible when they are needed to save lives, and that includes harm reduction programs, Mr. Speaker.

When it comes to acting on climate change and common-sense, affordable, job-creating ways to reduce emissions, this government sits on the sidelines and instead imposes a foolish and ideological new tax.

When it comes addressing racism and acting on injustice and towards reconciliation, this government shamefully sits idle.

When it comes to acting on poverty, in a province where more than one in four children lives in poverty with a devastating 29 per cent poverty rate for children, this government doesn't just sit idle. They make matters worse with callous and damaging choices, deciding who's in and who's out, Mr. Speaker.

On all these fronts, Saskatchewan people deserve so much better. They deserve a government that will put people first. And we must remember that this is a government that squandered a historic opportunity, that failed to get the job done during the best days in this province — during boom — failed to balance the books, not saving a dime, draining the rainy day fund and piling on debt, tripling the debt long before the impacts of COVID-19.

They've proven they simply can't be trusted with our finances and with our economy. While boasting and coasting during the boom, thinking the good times would just keep rolling, this was a government that weakened our economy and eroded the needed diversification by attacking and cutting industries and jobs, from film to renewables to their job-killing PST on construction labour and their relentless outsourcing of jobs out of province and out of country.

[15:15]

Through these actions and their financial mismanagement and massive overruns of project after project, they left Saskatchewan people vulnerable and our economy weakened. They left our province without the security of a fiscal cushion that the people and our economy need and deserve. Now more than ever is the time to act to protect lives of Saskatchewan people to get this economy back on track.

We're going to fight back against this government. Your NDP MLAs, the official opposition, are focused on getting COVID-19 under control to save lives, getting Saskatchewan people back to work, and building a fairer, more prosperous province for the future. We need a budget that puts people first, creating good jobs, protecting seniors in long-term care and kids in classrooms across our province because it's a priority to families and people in this province.

We need common-sense solutions to make life more affordable for families and local small businesses, and we need a jobs plan that diversifies our economy and extends opportunity.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I won't be supporting this budget. I'll have more to say tomorrow, as will other members. But in closing, to the people of Saskatchewan that have risen to the occasion — that have stepped up in unprecedented ways, that have worked tirelessly and selflessly, that have looked out for one another, and that have sacrificed and done all they can and more — on behalf of the official opposition, I simply say thank you.

At this time I'll move to adjourn the debate.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Motion for Resumption of Budget Debate

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That debate on the motion "That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government" be resumed on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That debate on the motion "That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government" be resumed on Wednesday, April 7th, 2021.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until

tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:18.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Fred Bradshaw
Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment

Hon. Gene Makowsky
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Hon. David Marit
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Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission

Hon. Paul Merriman
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Hon. Don Morgan
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Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
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Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General