



FIRST SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

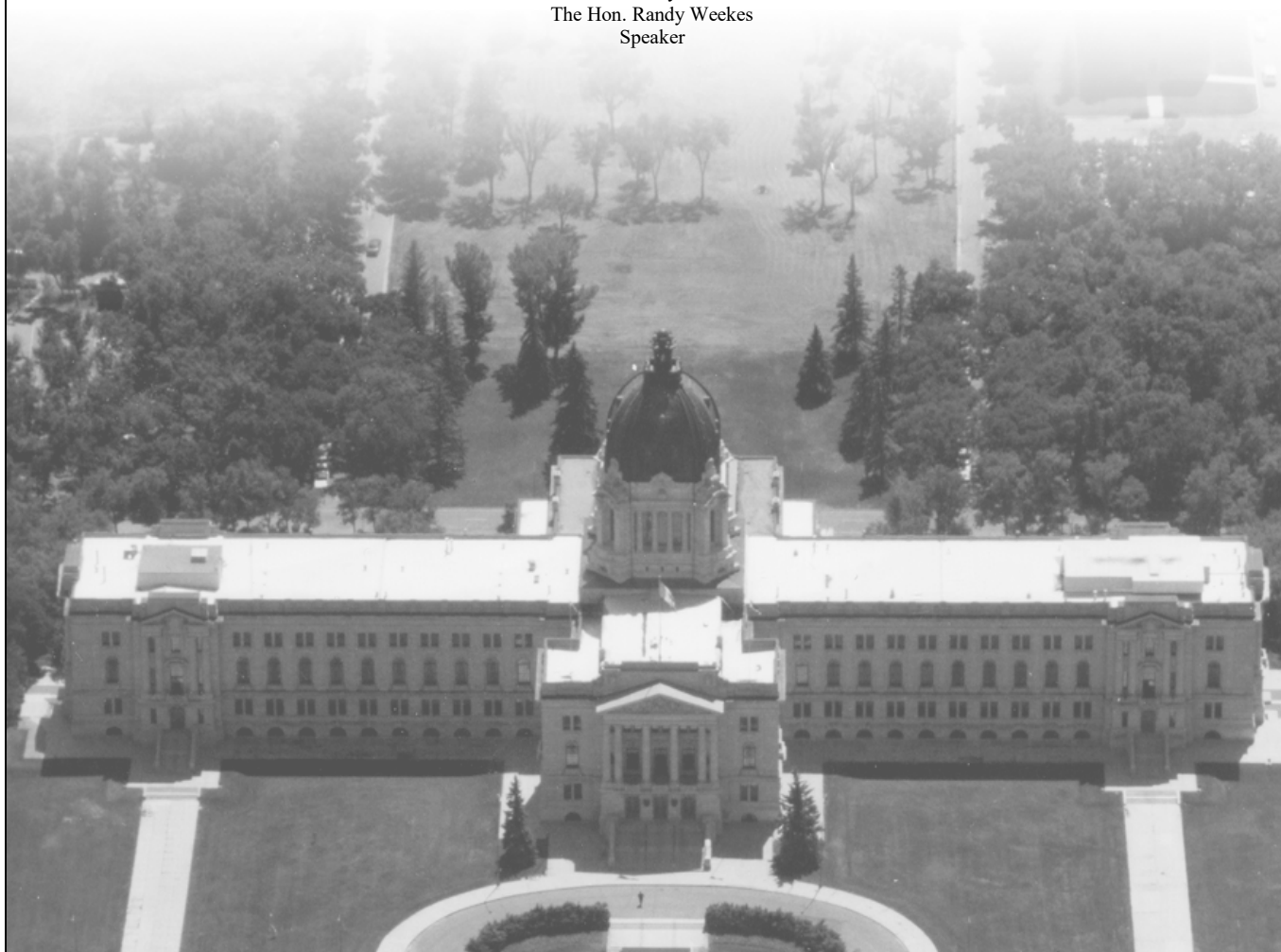
of the

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

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Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)
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Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
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McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
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Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
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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

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Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and present a petition on behalf of the Lighthouse serving The Battlefords. This petition is lobbying the Saskatchewan Party government to provide core funding to emergency homelessness shelters across the province.

Saskatchewan is one of the only provinces that uses the per diem model where emergency shelters for a person facing homelessness is provided only for social assistance recipients per bed per night. The Lighthouse serving The Battlefords was opened in 2015, Mr. Speaker, to fill a need in the community for people facing homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges. It faced a cut of 90 per cent to its core funding from this government only one year after opening. This funding has never been restored and now the shelter risks closing.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately provide stable, guaranteed core funding to the Lighthouse serving The Battlefords and expand supports for emergency shelters across Saskatchewan by moving to a core funding model.

The signatories of this petition reside in North Battleford. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Thanking Community Volunteers for Maintaining Outdoor Rinks

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge a few groups from my constituency who put in a lot of time and effort to improve the lives of hundreds of their neighbours in Saskatoon Eastview. During the winter season, it was incredibly challenging for our province. Most of us didn't stray far from home. Many of us learned to look at what we have right here in Saskatchewan in our own communities and to appreciate what is local.

Today I'd like to recognize the dedicated volunteers from our community associations in Saskatoon Eastview who, through resilience and hard work, put on an all-time great season of skating at the outdoor rink. In Saskatoon Eastview, we have five incredible community associations. We have Avalon, Adelaide/Churchill, Queen Elizabeth/Exhibition/Haultain, South

Nutana Park, and of course Eastview. Each of these five amazing associations had at least one outdoor rink operating all winter.

I can't think of a winter when their volunteerism was more significant to our community's health and well-being. To each individual who gave their time this winter to fundraise, prepare the boards, put up lights, shovel the ice surface, flood the ice surface, build benches, supervise public skate times, and of course clean up at the end of the season, I thank you. We recognize how important your service is to our community, to the health and well-being of the people who enjoyed a great season at the outdoor rinks of Saskatoon Eastview. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Moose Jaw Supports Community with The Big Give

Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today and acknowledge a fantastic initiative being delivered by the Moose Jaw & District Chamber of Commerce. It's called The Big Give, and it works like this: community members and businesses who would like to make a donation can do so at the chamber office or any of the local Co-op stores. The chamber then uses that money to purchase well-balanced, nutritious meals from one of the participating local restaurants. The meals are then delivered to families in need through Moose Jaw Food Bank or Hunger in Moose Jaw.

Chamber of Commerce CEO [chief executive officer] Rob Clark calls this a win-win-win, and indeed it would be difficult to see it any other way, Mr. Speaker. Those who can afford to share have easily accessible locations and opportunities to give their donations. Local restaurants receive some much-needed and much-appreciated business. And local families receive delicious, well-balanced, individually packaged meals.

So far over \$27,000 has been raised and every dollar was put directly back into the local restaurant sector. With 23 of our restaurants participating, The Big Give has fed over 2,600 people in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Moose Jaw & District Chamber of Commerce together with their local partners and participating businesses who have turned this wonderful idea into a true win-win-win for the people of Moose Jaw. Thank you.

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

Recognizing Advocate for Disabilities Issues

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the hard work and perseverance of Terri Sleeva, a disabilities issues advocate and community activist. She is a leader in our province and has never stopped fighting for those who face the most barriers, despite her own barriers. She uses a wheelchair and has been a tireless voice for accessible transportation here in Saskatchewan.

Terri, like so many others, relied on the STC [Saskatchewan

Transportation Company] for transportation and was concerned she would no longer have accessible transportation. She was vocal when that government chose to sell off the STC. This government dismissed those concerns outright and said the market will sort it out.

Earlier this month Terri received news that the Canadian Transportation Agency ruled in favour of her complaint against Rider Express. When STC was sold off, people were expected to rely on services like the Rider Express, but that is not an option for many. The truth is, these forms of transportation are not wheelchair accessible and continue to exclude so many.

Terri's story is a reminder of the damages that happen to the people in this province when our government privatizes the services and programs people rely on. I ask all members to acknowledge Terri's fight, her grit, and to cheer on her success and thank her for the hard work she continues to do in our province.

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

Elk Ridge Resort

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We here in Saskatchewan pride ourselves on opportunity, entrepreneurship, and hard work. And in lieu of these qualities, I wish to acknowledge a tourism gem located in my constituency, Elk Ridge Resort.

Located just north of Prince Albert near the national park, this world-class resort hotel opened to the public 13 years ago. Its founder, Arne Petersen, had a vision for our beautiful boreal forest fringe and developed it into the successful tourist attraction we see today. Catering to visitors from around the world, Elk Ridge offers a variety of activities for all four seasons, such as an award-winning 36-hole golf course, fine dining, a banquet and convention hall overlooking its scenic lake.

Elk Ridge has faced challenges over the past year, much like all of us have. It has shown its resilience through a global financial crisis, a global pandemic, and most recently its sale to the next generation of investors, a group of eight born-and-raised Saskatchewan professionals who are eager to continue Arne's and our province's legacy.

Mr. Speaker and members, please join me in acknowledging Mr. Arne Petersen's efforts and the next generation of investors who will carry on his vision. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Care on the Air Radiothon

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we recognize the incredible efforts of everyone involved in the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] Care on the Air radiothon, which took place over the past two days. Nearly 30 radio stations across Saskatchewan came together as one voice to promote STARS, and I'm proud to say that they raised \$340,000.

Mr. Speaker, STARS has been a valued partner in supporting our

provincial EMS [emergency medical services] system for over 35 years. Since it began providing service in Saskatchewan in 2012, the specialized skills of STARS critical care health providers and its aviation team have helped many patients. It has been particularly beneficial to those in rural and remote communities, transporting or providing care to over 5,700 patients.

Mr. Speaker, in December our government renewed its contract with STARS for 10 years and committed to providing approximately 50 per cent of STARS's annual operating costs. In this year's budget we committed an additional 1.4 million for the purchase of a new helicopter, bringing our total provincial funding to almost 12 million per year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone who was able to donate this year. Your generosity helps ensure that STARS continues to provide critical care in the air in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Recognizing a Leader in the Cultural Sector

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Rose Gilks, who retired in 2020 as the chief executive officer of SaskCulture. For more than 35 years, Rose was an inspiring leader in our province's non-profit volunteer community and a key figure in our cultural sector.

Rose began her career with a variety of non-profit sports and recreation organizations before joining the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations in 1993 as their cultural trust manager. In 1998 the council evolved into SaskCulture and Rose was promoted to general manager and subsequently chief executive officer.

Mr. Speaker, Rose has shared her skills and expertise through governance workshops, coaching, and by serving on numerous committees. She was instrumental in the formation of Heritage Saskatchewan and built strong relationships with multiple government agencies like Sask Sport, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, Rose has been a role model and mentor to many emerging cultural leaders in our province. Her influence will continually be felt for years to come. And I now ask all members to join me in thanking Rose for her commitment and service to strengthening our cultural communities here in Saskatchewan and all that she has done for our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cargill to Build Canola Processing Facility in Regina

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the province received some very exciting news yesterday. Cargill has announced their new canola processing facility will be built right here in Regina, Saskatchewan. This new state-of-the-art facility will have a production capacity of 1 million metric tons and will support our farmers' access to increasing market demand. This

investment is a clear sign, Mr. Speaker, of the confidence in the growth and competitiveness of our world-class Saskatchewan agriculture industry.

Mr. Speaker, while this amazing news was breaking yesterday, where were the members opposite? Well I'll tell you. They were hosting a town hall on the economic vision for the future with special guest, Lorne Calvert. The new face of the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker, sure does look a lot like the old NDP.

We can't afford to go back to the policies that drove investment and people out of the province. Mr. Speaker, the Cargill facility is a \$350 million investment. It will create 1 million hours of employment through its construction, and it will add 50 full-time positions upon completion. These aren't just stats, Mr. Speaker, these are real jobs for Saskatchewan families and a real investment to our economy as our province emerges from the pandemic.

And it's a testament to the potential for continued growth in our province. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Cargill for their investment and support. We know this is just one of many good things on the horizon for Saskatchewan. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week the Premier said, and I quote, "Whether it's the UK variant, the South African variant, they're all COVID." Now the Premier's communications throughout the pandemic have been confusing, misinformed, unclear. But minimizing the seriousness of the variants, it's not just profoundly ignorant; it's dangerous and it's irresponsible.

At last night's doctors' town hall, the extreme challenges that variants pose to Saskatchewan were revealed. Saskatchewan patients infected with variants of concern are 64 per cent more likely to wind up in hospital, 100 per cent more likely to wind up in ICU [intensive care unit], 61 per cent more likely to die, Mr. Speaker. Patients are younger and sicker. Twice as many people under 39 have died since January than in the entire previous year from COVID. These variants are bad. The new P.1 variant may be even worse. These are things the Premier would know if he was willing to talk to the folks on the front lines of our ICUs.

I'd like to give the Premier a chance to clarify: does he still think COVID is just COVID? Or does he understand how much worse these variants of concern are, and the danger his inaction has put us in by his failure to prevent their spread?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the COVID pandemic that we have been talking about for over a year now, Mr. Speaker, yes, the COVID virus has mutated into a number of different variants that we are seeing, and now, here in Saskatchewan, we have the UK [United

Kingdom] variant; most recently now we now have the P.1 variant, which is the South African variant, Mr. Speaker . . . The Brazilian variant, pardon me. We had the South African variant a while ago and were able to contain that. Mr. Speaker, they are much more transmissible.

[10:15]

But they are COVID as well, Mr. Speaker, which means the vaccines are very effective when it comes to these variants, Mr. Speaker.

If I could speak to the people of this province: over the course of today and the course of the next number of weeks, we really have two jobs to do. One is to ensure that we are following all the public health measures that are in place, Mr. Speaker. They are effective in controlling COVID, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, the second thing that we have to do, and we have the opportunity to do as Saskatchewan residents, is to participate in the largest vaccination effort that this province has ever undertaken. When it's your turn, I'm asking the people of this province to roll up your sleeve, make your appointment, and let's all get vaccinated.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also learned that, in Saskatchewan we have 43 COVID-positive patients in the ICU per million people. That's nearly double the rates of Ontario, of British Columbia, of Alberta. In Regina, at 158 per million, it's more than five times anywhere else in the country, Mr. Speaker. If that Regina level reaches the rest of the province, that would mean 180 patients in our ICUs, 227 per cent of our capacity, Mr. Speaker. Doctors know what those numbers mean. They're already having to make difficult triage decisions. And now they're having to prepare for a disastrous scenario, having to prepare for that moment where they'll have to choose who will live and who will die.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier believe these doctors? Does he believe the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] leadership is telling the truth? And if so, why won't he act to stop this slow-motion car crash, this tragedy that is unfolding before our very eyes? Avoidable. Why won't he act to save Saskatchewan lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as I've said many times in this House and outside of this House, that our hospitalizations are higher than we most certainly would like to see them in Saskatchewan, in particular in Regina due to the concentration of variants that we have here in Regina. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we had put in effect a very strong travel advisory. That's why all of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] are down in Regina, are staying in Regina throughout this session, so that we are not transporting that variant out through people into our home communities, Mr. Speaker.

As we know, the variant does transmit and it is slowly transmitting across the province, but I think, in fairness, at a reduced rate due to the travel restriction that has been put in place

and the more serious measures that have also been put in place here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. But we've extended the household visitation measure, tightened that up, Mr. Speaker, across the province as well to ensure that we are addressing where about two-thirds of the spread is occurring, which is in the household setting, Mr. Speaker. So we've increased measures.

We've also focused vaccines, Mr. Speaker, most particularly here in the city of Regina, our capital city, due again to the high concentration of variants, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to . . . I've just been made aware that our vaccine program has gone very well in the last couple of days and, Mr. Speaker, we have appointments out for the next number of days. If we get more vaccines, we're going to make sure we get those to Saskatchewan people as quickly as we possibly can.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over and over, doctors are hearing the truth about what's happening with COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, the truth this Premier refuses to share with the public. Last night's doctors' town hall was a cry for help. Doctors heard about parents who have died, leaving their children orphaned — orphaned from COVID right here in Saskatchewan.

We heard about the health care workers who are demoralized and frightened because they see how much worse things are getting. And with this Premier, they know there's no help on the way because he's so desperate to pretend that he's got this under control, Mr. Speaker.

But it's not too late for him to change. It's not too late for him to act now. We know he waited too long in Regina. He saw the modelling but he chose not to act, and now it's too late. But it's not too late for Saskatoon. We saw that slide last night. It's not too late, but it will be very soon.

Will this Premier act? Now is the time to act to prevent disaster. Will he insist on repeating that same fatal error? And that's not hyperbole, Mr. Speaker — his choices have killed people. Will he insist on making the same choice, or will he act now and save Saskatchewan lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the member opposite's question, I would just take this opportunity to speak directly to the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we most certainly know that our health teams — whether they be in Regina, most particularly in Regina, but across this province — are working very hard, working very hard delivering the opportunity for testing capacity in our communities, delivering vaccines in our communities, and yes, caring for our residents in our health care centres across this province.

And they are working very hard, Mr. Speaker. They are doing precisely what they were trained to do, and for that we are forever grateful. Mr. Speaker, we are forever grateful for the effort that all of our front-line Saskatchewan people have been doing throughout the course of the last 13 or 14 months.

Mr. Speaker, I would also say to the people of this province, with all of our front-line folks doing their job, we also have a job to

do. We have a job to ensure that we are aware of what the public health measures are, ensure that we are following them each and every day, Mr. Speaker.

And we have another job to do and that is, when it is your turn, when you have the opportunity to access a vaccine, I'm asking you in this province to roll up your sleeve, take the first vaccine that is offered to you. It will keep you safe and in turn is going to keep all of those around you safe. This is our path through, Mr. Speaker. We all have work to do. Let's all do our job.

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

Mr. Meili: — The Premier does recognize that these question periods are recorded, does he not? That this is on the record forever? His unwillingness to learn, his unwillingness to acknowledge his mistakes, his unwillingness to recognize the pain that he's put people through, Mr. Speaker — overwhelming ICUs, forcing doctors to decide who lives and dies, leaving children orphaned from COVID-19, Mr. Speaker.

It's in the Premier's power to prevent this. It's a choice. The Premier can't claim ignorance. He can't pretend he didn't know. The information is right in front of him. Will he let the record show and history judge him for his cruelty and his arrogance, or will he change his path and save Saskatchewan lives right now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Throughout this pandemic, working with our public health department, our chief medical health officer, with the previous Health ministers, the current Health ministers that are in place, Mr. Speaker, this government has always enacted measures where they're required, Mr. Speaker. Most recently I would point back to the measures that we had stretched out of Regina, addressing the household transfer that we are experiencing here in this province with both the original COVID as well as the variants, as they ultimately do spread across the province, Mr. Speaker.

While we're doing that, while we are looking at the measures and enacting further measures to keep people safe, we're also, Mr. Speaker, delivering the largest vaccination effort that this province has ever experienced. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that I think there was close to 10,000 vaccines that were delivered yesterday. Initial reports are saying it's close to that. Mr. Speaker, we lowered the age group as well this week, down to 44 years of age. We do have some additional appointments available here in the province, but my understanding is there was about 10,000 appointments that were also booked yesterday, Mr. Speaker, by that new age category.

Mr. Speaker, again I just ask people to do two things: follow the public health orders each and every day, Mr. Speaker; and when it's your turn, please make your appointment, roll up your sleeve, and get vaccinated.

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

Health Care System Capacity during COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we know there are two sides to this

pandemic, and we've warned this government that failing to act quickly and decisively would lead to hospitals and ICUs being overrun. Well we're there now. There's no room at the inn, Mr. Speaker. This reality leaves front-line health care workers having to triage patients, making the impossible choice of who will be able to access care and who will not.

Mr. Speaker, that's the position that Ashleigh Woytuik is in, learning her father's surgery to treat brain cancer has been cancelled and kicked down the line because Regina's ICUs are full. Mr. Speaker, what is the immediate plan to ensure cancer patients like Ashleigh's dad get the urgent surgical care that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the one thing that I do agree with the member opposite is there are two sides to this. We have an offensive and a defensive strategy, Mr. Speaker, that we've been continually adapting to what has been thrown at us from COVID-19 and all the variants of concern, Mr. Speaker. We are working with our health care providers to make sure that we are performing the maximum amount of surgeries and the maximum amount of normal programming that we have within our health care system while we are battling COVID.

Mr. Speaker, this is stretching us. This is stretching our health care workers, and we're very glad and we're very lucky in this province that we have the dedication of the health workers to be able to do this, Mr. Speaker. We are supporting them in every way possible, Mr. Speaker, to be able to perform those services for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, whether they are in the hospital treating people with COVID, in the hospital treating people with non-COVID issues, Mr. Speaker, or on our front lines being able to deliver the vaccines across this province and leading the country in doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, Richard Baron is 64 years old. Since entering the hospital at the beginning of April, he hasn't been able to access his oncology treatments to stop the spread because he needs his tumour removed first. Despite initially being told he would be able to get surgery in a matter of weeks, they were told yesterday that that's no longer the case because there is no room in intensive care. Despite reaching out to the minister's office and quality-of-care co-ordinators, no one is able to provide a timeline for when he will get his potentially life-saving surgery.

Will the minister commit to reaching out to Richard Baron's family to work with them and get him the urgent care that he needs? And does the minister accept that his government's failure to control COVID-19 is delaying life-saving surgeries for people like Richard, potentially putting lives at risk?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first thing I'll address in that question is the minister's office does not direct when surgeries happen and where they happen, Mr. Speaker. That is up to our health care professionals. We don't get

involved in those decisions, and I don't think it's appropriate for decisions like that to be made on the legislative floor, Mr. Speaker.

But what I will continue to tell you, Mr. Speaker, as I addressed in my first question, is we are continuously adapting every day and every hour to make sure that our health care capacity is operating at its maximum, Mr. Speaker. We have been doing this since day one. We want to make sure that we have that curve as flat as possible, Mr. Speaker. The numbers have stabilized in Regina. They've stabilized at a very high rate, but they're stabilizing, Mr. Speaker.

So the good news is, Mr. Speaker, hopefully those numbers can start coming down with the robustness of our vaccine program rolling out. Again as the Premier touched on, we had about 10,000 people that are that much closer to being safe, Mr. Speaker, and that much closer to being able to get past this virus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this family has went through the appropriate channels. This is the appropriate place to bring this issue forward. Richard and his family are suffering because this government let COVID-19 run wild. The least the minister could do is commit to spending some time to talk to them, listen to them, and help to sort out their situation.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Baron is just one example of many people who rely on the health system who are facing cancellations and dangerous delays in care. These are the direct consequences of this government's inaction and failure to contain the third wave. We have a surge plan to provide lower acuity care in field hospitals if our hospitals remain overrun. But what's the plan for patients like Richard needing intensive care and space in our already double-bunked ICUs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to say that I don't listen is just not true, Mr. Speaker. I was on the phone with a mother yesterday talking about her son's issues in the hospital in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that. I understand that their concerns are out there, Mr. Speaker.

But what we need to do is continually find that balance, making sure that our health care system is provided the best health care that we can possibly . . . but understanding a lot of those people are still also helping out on the vaccine side of things, Mr. Speaker. We are working diligently to make sure that our ICU capacity has some spots open, Mr. Speaker. Our provincial capacity in Saskatoon, we still have spots open, Mr. Speaker, and we're making sure of that. That's why we're pouring more vaccines into Saskatoon when they become available. They haven't been very abundant lately, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why we initially, when the variants of concern hit in Regina, that's why we poured that 15,000 AstraZeneca into Regina, Mr. Speaker, which is obviously helping out. That, combined with the restrictions that Dr. Shahab has been able to put on about the travel in and out of Regina, Mr. Speaker, and

that we've expanded that out to the other side . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, I thought that this was an important answer. I guess I'll address it next time.

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

Vaccination of Education Staff

Ms. Beck: — Sad news, Mr. Speaker. That was the subject of an email sent by a school principal in Moose Jaw yesterday, an email sent to parents and school staff to share that an EA [educational assistant] at King George School has died from COVID-19.

[10:30]

The sad news is this: this is not the first time that an email like this has had to be sent out in a school division. And the sad reality is, Mr. Speaker, this government knew that a third wave was coming and this government waited until now in the midst of that third wave to do anything to protect our teachers and school staff. Does the Minister of Education realize that leaving our teachers and school staff out of the vaccination queue has had terrible and now deadly consequences?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to express my condolences on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Education on the sad news that we've heard from Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. And I want to express my condolences to the family of this educational assistant that has succumbed to COVID-19, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked very hard with school divisions to keep our schools open as much as possible and to keep our staff and our students safe, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've dedicated over \$150 million for additional sanitation, for additional FTEs [full-time equivalent], for additional PPE [personal protective equipment], Mr. Speaker.

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, we made a decision as a government when we knew we were getting closer to the age group that was most affected by extreme outcomes, severe outcomes of COVID-19, Mr. Speaker, that we could add our front-line staff, our teachers and those that are in class with students, Mr. Speaker. We're hopeful that the federal government can get us more vaccine as quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker, so that we can get to that 40 and over age group and then open it up to all of our staff there in class with students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this government has said time and time again that they thank the hard-working staff in our schools. But thank you won't bring back those that we've lost to COVID-19. This government failed to include teachers and school staff in their vaccine rollout. They failed those teachers; they failed those staff; and they failed the 176,000 students all

across our province. The government could have protected teachers, school staff, and students with rapid testing, but not surprisingly they failed to do that too.

How many more teachers and how many more school staff does this Education minister expect to get sick, hospitalized, or die from COVID-19 because of his failure to keep them safe with rapid testing and vaccines?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope not a single one more. And I think we all hold that belief, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the vaccine eligibility and prioritizing teachers and educational assistants, Mr. Speaker, if we had the supply, we would have prioritized everybody to be a priority. In order to have been able to move teachers and other educational assistants into priority status earlier, it would have meant that vaccines were going to be deprived of people who until now, Mr. Speaker, have been affected with the most severe outcomes of COVID-19, Mr. Speaker.

So we unfortunately couldn't take 20- and 30- and early-40-year-olds, teachers, and educational assistants and move them into priority system, Mr. Speaker, because that meant vaccines were going to be coming out of 60-year-olds and possibly 70-year-olds, Mr. Speaker. The lack of supply has left all provinces with very difficult challenges when it comes to vaccinations, Mr. Speaker. That's why we implore the federal government to get us vaccines as quickly as possible.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, hope is not a plan and blaming others is not taking responsibility. The reality is there's another school in our province today that has one fewer worker on the job. Again this is a failure of leadership from this government. They've failed to get this pandemic under control and they've failed to keep our schools safe. And now this is costing lives, Mr. Speaker.

Why did it take so long for this government to change course on protecting our schools? And does the Sask Party accept any responsibility at all for this decision that has now cost two people their lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll just say again: we have worked very hard with school divisions, with our staff, with our administration to make schools as safe as possible in the midst of a global pandemic, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we have provided a historic record amount of support over the last year for the things that will keep people safe, Mr. Speaker, whether that be sanitation, PPE, online supports, supports for immunocompromised students to help keep them out of the classrooms, and yes, moving our teachers and educational assistants and others that work in class with students into a prioritized system, Mr. Speaker, when we have vaccine available. Mr. Speaker, that is what we've done.

Mr. Speaker, this is certainly . . . it is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker. My condolences to the co-workers and the family of this educational assistant. Mr. Speaker, we're working hard to make sure that everybody is safe though. Thank you.

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

Management of COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, at the physicians' town hall last night, doctors in the province were told clearly: not vaccinating all congregate living facilities creates risk for increased acute demand — acute, Mr. Speaker. The only congregate living setting not targeted for vaccination was our correctional centres, despite increased health vulnerabilities, overcrowding, which means outbreaks there will further strain and overburden our ICUs.

There are major variant-of-concern outbreaks now in Saskatoon, Regina, the Sask Penitentiary. The SHA expert panel, the oversight committee, the Ministry of Health cautioned this government not once, numerous times to vaccinate inmates. Why is this government ignoring the advice of their own local health leaders?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government takes the health and safety of our correctional workers and our inmates very seriously. We've put in place a number of protocols to make sure that we can protect our inmates, Mr. Speaker, including screening, quarantining, masking requirements, Mr. Speaker, enhanced cleaning measures, communications, modifying programs, etc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the member opposite . . . We have the best vaccine rollout program in Canada. If we had more vaccines, Mr. Speaker, we would be able to prioritize more groups of people. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask her: if she wants us to start prioritizing inmates, who are we going to take those vaccines from, Mr. Speaker? Are we going to take them from seniors? Are we going to take them from police officers, Mr. Speaker? People will be vaccinated, Mr. Speaker. People will be vaccinated in the order in which they come up.

Mr. Speaker, we take this very, very seriously. We'll continue to work with our health officials, Mr. Speaker, with our officials within the correctional system to make sure our inmates and our correctional staff are protected as best we can.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 901 — *The Saskatoon Foundation Amendment Act, 2020*

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move Bill No. 901, *The Saskatoon Foundation Amendment Act, 2020* be now read a second time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 901, *The Saskatoon Foundation Amendment Act, 2020* be now read a second time. 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.

Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Pursuant to rule 104, this bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Addressing Systemic Racism in Saskatchewan

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise here as a proud Indigenous woman to enter into this 75-minute debate.

At the conclusion of my comments, I will be making a motion:

That the Assembly recognizes that systemic racism exists in Saskatchewan, including within the Government of Saskatchewan; and, further,

That the Assembly calls on the Government to take the necessary action needed to address and end systemic racism in Saskatchewan, including systemic racism within the Government of Saskatchewan.

Systemic racism refers to the laws and norms of institutions that are intertwined into the social system to create inequality. Systemic racism is not always intentional, but it is a result of the system of factors that are discriminatory in their effect. Systemic racism continues to result in differential treatment and discrimination against Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan, while mainstream world views and interests continue to be the forefront. Some of the consequences of systemic racism is a lack of support for policies and practices that might improve inequitable status of Indigenous people in this province.

The Council of Federation that was created in 2003 was said to be an evolving institution. However, there is still no equal seat nor mention at the table for Indigenous leaders in the future. This is an example of how this government continues to perpetuate systemic racism and maintain the status quo.

This government has not advocated for meaningful inclusion and representation of First Nation and Métis leaders at the political

decision-making tables like the Council of Federation. In fact, here in Saskatchewan there is no legislation that guarantees the meaningful participation of Indigenous leaders at the intergovernmental decision-making tables.

Even if there was, Madam Speaker, this government has exclusive access to crucial decisions about inclusion. They don't want Indigenous leaders at decision-making tables. What's equally important to add is how this government's denial of meaningful inclusion at political decision-making tables permits them to maintain its authority and power, which is another method of perpetuating systemic racism. And why are there not multiple points of access to political power and decision-making for First Nation and Métis leaders?

Madam Speaker, another example of systemic racism is the duty-to-consult framework and the voluntary engagement with First Nation, Métis communities consultation process. The duty to consult in Saskatchewan is just an illusion of inclusion. This outdated duty-to-consult process is only a document that is set up to maintain the inequality and power structure.

In their documents, this government states that, "Ministries will make best efforts to engage First Nations and Métis communities in the decision-making [powers] . . . related to the policies, programs and legislation [etc.]." And in the very next sentence they say, but we don't have to. So not only is this duty to consult an illusion of inclusion, but it is an outright unwillingness of this government to recognize established treaty rights or provide direct support, even when it is required by constitutional and treaty guarantees.

When this government is auctioning off Crown land, the current practice is to send First Nation and Métis communities registered letters. And if they have any questions or concerns, they are invited to provide feedback on the ministry website when the Crown land is up for auction. Has this government ever asked First Nation and Métis peoples how they want to be consulted?

When I was taking my political studies masters program, I assessed the levels of optimism with the 94 Calls to Action across Canada. My findings were that Saskatchewan was one of the least optimistic about addressing the 94 Calls to Action. One of the reasons of this lack of optimism was that racism continues to thrive here in our province.

[10:45]

And as a former TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] coordinator and residential school survivor, I continue to find tokenistic approaches to meaningful reconciliation, like the proposed location of the monument that happens to be beside a church. Does this government want to re-victimize residential school survivors who have been raped inside those school chapels? I certainly hope not.

Where systemic racism is so blatant is with the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. There has been no mention nor acknowledgement of the final report of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Not surprisingly, this government has not mentioned missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in this 26th Legislative Assembly Throne Speech or budget speech.

The message that is clearly sent to me as an Indigenous woman and my fellow Indigenous women and girls is that we don't matter to this government. And the lack of acknowledgement or resources for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls reinforces the narrative that Indigenous women and girls are not important enough to protect in this province.

Madam Speaker, you know, when I became elected and took orientation training, there was absolutely no training on treaty education. And that disturbs me because that again is another example of systemic racism where we maintain, where status quo is maintained. Why is this not an important issue for this government? Why is treaty education for all MLAs not important? And again, that's an example.

At the beginning of this session, I coordinated a pipe ceremony. Indigenous people ought to have . . . They shouldn't have to beg to have our ceremonies incorporated into legislative sessions here in the beginning of it. It should be something that's incorporated without me having to beg.

So these are examples of how our institutions are still perpetuating this systemic racism. Another example is the differential treatment. Like, another example of systemic racism is how differential treatment is given against Indigenous people. So you all remember a while back when that farmer stole over a million dollars in farm equipment. He was given a conditional sentence. And he was stealing farm equipment for well over five years, so it's fair to say that he was a perpetual thief. What happened? He just got a conditional sentence. Colten Boushie, who drove up to a farm, what happened to him? He got shot in the head and killed. So that's the differential treatment that Indigenous people face.

When old white men who are paying for sex get caught, you know what they get? They go to john school and yet their names are protected. You know, they're protected from putting their names in the paper. But with Indigenous girls that are prostitutes, what happens? They're publicized everywhere. So that's again differential treatment.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, my parents raised their family on the road allowance. They struggled to feel included and accepted. But what kept them going was their faith in the Creator and their traditional ceremonies. My dad, who was of mixed race, was not accepted in either world, yet he was one of the most sought-out traditional ceremonialists. My parents taught me and my siblings to forge ahead in spite of the adversity we faced and to believe in the Creator.

As an educated Indigenous woman I've endured overt and covert racism in this province, from being told the only reason I got the job at the Crown corporation was because of the partnership that was created with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, to being passed over for management jobs because I did not have the same world view as my senior Caucasian managers, to being dismissed at discussion tables because I'm not a man. A man with the same credentials as me would be put on a pedestal and showcased all over.

I've been racially profiled at stores because of the colour of my skin. Today people dare not do that to me. Another example of racism is being told by many mainstream folks — and members

here would also probably have heard it themselves — that what I was told is: “You people get free money, and you drink all the time, and you kill yourselves.” That’s what I’ve been told.

So how many times do Indigenous hunters get racially profiled by the conservation officers in this province? We hunt game for sustenance. Yet we are penalized for it. Our traditional hunting grounds get smaller and smaller as more licences are sold to non-Indigenous hunters closer to our First Nation lands. Conservation officers have been given more authority without meaningfully consulting with First Nation leaders and communities.

For Indigenous peoples to have institutions address racism or to even have their issues of racism heard, they have to endure a long-drawn-out process and file a complaint to the Human Rights Commission, who often drags their feet in addressing the concerns with racism against Indigenous people.

Other examples that I can think of and experienced is — and I’m sure this certainly wouldn’t have happened — I had a young 12-year-old girl a few years ago when I worked in the health sector. She committed suicide and her parents were at the hospital. And it was early in the morning that she died and the doctor in that unit, the head nurse in that unit and the doctor in that unit told that family, okay, she’s dead now; get out.

And this family called me because I worked in the health sector and they said, Betty, we still have to get a hold of our family. We have to call to make arrangements. Where do we do that? I called that unit and I was referred to the doctor who made that decision and I had a chat with him. And he told me, well we have to keep that room available in case somebody else comes. And I said, is there anyone going to be here in the next two hours? Is that room going to be used in the next two hours? And he says, no. And I said, well certainly they can be there. That family was traumatized. That family was treated poorly by our health care system.

My mother, when she was hospitalized, at 12:30 at night I get a call from the hospital that my mother stopped breathing. And I panicked. They said, get to the hospital. Two minutes later, that phone rings and the nurse on the other end says, oh, sorry, that wasn’t your mom. And I brought that up to the attention of the nurse manager and I said, do you know what? That shouldn’t happen.

When my brother died, nine years ago, on April 21st, he had a massive heart attack. I waited. I actually . . . My husband was on the phone for 20 minutes to find out which hospital he was taken to. I couldn’t wait. I drove to the hospital to find out. And when I brought that concern to the CEO of that hospital, she told me, oh, I’m sorry. That was it. And I said, how many people does this happen to? So that’s the way we’re treated as Indigenous people.

So there’s so many examples that we face with racism, you know, in the employment sector. And I’ve studied this in my master’s program where white elites, they like cloning themselves when they hire people. So they’re the gatekeepers. Indigenous people, minorities, what do we get? Jobs pushing brooms, cleaning.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move:

That the Assembly recognizes that systemic racism exists in Saskatchewan, including within the Government of Saskatchewan; and further,

That the Assembly calls on the government to take the necessary action needed to address and end systemic racism in Saskatchewan, including systemic racism within the Government of Saskatchewan.

miigwech.

The Deputy Speaker: — You may put the paper in the tray. It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon Centre:

That the Assembly recognizes that systemic racism exists in Saskatchewan, including within the Government of Saskatchewan; and further,

That the Assembly calls on the government to take the necessary action needed to address and end systemic racism in Saskatchewan, including systemic racism within the Government of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As always, it is my distinct honour to rise in this House situated on Treaty 4 territory. Madam Deputy Speaker, “from many peoples, strength,” our provincial motto. Today, maybe more than ever, these words have such a strong meaning. I’m pleased to add my comments to the debate, even though I think this is more of a conversation than a debate really.

Systemic racism is real. It is here in Saskatchewan. We, the people of Saskatchewan, inherited this situation. We did not create it, and the only way to make real change is to work together, combine the strength of many people. In order to make an impact we must all commit to learning and commit to growth.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to give you a quote here for a second. It goes like this, “Our community, our nation does need healing. This is where it begins. Taking the message. Everybody is not too old to change.” Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, that’s a direct quote from an Indigenous man who sat making a ceremonial drum and explaining to me the world through his eyes. His name was Robyn. Robyn spoke wisdom as he worked on his drum of birch and rawhide. And he told me, we can all do these things together. Not just one nation. The community has to come together, all people.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this man obviously had a profound impact on me. You see, Robyn struggles with mental illness and yet, he sees so much more than many do. Robyn understood the power of community, the power of healing, and the power from many people’s strength. Madam Deputy Speaker, recently I had the good fortune to speak with a chief from a local First Nation. And I asked him point blank, what are the barriers out there that create systemic racism? Because I wanted to hear and I wanted to learn. His response to me was, bias and ignorance.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I stand here today speaking, but most days I’m trying to do a lot of listening. I heard from that chief.

He said to me, our ears are our friends, our mouth can be our enemy. It's inherent on all of us to work together, all of us, by using our ears to deal with the situation so that we don't sentence another generation — listening, learning, and then using our actions to make a positive change for all.

And as I mentioned, these two gentlemen had a profound impact on me and they've helped make me a better person through their teaching and through their conversations. But that wasn't enough. I know I need to seek more, and I know this is a long path. And I know there is a lot of power in knowledge. And in order to make positive impacts, it starts with the individual. To that end I set forth to educate myself and remove my own ignorance and my own bias. I took the Recognize and Reject Racism course from the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. I wanted to deepen my own self-knowledge, acquire a better understanding, and become a leader.

We are a more informed province. We are a more diverse province. But we are a province where we can take more responsibility to hold ourselves accountable and to pledge to do better.

[11:00]

I'd like to thank Rhonda Rosenberg for guiding me through this journey on how I can recognize and reject racism, how to recognize and reject my own biases and ignorance, because as a leader of this province it is incumbent on me to do just that — to lead.

Now I'm a proud government appointee to sit on the Provincial Capital Commission as a leader and recently the PCC [Provincial Capital Commission] invested in a residential school survivors' monument at Government House here in our capital city. And it's in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor, Russ Mirasty, himself a residential school survivor.

Now that First Nations chief that I was talking about, he had said to me, if we're not talking about the issues, we are ignoring the issues and it will allow those issues to remain. Well this memorial will answer the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call no. 82 in Saskatchewan. It's talking about it and it's not allowing these issues to remain.

That location was chosen at the request of the Lieutenant Governor, and His Honour has engaged with elders, knowledge keepers, First Nation leaders, survivors, and families of survivors of residential schools in private meetings last fall. This group advised on design, location, meaning, and future steps for respectful implementation of this living monument. And I myself am looking forward to the unveiling, hopefully later this summer or into the fall.

Now if you indulge me, I have a few minutes here. I'd like to tell a story about my daughter. I was thinking about this speech and I was, you know, thinking back to my own past and a conversation I had with Teigha when she was, I think, in about grade 4 and she was talking how she had lost her first race in a track and field competition to a girl named Michelle. And I said well Michelle, is that that black girl? And immediately Teigha, this grade 4 student, came unglued on me, said dad, that's racist. Well I was referring to her the same way I'd referred to Jenna, as

the girl with glasses; or Nina, the girl with red hair. I didn't understand that I was singling her out in that way. And I was thankful that day because I learned from my daughter. I learned about myself.

And that leads me into this: one true path away from systemic racism is education. It's listening and it's learning. The Saskatchewan curricula addresses race relations through a number of opportunities, and I saw that in my daughter. Students can nurture meaningful relationships and respect diverse beliefs and practices to identify and speak out against intolerance, prejudice, racism, and other forms of discrimination. And that's exactly what my daughter did because she learned it in our schools. Our government supports and promotes the philosophy of inclusion of all students. Quality education involves a strong commitment and shared vision that these inclusive educational practices are part of every day work of the school community.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are addressing the legacy of systemic racism through our classrooms. It is allowing for the acquisition of an understanding and helping our youth become leaders for change. Our Ministry of Education works with various organizations such as the Human Rights Commission here in Saskatchewan and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to develop new curricula to ensure Indigenous perspectives are representative.

Saskatchewan was the first province to mandate treaty education in 2007, providing all students with an opportunity to learn about historical and contemporary relationships between Canada, Métis, and First Nations. And it's an important concept, a citizenship education which helps reduce conflict, foster trust, and improve relationships. This was updated in 2018 in collaboration with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

Now as we move forward on this path, so too does our understanding and learning. Our government is looking to the future, to the next 10 years, with the framework for the provincial education plan which was co-constructed with education partners. We had a provincial education plan implementation team that included participating First Nations education authorities, representatives from the federation of Saskatchewan Indigenous nations, and Métis Nation, among others, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I woke up really early this morning thinking about this speech long and hard. And I thought back . . . A couple of days ago I was wandering the halls here. It was really quiet. I took a stroll around and I went through the Assiniboine Gallery and saw the First Nations chiefs in our history here in this province; glanced at the pictures, the old class pictures of sessions past; walked past those huge Indigenous murals up on the third floor depicting the living skies of Saskatchewan. I thought long and hard about our province. And I did feel a sense of pride and a sense of hope.

You see, "from many peoples, strength," Madam Deputy Speaker. It takes all of us as leaders, as educators, as employers, and as parents. I see a Saskatchewan where my kids are growing up in a very different place than where I grew up. And that's a good thing. They're seeing people and they're seeing friends. They aren't seeing skin colour and they aren't seeing race.

Our kids are learning to embrace the differences we have.

They're not born racist; they learn it. But they're learning in our schools a different way. And that gives me hope and it fills me with pride. They are embracing the strengths of each and every person, and I think we would be well-served to follow in their footsteps. They are teaching us a better way because we are teaching them a better way in our classrooms. And I think education is always going to be one of the ways that we battle systemic racism here in our province. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on this motion. There are a lot of people on that side of the House that like to speak about the promise of Saskatchewan, but won't acknowledge that many have continued to be excluded from that promise because of racism and discrimination at the hands of individuals, systems, and institutions. The racism that exists in Saskatchewan is seldom acknowledged by people who don't live it every day, and in the face of key opportunities to lead on these relationships, this government has come up short.

The most recent example is perhaps what the Premier had to say upon the release of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission report on Colten Boushie, which is to say he had absolutely nothing to say, Madam Deputy Speaker. When first asked, he ducked and dodged. He said he hadn't read the report. I guess it was low on his list of priorities. In the days that followed though, crickets, a deafening silence.

Key evidence was lost forever that may have contributed to the acquittal of the man that shot Colten. His mother was reduced to ugly stereotypes after her son was shot. Even during a pandemic, the Premier should have made it his business to read that report and make substantive comments on it, bringing some comfort to a family that will not get closure. And not just say that . . . it was an opportunity for the Premier to not just say that institutional racism exists, but to actually do something about it.

This government won't acknowledge the kind of entrenched racism that permeates our institutions. And it's one of the reasons I ran for office, because I saw it in full display as counsel for Legal Aid Saskatchewan. And I want to just share one example. We'll call her May.

May was a client of mine and resident of North Central. She gave birth to her first child just a couple of months before I had mine. She had just aged out of the foster system that apprehended her from her mother, who was poor, and then she was sent into a foster home, where she survived sexual abuse. But she was going to parent that baby, Madam Deputy Speaker. She'd gotten sober; she was doing well. The labour went without issue. She was nursing and bonding with her baby.

When the social worker came to take away May's baby, she had advocates waiting, family members, community organizers, ready to challenge the apprehension. But police were called under the excuse that her family was suspected gang members, and when police arrived, they actually ran May's name through their system and learned that she had an outstanding warrant because she failed to attend court as a witness in her abusive ex's

assault trial. She was arrested from the hospital. She spent the night in jail. Her physician wrote to the SHA complaining of racism. Those complaints were dismissed outright.

This was just one of the ways that the institutions of Saskatchewan, whose protection during her life up to this moment had been more like violence, once again failed her in such a stunning way.

And I have more examples than I care to mention, Madam Deputy Speaker, but this one particularly stuck with me because I thought of May as I gave birth to my son a few months later. I was treated with such love. It was the happiest day of my life. I was doted upon and supported. I guess that's white privilege.

And today we see institutional racism alive and well in this government with the decision to ignore the calls of experts to vaccinate inmates, 75 per cent of whom are Indigenous. They're doing that, and they're putting all of us at risk to play base politics, and it's just so low even for this government.

Today I am proud to stand alongside my caucus colleagues, the first visibly Indigenous woman to be elected to this House and my colleague the member for Cumberland, who keeps showing up for his community. He keeps fighting for a bill that is so infused with common sense, it's not even funny. It contains prevention efforts aimed at reducing what is rightly judged to be both an epidemic of suicide amongst Indigenous youth and a public shame. Or at least it should be. It should shame us to action, Madam Deputy Speaker.

We know that cultural continuity is a protective factor against suicide. I get so much meaning from the stories of my grandparents, my great-grandparents, their struggles, their stories passed down to me. It gives me the energy, the drive to do this work. Daschuk's *Clearing the Plains*, required reading for any self-respecting lawmaker in this province, details the policies, the draconian legislation, the forced starvation, how they established the circumstances for Indigenous communities to be controlled and exterminated — exterminated, Madam Deputy Speaker.

When the bonds that tie us are violently and intentionally severed, bad things happen. Young people are on journeys of securing their identities as well the sense of their future prospects. Without some sense of personal and cultural continuity, their lives seem less worthy and the possibility of suicide becomes an option. If the familiar and trustworthy ways of one's communities are criminalized, legislated out of existence, and otherwise assimilated beyond recognition, the consequence of such personal and communal losses is not to value oneself, of which suicide is the ultimate expression.

Acknowledging this historical and ongoing reality must be the starting point of an effective bill to combat suicide in our northern communities, and it must be the starting point of any honest conversation about race in this province.

This Premier has failed to act in a good way when he wouldn't even cross the lawn to meet with Tristen Durocher, to meet with Harmonie King, and instead used public money to fight them in the courts. And that goes for Richelle Dubois too, who was dragged out of that park, away from the ceremonial fire that she and many others kept lit for 197 days to guide their missing and

departed children home, taken too soon.

After their teepee was taken down, many met the call and erected teepees on National Indigenous Peoples Day in defiance, and it was a beautiful if discomfiting reminder of the ongoing grievances of Indigenous people in this province. And I attended the Trespassers' Pow Wow. I saw first-hand the promise of what moving forward in a good way could look like if only there was a will to do it.

Earlier this week, the member for Saskatoon Centre paid tribute to Nancy Bitternose's centennial birthday. A hundred years ago, in her life, Indigenous people could not vote, were prisoners on their own reserve; their cultural ceremonies were criminalized. There was hardly a community in Saskatchewan without a branch of the Ku Klux Klan. We must acknowledge our shared history and the reverberations of that history today.

But I'd be remiss if I didn't also talk about the entrenched racism against many others in this province. Black, Asian, people of colour — the many peoples from which Saskatchewan has promised to draw its strength but who are rarely recognized.

Kaleab Schmidt, a 13-year-old boy from Ethiopia died by suicide on the family farm in April of 2018 after being bullied and facing racism at school. In his suicide note he said, "I tried to see the better side of life, but there isn't one."

Christian Mbanza, a Regina teacher who was profiled, accused of stealing his own car, who describes incidents of racism being common, including being profiled by the police. We need to listen to these voices, that these things happen every day. They're not isolated occurrences.

A vile tirade by anti-maskers at Mai's Kitchen in Saskatoon caught on video, shared on social media. It was a sobering reminder that Saskatchewan, like other jurisdictions, has seen a rise of anti-Asian racism in the midst of COVID-19.

Earlier this year, Muslim community members on the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] campus gathered to remember the mosque shooting in Quebec. Their memorial was interrupted by a coordinated slew of racist threats.

And later that year, a shocking example of institutional racism: we lost Samwel Uko. Seeking help, he was removed from the ER [emergency room] by security guards. His last hours were spent literally crying out for help.

For every recorded incident, there are hundreds more. Meanwhile newcomers and visible minorities continue to disproportionately do the difficult front-line, high-risk jobs while being paid poverty wages, navigating language barriers, crowded households, and increasingly frayed social networks during a pandemic — networks that they rely on to succeed in these communities. Many have been on the front lines of this pandemic, risking their lives and sometimes losing them too, such as in the tragic case of North Battleford health care worker Tom Thomas.

[11:15]

So when asked if Saskatchewan has a problem with racism, please stop saying or intimating that it doesn't, that these cases

are exceptions that prove the rule. While the Premier was absolutely right to call out racist comments against Dr. Shahab, the message that this isn't Saskatchewan is not the right message at all. This is Saskatchewan. Racism, sadly, is part of who we are. It's in the air we breathe. It's built on our founding relationships and it's exacerbated by sexism, exploitative economic relationships, and so it should be no surprise at all that it pervades our individual interactions and our institutions. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As a visible minority and immigrant, I have been fortunate enough to have had a good experience as a newcomer to Canada, especially Saskatchewan, although I understand that is not everyone's experience in this country. I feel proud to have a government that works towards making Saskatchewan more inclusive and to make living here a positive experience for all.

There are many organizations like the Open Door Society, the Sikh Society of Regina, Mosaic festival, organized by the Regina Multicultural Council, and the India Canada Association of Saskatchewan to help integrate newcomers in the local community.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the India Canada Association's famous annual India supper night, which began as a small gathering, now is a prestigious fundraiser in the province, attracting over 500 participants of all ethnicities every year. We are very thankful to the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan who accepts the invitation to attend the event every year. We have raised over a million dollars for different charities like the Red Cross, Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Diabetes Association, Heart and Stroke Foundation, UNICEF [United Nations Children's Fund], Hospitals of Regina Foundation, Canadian Mental Health Association, Mother Teresa Middle School, autism resources, Big Brothers of Regina, and The Caring Place, to name a few.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am very thankful to all the volunteers from all walks of life, performers, to the people who bought a ticket and attended these events, and to Lorie Lindsay and CC from Z99 radio — who have just recently retired — for doing an incredible job many times as the MCs [master of ceremonies] for this annual event.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have had many opportunities to bring a little bit of home to my new home. Through the government's good policies, I was able to feel pride in enhancing not just my experience but the experience of many people in Saskatchewan. Organizing the India pavilion year after year, which included my wife and children, is an experience I will carry with me forever. Not only was I able to share all the amazing aspects of the Indian culture but was given the chance to soak in many other beautiful cultures we have in this vibrant city through food, dance, sharing, and by visiting other pavilions as ambassadors of the India pavilion.

Madam Deputy Speaker, from working on an egg farm to making doughnuts at 4 a.m. at Robin's Donuts, doing night shifts as a security guard, and many other odd jobs I had in my early years in this province, I was lucky enough to have great leadership and

opportunities provided to me.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the first business I bought was a small convenience store in Pilot Butte just east of Regina here. Next I bought a motel named the Shayne Inn and steak house in the mid-'90s in Indian Head. Those were the hard-working times, Madam Speaker. My shift was from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m. in the morning, with a break of two hours in the afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. Because the food truck will come 6 in the morning, knocking on the doors; I will take the groceries, take it in the kitchen. The cook will come around 6:30, and then we will prepare the restaurant for the breakfast time. When the lunch will be over then I will humbly request my staff, "Please don't bother me for a couple hours. I need a nap time."

After that I bought several motels, hotels, and restaurants and stayed in the hospitality industry for approximately 25 years. Working in the hospitality industry, I worked with all different kinds of people from all different cultures.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Sikhism, as I shared on Vaisakhi Day, is much more than a religious festival. Mughal emperor who ruled India from 1658 to 1707, King Aurangzeb, was slaughtering everyone who did not believe in Muslim religion. And by force, all the Hindus were being converted to Muslims.

It reminds me of those great moments in the history of Punjab, when the people fought against foreign domination and struck against slavery to reveal their legendary bravery at its very best. On April 13th, 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji created the Khalsa. Khalsa means "pure." The people of Punjab year after year have remembered the day as the birth of Khalsa. This small army of Khalsa has fought many thousands of Mughal army. Madam Speaker, when Maharaja Ranjit Singh appeared on the scene, he chose the Vaisakhi of 1801 to get himself coronated as the king of Punjab. He minted new coins, henceforth recognized as the standard coins of the Sikh kingdom.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we know that racism does exist in our society. We can learn from each other's pain and suffering, just as much as we learn and admire success stories. Systematic racism is something we must face head on. And with that, we must listen and learn from our brothers and sisters who feel equity is still their fight. I may have had a fairly okay experience as a newcomer, but I know that is not the experience of everyone that comes to our country.

What I know for sure is that we can all do better. And the only way to be better is to listen, learn — and sometimes unlearn — and grow by listening to each other's experiences in this province and country. Madam Deputy Speaker, everyone has a unique experience here. And with us all putting our heads and hearts together, we can continue to take much-needed steps together.

We know that ignorance is a major source of prejudice and hatred. In 2020 the government proclaimed January 29th as Day of Action Against Hate and Intolerance in Saskatchewan. Madam Deputy Speaker, racism has no place in Saskatchewan society. Therefore, we must all speak out strongly against racist attitudes and statements. Madam Deputy Speaker, we can all take the responsibility to hold ourselves to account and pledge to do better. Acceptance and inclusion is essential for everyone. I chose people who chose me in the journey of my life.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are all frustrated and fed up, staying home without friends, feeling lonely and separated from the society and community because of this COVID-19. Just imagine those who are suffering with the disease of racism. And it's not for a year or two-year period; it is a life sentence, Madam Speaker. Racism and hate have no place in this world. We must all fight together and create love and passion for each other. Thank you, Deputy Madam Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Madam Speaker, to join in in the debate, 75-minute debate, with some comments and some experiences with my family and the people that I represent. I have many First Nations communities I represent, many Métis communities that I represent and have given me the honour to be their voice and speak.

We all have challenges. Racism has many different forms and many times it touches people. When you walk into stores and you have your grandchildren . . . and my colleagues have talked about it. The member that has moved this from Saskatoon Centre articulates it very passionately and the hurts that she has gone. And when I ask for kindness and wisdom from my Creator and ask to guide me to be forgiving and open and not to attack, it's hard. But I've made a decision. From our elders, we have one mouth and two ears for a reason.

But there's so many challenges you see, so many differences. I can sit here and watch policy after policy, how it affects people back home, the quality of life for Indigenous people. It's definitely not just Indigenous people that see the sad side of racism.

And I'll acknowledge the members opposite for some of the words. And yes, it's saying, open the hearts. We have so many challenges, Madam Speaker, in our province. You have to call out racism. Systemic racism has to be called out. We as legislators, when you see it you have to call it out. We can't just allow it to continue.

You know, I think about some of the speeches from members opposite, from members here on this side of the House in opposition talk about passion, about taking care of Saskatchewan residents; "from many peoples, strength." The member from Regina Rosemont talks about always about how people come together in a community.

And I've explained to you in my Throne Speech that I was going to take a different stand, because I came here elected in 2008 thinking I was going to work with the government for the issues back home. And honestly I did — I'm telling you honestly — I came here thinking I would work with the government, talk about the issues facing us back home, and the government. And we'd work it out and deal with the issues.

And sadly to say I tried that for a number of years, and honestly my frustration, it lessened. And I seen the challenges and I seen the poverty. I seen the suicides. I seen the alcohol, the addictions. And I seen the challenges in the housing, the affordability, the most poorest region in our province, in our country. And I looked at the government: here are the issues from the leaders, from our

elders, from our young people, our youth. Allow them to have a good education. Allow them to have the opportunity to be entrepreneurs, to be role models.

And I thought I'd work with the government. And I have to be honest. Some, we had exchanges of conversations and I could see in their heart they know that things need to change. And then I got angry because things didn't change. And today I have taken a different stand. And I don't like always giving too much credit. You know, sometimes we like taking the credit for ourselves. I've watched the government. You do. You pat yourselves and you think it's great, and we have to criticize when it's not, and people are dying. We have to say it's wrong.

We have opportunities to work together, and we say that. We come here in this Assembly. I'm going to try it one more time before I leave this Assembly, to work with the government on behalf of the people that have asked me again to reintroduce a bill so no family has to suffer the loss of a loved one. It's wrong. We can do better as a society, as a province. "From many peoples, strength," we can do that.

[11:30]

I'll acknowledge the member from Melfort. Again he's made me a chance to look different. I've looked inside myself, not to be angry. We can do better. We have to do better. So many people are dying. They're losing hope. I talked about my granddaughter this morning. It's tough. They're not happy. There's challenges going on. We're here. We're supposed to work together. How all I feel sometimes is the hurt, how she's very dark-skinned. I've got 17 grandkids. Some of them are light-skinned. It's not a good life sometimes, the way that kids feel — racism amongst kids, her friends. She loves her friends. It doesn't matter who they are. I've watched my grandkids. They amaze me. They educate me. They teach me not to be a racist person, not to treat people different because of the colour of their skin. But so much of that happens.

Some members will talk about, well . . . And I've had examples of this, and I just want to share this because I sometimes use this story in a different way. I heard a family talking and the mother said, I'm not racist. And the comment she made is — and I know she maybe didn't think it — but she said, I let my kids play with them; like, they're neighbour kids. And I thought to myself, like, how could anyone say that? But that's just the way it is. That's the reality. Some people think that it's okay, the stuff we say.

If we look at what's gone systemic racism, we look at the corrections centre, and we look at how many . . . When we look at a population that's 25 per cent, 23 per cent Indigenous and you look at the corrections, why are the numbers of Indigenous people in a negative so much? Yet I watch so many of them, so proud. They are. They're teachers. They're lawyers. They're doctors. Those are the ones that have found hope. Somebody guided them. And maybe it was non-Indigenous people who guided them, but somebody said, let's take care of this. Let's mentor this person.

There is so much racism going on. And you can't put your heads in the sand and say, well let's just go away, when you have a Premier who had a group trying to make it very clear . . . Tristan Durocher, and I think about him. He walked all the way from La

Ronge to Regina to bring awareness about suicide, about mental health, the challenges Indigenous youth and people feel. And I was hoping . . . And the Premier still has an opportunity. And I know my neighbours, and I know there's a minister I'm going to try to reach out to. I've made a decision. I'm going to try to work hard with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to try to see what the government, if we cannot work together to try to work on a bill to say that our province . . . Enough. Those are actions that speak very loudly, very loudly.

Talk is great. We can sit here and talk. And you guys, some of you, I watch. Some in this Assembly have been gifted over the years I've served here. I watch how they articulate and I watch how they present debate, and they amaze me. And I say, man, I wish I could be like that person. Because I am a person that has a disability and I have my challenge and struggles. But I also remember from my grandfather, a very proud Métis veteran, to be proud of who I am. The Creator gives us other challenges and strengths. Yes, he may give the challenges, but he gives us strengths.

And I hope at the end of the day that we can work together to change and call out systemic racism, in all of the areas where we see it, through policy. Government has the ability to change policy. And you have that ability to consult First Nations and Métis when you go on their traditional territory. When you're affecting their livelihood, their culture, the language, the herbs, the medicine, their ceremonies — consult them. When you're affecting the waters that go to their communities, be meaningful. Don't talk to talk and then say, well yes, we consulted — we talked to them, we heard them out, and then we did what we want.

So I'm hoping at the end of the day truly we can work together and show the people of this good province we're going through many challenges but we can work together. We can. Doesn't have to be, oh their bill, his bill. It's just the right thing to do as a province, as legislators. I'm hoping we can do that and end and call out systemic racism when it happens. We owe it to our grandchildren, our children, and our families and the good people of this province, to leave a province that we're proud of. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm honoured to enter this debate today, and I want to thank the member from Saskatoon Centre for bringing it forward. I've read the motion and yes, systemic racism exists. Racism exists. Yes, it is here and it needs to be addressed.

Saskatchewan's motto has been said many times: "from many peoples, strength." Today I want to focus on its beginning, her many peoples, and the opportunity we have to listen to and represent the many people in this province. We have an opportunity to learn from each other, from our First Peoples to newcomers who have made Saskatchewan home. We are fortunate to have the experience, knowledge, entrepreneurship, traditions, and so much more from our different cultural groups that live in our province.

But with diversity and difference can come insecurities and misunderstanding, and the reality is racism, hate, and

discrimination. Though we want to say that each person in this province represents the true Prairie spirit and has a heart of gold, we know that's not the case. We've seen it. We've heard it. Racism is real and it's here.

We can stand and condemn hatred and make official statements, but what is most important, especially in our positions, is to listen. We learn, we understand perspectives, and ultimately understand our privilege. I think back to the words from the member from Melfort's budget reply about our purpose and duty as members of this legislature. We get so caught up in who is right, who is wrong. But when it comes to racism and knowing that people in our province are affected by this, it's not a battle, it's not a debate. It's our duty to come together, to do our job, to lead, to role model, and to create a better life for our constituents. We must listen to each other, we must work together, and we must live by our province's motto.

I want to recognize the member from Cumberland. He's an outstanding MLA for his constituents. I'm always honoured to listen to his advocacy, especially on mental health in the North. He works tirelessly for his community for the right reasons, and we agree with him that suicide in the North needs to be addressed. I recognize the bill that he's put forward and we're looking at it. We want to do the same thing. We're also still continuing to work on our Pillars for Life suicide prevention strategy, and will continue to work to enhance research and support local suicide prevention with a focus on northern youth. I want to thank him for his advocacy.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I was interested and decided to learn more about Indigenous issues. I graduated from Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now FNUC [First Nations University of Canada]. I learned a lot. I taught for Sask Polytech on Kawacatoose First Nation for five years and was clinical director of Leading Thunderbird Lodge under the authority of File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and Touchwood Agency Tribal Council.

And then because of my interest in human rights, I decided to take a Bachelor of Human Justice. I did my practicum in Northern Ireland focusing on human rights and social change at the Pat Finucane Centre. I saw discrimination first-hand. I say this because it is important for all of us, myself included, to ask the hard questions of ourselves, including asking the toughest question of all. Am I actively part of a solution?

Our school curriculum has seen important change since taking government. We're not just learning about the origins and traditions of cultural groups here in Canada. We're talking about their history, their impact, and the struggles they face. And we know they face them, even at our schools today. It's not easy having these conversations, but we need to have them. Truth and reconciliation, Sixties Scoop, residential schools, missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, they're all making their way into public conversations and the curriculum. We need to know these histories — our histories. We can't have reconciliation without truth.

Schools are empowering students to become engaged citizens who understand who they are and who can nurture meaningful and respectful relationships with all diverse beliefs. Kids are always learning and always watching. Sometimes they're even

mimicking our behaviours. That's why education on racism has to start at a young age because racism doesn't just pick an age category.

It breaks my heart, but the reality is there are children who are picked on for who they are and what they look like. You see kids playing. They don't know racism. They just want to fit in, to have friends and play. Racism is taught. And this will have a lasting, negative effect on their mental health. Providing students with opportunities to learn about the historical and contemporary relationships between Canada, Métis, First Nations helps reduce conflict, builds understanding, and fosters trust. We owe this to our children.

While developing the curriculum for this, the ministry met with groups like the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, Black in Saskatchewan, Africans Francophones de la Saskatchewan, and a number more.

I've tried to attend every cultural event and ceremony I'm presented with. And I know who I'll see there and probably be able to recite each other's speech, and that's the member for Regina Rosemont. He's an excellent MLA. He's liked, he's respected by diverse communities and his constituents, and he's a good man.

Teachers are also engaged in their classrooms in conversations about issues we're seeing here today. Many rallies were held to support the Black Lives Matter movement, including one I attended here outside the Assembly. Many classrooms watched each day as different peaceful protests were conducted. They were able to discuss with classmates, ask questions, and learn from each other.

Discussions alone won't end racism. We must keep reaching out, engaging, challenging ourselves and others to confront those that spew hate. Not easy, but necessary. The first step is to get aware of your thoughts and your ideas and your beliefs and the way that they operate in the world, and ask now, what am I going to do? Action is the key difference between being not racist and being anti-racist.

Last year the Premier, myself, and the ministers of Justice and Environment hosted 20 members from the black community for a discussion about racism, inclusion, and Black Lives Matter. We learned a lot from that day and are thankful for that opportunity. We must continue to have these important and challenging conversations to address racism, understand each other, and to learn.

As Speaker, I visited the camp outside the legislature and I was welcomed into the teepee to sit, listen, and engage in meaningful conversation about our Indigenous youth and mental health. I listened to their stories of lost culture, lost identity, and ultimately lost children. I thank the camp organizers for allowing me to listen and to learn. When Tristen and Christopher walked from La Ronge to the legislature, I met them and presented them with tobacco and cloth as a sign of respect and an opportunity for dialogue — again to listen and learn from a good place.

I'm encouraged by the Ministry of Justice Elders Forum that provides advice on justice-related issues, policies, and programs.

Truly a step in the right direction. In my life I've met many elders. The knowledge and passion they have for their community and for a better future for the next generation is always moving. Having their voice and their wisdom in shaping our justice system is a step.

I've had the opportunity to invite elders to be part of important events here at the legislature, along with spiritual and cultural leaders from across many of our province's diverse cultural communities. I also had the immense honour to join elders, Treaty 4 chiefs and leaders, as well as FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] Vice-Chiefs David Pratt, Heather Bear, in raising the Treaty 4 flag at this Assembly. Members from both government and opposition attended, coming together on behalf of the people they serve.

Today's motion calls for action. We agree. But the thing the motion doesn't recognize is the work we continue to do.

[11:45]

Steps are being taken from our Premier, our ministers, other MLAs, and myself. We've met with so many people in our province on the issue of racism, and we see how widespread it is and how it doesn't just impact one single group. This work must and will continue. Eliminating racism can't happen overnight. We all have a lot of listening and learning to do, from new curriculums within our schools to more representation in justice systems, our labour force, and communities. There is progress, but we have to work to continue this progress and to stand up and speak out against discrimination.

We need to respect those who have suffered most, like the residential school survivors. I thank the Honourable Lieutenant Governor for his work on the memorial that will be going up at Government House. He's been a leader on this project, and we stand behind his vision and choice of location. Government House is a historic piece of our province, and the memorial will be an important step on the path to reconciliation.

I will conclude by reiterating how important it is for us to continue to listen, talk, and to learn from each other. Because I don't just stand here as a member from Regina Coronation Park. I stand here for the family who just moved to Canada and made their home in my constituency. I stand here with the wisdom and the advice of the elders I have met throughout my career, echoing in my heart and my mind. I stand here representing the needs and the aspirations of the people in my community who want to end racism and who want a better life for everyone. It's not about me. It's about what we all can do to be better together for each other. I thank the member from Saskatoon Centre for bringing the motion forward today.

The Deputy Speaker: — The 65-minute period has expired. The 10-minute question and answer period will begin. I recognize the member from Arm River.

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Today we have been clear that we recognize that systemic racism exists within government. We continue to have conversations and engagement on this, but it takes everyone to come together on this issue. Madam Deputy Speaker, our communities chose us to be leaders to not only make Saskatchewan a better place for our

communities, but to also hold our government accountable, no matter which side we sit on.

To the member from Cumberland, as MLAs on both sides of this House, what are everyday actions that we can take to address systemic racism?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — For me and the people that have asked me to introduce the bill again for suicide prevention, work with me and our . . . our opposite and the government work together to pass that legislation ASAP [as soon as possible]. That's what we can do.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Chair. Member from Regina Coronation Park, what are you doing to ask your colleagues in cabinet in allowing First Nation leaders and Métis leaders at intergovernmental discussion tables?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think it's contingent on all of us — thanks for the question — but it's contingent on all of us to have those discussions and ensure that we are representative, to ensure that we know exactly what's happening in our First Nations communities, our Métis communities. And we continue to engage and continue to invite and continue to have those discussions. So my obligation is to work with those communities in order to help support the government.

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The members opposite ran a platform committing to investing \$10 million to act on the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In reviewing the Truth and Reconciliation report, I only noted a call for the Government of Canada to fund a National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation for \$10 million. To the member from Regina Elphinstone: how did you come up with \$10 million as the appropriate amount? And could the member be specific in how they think it should be utilized?

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. In fact, the member opposite is mistaken. That is not the only thing we put forward in our campaign. We campaigned on the member from Cumberland's suicide prevention bill, which is what we want to talk about today. You know, the member for Melfort, he's a pastor in his local church. He speaks to us about coming together. I met Harry on the steps yesterday, a senior who says he's your friend, spoke about the critic for Justice and how he enjoyed her words at the Black Lives Matter rally. Please work

on your colleagues to pass this bill. It should not be along partisan lines.

The member for Coronation Park, those are great words. But experts have said your *Pillars for Life* is not worth the paper it's printed on. Work with your colleagues to pass this bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] found that there was many problems with how the RCMP handled the Gerald Stanley case. Does the member for Regina Walsh Acres believe that systemic racism played a role in this?

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. And thank you for the question, to the member from Cumberland. We recognize that racism has no place in our province. We need collaborative, respectful dialogues on these issues facing all of our communities. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to advancing a reconciliation partnership with First Nations and Métis people. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — A question for the member from Walsh Acres who managed to talk almost exclusively about himself during his 10-minute allotted time. He did talk about his time on the PCC. What does the member from Walsh Acres think about the Premier kicking Indigenous folks off the lawn of the legislature, and then to add insult to injury, not include them in the consultation process in redrafting the bylaws that were the basis of kicking them off?

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the question. The bylaws that was set down from the decision from Justice Mitchell was a Charter Rights and Freedoms complaint that was looked after and the bylaws were put into place. The permitting process that we are going through with the PCC will have a lot of chances for engagement from people from all around the Saskatchewan Indigenous, Métis, and all sorts of people from all different sectors when it comes to the use of the park. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As we have discussed today, issues of racism do exist here in Saskatchewan, but it also impacts the rest of our country and many parts of the world. I don't believe there is any jurisdiction that is perfect, and there have been many approaches around the world to this issue. But today and every day, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have an opportunity to learn about different

perspectives and hear different insights on how we can address the issue of racism and address that issue together.

My question is for the member from Saskatoon Centre. Are there any successful programs or policies that this member has seen in other jurisdictions that they recommend our government should be reviewing? Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — First of all, and I'll just say this, that Canada was built on the philosophy of the colonial supremacy that white settlers were more superior than us. So just to answer his question, that the NDP's suicide prevention proposal that's been brought forth — and voted down by you guys — is a very good example because it was driven at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Our government recognizes that systemic racism exists in the province, and has taken action to address it. We've made changes to our education curriculum, increased funding to targeted First Nations and Métis initiatives and institutions, and recently introduced an emergency pandemic support for First Nations and Métis organizations.

To the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre: has the member seen from our government, policies and initiatives that are working within their constituencies, and are there areas that we can expand and improve on?

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you for the question, Madam Deputy Speaker. I can tell you that I've seen suffering in my constituency. I've seen suffering. And many of those same people, they have relatives up north. And the death toll keeps rising.

So again, the suicide crisis of our Indigenous youth is not an issue that should be guided along partisan lines. And so, yes. The answer is, there is just so much that we could be doing. The FSIN has just called for an anti-racism strategy. That we don't have one in this province yet is a disgrace. It's a disgrace.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — This question is for member from Regina Walsh Acres. So does the member from Regina Walsh Acres believe that there are problems with systemic racism with the conservation officer services? And if so, has he brought this up with the Minister of Environment?

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

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the member for the question. And also thank

you, Member, for, you know, bringing this debate to the floor here because it is a very important issue.

This year we have brought forth funding, introduced amendments to *The Police Act* establishing the new serious incident response team to investigate serious incidents involving police officers across this province. Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The 75-minute debate has expired. Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Conway: — To request leave to make a personal statement.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm on my feet to request leave to make a personal statement.

The Deputy Speaker: — Yes you may. Go ahead.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Correction

Ms. Conway: — It has been brought to my attention that I did misspeak during the 10 minutes allotted to me to speak to this motion. I said that the member from Saskatoon Centre was the first visibly Indigenous woman. Of course she is one of the first. There have been others. Not nearly enough of course, Madam Deputy Speaker. Joan Beatty, Jennifer Campeau come to mind, but I certainly did not mean offence when I misspoke and it was important to me to correct that on the record.

The Deputy Speaker: — Thank you. Thank you for that.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

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

Motion No. 2 — Increase to Canada Health Transfer

Ms. A. Ross: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to discuss the Canada Health Transfer. At the end of my remarks, I will be moving a motion on increasing the Canada Health Transfer to the provinces.

I'd like to begin my remarks with a personal story about my time in health care here in Saskatchewan. I had been working in Alberta where health care at that time was exceptional. It was a province with a long-standing, stable conservative government and a strong economy. And during the time I lived there, the strong economy allowed the government of the day to be able to invest heavily in the provincial health care system.

Returning to Saskatchewan in 2008 was like a step back in time. The example I will use is of IT [information technology] which was becoming very essential to health at that time. My department had a budget for IT for \$1,000 and there was no local tech support. We had to set up and troubleshoot on our own, and we called on our massage therapist more than once to help us out.

But that was the past, Madam Deputy Speaker, and since taking government I have seen first-hand the great improvements that have been made in Health. Madam Deputy Speaker, this government's budget in Saskatchewan has dedicated a record \$6.54 billion to the provincial health care system. The federal portion of health care of this budget is \$1.53 billion. That's a 78/22 per cent split between Saskatchewan and the federal government.

[12:00]

In the '70s, Madam Deputy Speaker, the split between the provinces and the federal government was an even 50/50 split. Over time, modifications, changes in the escalated calculation all resulted in a gradual decline of the federal contributions. A 10-year agreement was reached between the provinces that ran from 2004 to '14 with an escalation factor of 6 per cent that started in 2006. That was later replaced with an indexation on nominal GDP [gross domestic product] that started at 3 per cent. This change negatively impacted the Canada Health Transfers to the provinces, leaving us where we are today.

The world pandemic has created further challenges in the health system, an already stretched system that's trying to keep Canadians safe. The provinces acknowledge and appreciate the temporary funding provided by the federal government to help fight the pandemic, but despite this funding we continue to see people struggle. But many were struggling before the pandemic. The Canadian Institute for Health, or CIHI, [Canadian Institute for Health Information] has reported, since 1975 health care costs in Canada have been rising steadily across Canada. From 2000 to 2011, costs doubled from 1 billion to 200 billion, and in 2019 reached \$264 billion.

In Saskatchewan, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is not the only cost this government has had to cover. When elected in 2007, our government was met with communities who had been abandoned by the previous government. Facilities were outdated with limited technology, job vacancies, and recruitment problems. Closing hospitals and long-term care sites left a long-term negative impact on Saskatchewan's health care system, an impact that the government today is still working on to recover.

This is something because it's in the past, some of the members opposite, especially those newly elected, have liked to laugh at because it is the past. It is the past, Madam Deputy Speaker, but it's a baseline where we need to work for the future. Because I was a health care worker back then, I know how hard it was and how hard we worked to get the health care system to where it is today. And for people to laugh is very disrespectful to all of those in our health care professions.

When I came back to Saskatchewan, health care job recruitment for the province was challenging. Bonuses were offered as an incentive to relocate to Saskatchewan. Health care professionals were, and continue to be, difficult to find for the province.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am proud to say record investments in health care in our province have brought us into the 21st century. Providing quality health care to the Saskatchewan people is part of our plan to protect, build, and grow our province. It is also important to recognize, Madam Deputy Speaker, our government has achieved this at a time when we faced a decline in federal

support in health care benefits, as the Canada Health Transfer was declining.

Mr. Speaker, our provinces and territories have been lobbying the federal government for some time to increase the Canada Health Transfer. At this year's federation of confederations, health care was once again foremost on the agenda of the premiers of the 10 provinces and 2 territories. They unanimously agreed that increases to the Canada Health Transfer was their main priority. Premier Horgan from British Columbia stated:

Gaps and shortcomings exist in the ability to protect and preserve Canada's public health care system. It can't be a short-term fix. The federation's contribution has gone from a 50/50 split with the provinces and territories to a 22/78 split today.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Premier Kenney from Alberta identified many budgetary challenges due to their severe economic downturn. It's a very different place than when I was there years ago. Alberta is facing its largest recession in nearly a century and an increase in mental health and addiction problems due in part to the lack of employment opportunities and business closures. Alberta's population is also aging, and they are accessing the health care system more frequently. Despite their economic situation, the province's population is continuing to grow and, along with an increase in immigration, Madam Deputy Speaker, this adds extra strain to an already stressed health care system.

Premier Pallister from Manitoba expressed concerns with surgical wait times. Long wait times in his province have more than doubled, he said, due to COVID-19. Ontario's Premier Ford agreed provincial and territories' health care funding needs are at an all-time high across Canada, and the health care system is stretched to its limits. Not only are the provinces struggling with surgical wait times and we are all struggling to meet the needs of Canadians who are in mental health or addiction crisis, Premier Ford also indicated 45,000 seniors are waiting for long-term care beds, and there needs to be extensive recruitment and training for ESW [environmental service worker] workers and nurses for these residents.

Madam Deputy Speaker, all the provinces and territories are facing health care challenges and cannot manage the needs of their citizens on their own without the financial assistance from the federal government. This must be a team Canada approach, Madam Deputy Speaker. The federal government must contribute their fair share. It is recommended the annual escalation rate be increased to at least 5 per cent from the current 3 per cent. To quote Premier Ford, "It needs to be all hands on deck."

Madam Deputy Speaker, although we are Saskatchewan people, we are still a part of Canada and our federal government is still our government. They hold jurisdiction here and have the right to govern on certain things. But with that right comes obligation, and it's their obligation to help.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Premier Blaine Higgs from New Brunswick describes health care in our nation as being at a crossroads. Canada is facing an aging population that does and will require quality care. The provinces and territories are facing

many challenges in recruiting health care professionals. The need for increased mental health services is on the upswing. Premier Higgs stated:

Increased standards of care must exist across the nation, and in order to do this, stability, consistency, and reliability is needed. It is important that we protect what Canadians value the most — our Canadian health care system.

Premier Legault from Quebec was very adamant that the Canada Health Transfer must increase, Madam Speaker. Across Canada, health care budgets are running a deficit. The premiers of the provinces and territories identified three priorities that must be addressed by the federal government, and topping that list is the need to increase the Canada Health Transfer.

Madam Deputy Speaker, our Premier also agreed. The federal government needs to come to the table as a full funding partner with provinces and territories. The Premier echoed the concerns of the others at the conference.

Prior to COVID-19, Saskatchewan was working very hard to reduce surgical wait times, and we were well along the way of meeting our target of a three-month wait time. When the pandemic hit, surgical services across the country were disrupted. Our province was no exception.

I remember when I moved back to Saskatchewan, surgical wait times were long and people were waiting months and even years for elective surgery. Madam Deputy Speaker, I think about those people who need joint replacements. I have a friend — she lives in my building — who needs both of her knees replaced, and she just suffers so much. She was getting really close to a surgery date, but now she's had to be moved down the list due to COVID-19. The people of our province, Madam Deputy Speaker, are again waiting for surgery dates, as are people in the rest of our country. And these people are suffering, just like my friend.

Madam Deputy Speaker, our government remains committed to reducing surgical wait times. However it will cost millions of dollars to meet this commitment. It's time for the federal government to step up, to step up and be an equal partner, and to increase the Canada Health Transfer to each province and territory. It is time, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the federal government to partner with its provinces and territories to support a sustainable, accessible, and affordable health care system.

In 2003 the first ministers agreed on the access health care for health care renewal. Governments committed to work towards targets of reforms, including accelerated primary health care renewal, supporting information technology, certain health care services, and enhanced diagnostic and medical equipment. This was an important commitment, Madam Deputy Speaker. When I think of the advancements in technology and the costs of upgrading the systems, it's overwhelming.

In 2007, the provinces and territories committed to establishing wait-time guarantees, Madam Deputy Speaker. This guarantee was put in place to offer the patients the opportunity to go to another physician or facility where wait times could be reduced.

When I think back, technologies and advances in science have propelled our health care system into the 21st century, but all of this has come at a cost. The organization of Canada's health system lies within the constitution under the *Canada Health Act*. One of the roles of the government, Madam Deputy Speaker, is to support the provinces and the territories. Public health care began in Canada and is something Canadians hold near and dear.

The cost of health care as reported by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, or CIHI, has been rising steadily since 1975. That was the year tracking began. CIHI reported in 2019 that total health care expenditures doubled, and 2011, and has continued to climb at record-setting paces. CIHI reported in 2019, health care spending in Canada was 11 per cent of the national GDP.

Madam Deputy Speaker, a number of factors contribute to increasing costs of health care in this country. Studies have shown per capita . . . [inaudible] . . . on health care increases as a person ages, dramatically increasing at the age of 60 and will increase six times by the age of 90. The first group of baby boomers turned 65 in 2010, and the proportion of elderly people has been on the rise since, thus adding to the stress on the health care system.

Health sector infiltration, including safety, maintenance, and labour costs, continue to rise. Improved occupational health standards are vital, Madam Deputy Speaker, to keep patients, residents, and health care professionals safe, but it has come at a significant impact on the budget. Mandatory training requirements have increased. This results in finding replacements for staff who are taking training, procedures requiring additional staffing, and extra equipment, again needed and necessary but also at a cost.

[12:15]

Madam Deputy Speaker, the population in Canada and Saskatchewan continues to grow and accounts for a 2.6 per cent increase in health care costs. The federal government has set a target to welcome 1.2 million newcomers to Canada over the next two years. We all welcome these newcomers and the many benefits that they bring to our nation. But the federal government needs to account for this, this added cost to our health system when calculating the Canada Health Transfer. Fifty-seven per cent of the increase in health care costs are attributed to hospitals, physicians, and drugs — all needed, all necessary, all expected, but all at a cost, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Canada Health Transfer from the federal government needs to be adjusted to keep pace with the constant increasing costs the health care system is incurring. All premiers, Madam Deputy Speaker, have unanimously agreed the federal government needs to commit over 35 per cent of health care costs on a long-term, continuous basis to help to cover the needs — just the core health care needs — of the people of Canada.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in March of 2020 our government cancelled all elective surgeries except for the most urgent procedures due to COVID-19 as we moved our resources to combat the pandemic. As a result, wait times for elective surgeries have increased. As a government, Madam Deputy Speaker, we are committed to shortening these wait times but we cannot do this alone. Federal funding continues year after year to

decrease. It's time, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the federal government to not only step up, but to honour its taxpaying citizens by making a substantial increase to health care funding. As the Premier has pointed out, it should not have taken a pandemic for the Prime Minister to see and understand the pressure health care across Canada is experiencing.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when I was researching this topic I came across a story Premier Pallister from Manitoba had shared. It was from a conversation he had had with the Prime Minister when explaining the stress the health care system is under and how it impacts the lives of people. He described to the Prime Minister the story of a young woman who had found a lump in her breast. She made an appointment to see her doctor, but she had to wait. The doctor sent her to see a specialist, but she had to wait. When she saw the specialist who referred her to a surgeon, she had to wait. When her surgeon saw her to deliver the news of her surgery, he said to her, I am so sorry we didn't see you sooner; we could have done so much more. The Prime Minister's response to this story was, I am not your banker. I am not your banker, Deputy Speaker. No thought as to how a struggling system impacts a person or a family.

I've worked in health care a long time, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I have seen these circumstances and I've seen many others many, many times — people suffering and in pain due to surgical delays, having to have difficult conversations with family because they have to move their loved one out of a hospital to a location many miles away. Those are all very difficult conversations to have. I've looked after people who are dying because a diagnosis was either missed or delayed because of the pressures on the system.

I have always believed, Madam Deputy Speaker, that caring for the vulnerable, the sick, and the dying has always been a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. But you know, the last few days I've said a couple of times, you know, health care, working in health care is a thankless job. And I thought, how can I say that? But we get so tired. We get so tired because of the pressures that we face daily in the system. And I'm talking about pre-COVID, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's so, so difficult for our workers, and I feel for them.

This was very important for me today, this statement, and to be able to get up here and put forward this motion. Madam Deputy Speaker, I have now concluded my remarks, and I would like to move the following motion, which reads:

That this Assembly calls on the federal government to immediately commit to long-term funding increases to the Canada Health Transfer, representing an increase from its current share of 22 per cent to 35 per cent, in order to keep pace with rising health care costs that are putting unsustainable financial pressure on the provinces and the territories.

Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Yes, the paper please. It has been moved by the member for Prince Albert Northcote:

That this Assembly calls on the federal government to immediately commit to long-term funding increases to the

Canada Health Transfer, representing an increase from its current share of 22 per cent to 35 per cent, in order to keep pace with rising health care costs that are putting unsustainable financial pressure on provinces and territories.

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

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to enter into the debate on the motion brought forward by our new member from Prince Albert Northcote. I listened very intently to her comments, Madam Deputy Speaker, and you know, it touches you. Her experience in the health care system, having family members work in the health care system, Madam Deputy Speaker, really is something that's very important that we pay attention, pay focus to this, but also again call on those partners that we do have in health care and funding health care to help carry that load, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And from my perspective, I was honoured to spend five years in the Health file as Minister of Rural and Remote Health, northern health, you know, EMS, and a lot of different things that I was able to focus on. Developed a lot of partnerships and relationships across the whole country with multiple different ministers of all stripes. This is not a political issue, Madam Deputy Speaker. A number of different ministers from both parties, Liberal and Conservative, federally, as well, Madam Deputy Speaker, and this is something that we've been looking at for a number of years and will continue to advocate.

I think with the COVID times, it's really come to light how much is needed to help carry that load, Madam Deputy Speaker. And in that time I served in Health, and the time I've served in government now for 13 years, I've seen significant improvements in our system in Saskatchewan brought on purely by, you know, admittedly some of the policies and some of the work done by the former government, the members opposite when they were in government, but more recently and predominantly the improvements I've seen through our members.

Our member from Indian Head-Milestone was our first Health minister. The member for Weyburn was our next Health minister. The member from Rosetown our next Health minister. I was honoured to serve with the member from Weyburn and the member from Rosetown. And the one thing that became very evident in my time there was how the health transfer has changed over those number of years. And you know, it went from 50 per cent and it's slowly dwindled down to roughly the 20 per cent that we're seeing right now. And again, the challenges that everyone is facing across the country right now is pretty focused on sharing that load and calling on the federal government to do their share, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And again to point out this is not a political issue. This is something we've talked with the former Conservatives, the Liberal government more recently. Different Health ministers across the country of all different political stripes are pretty much singing from the same song sheet, asking the federal government for the same support, Madam Deputy Speaker. And I know one thing that my friend, the former Health minister, the member from Rosetown, was very in tune with, and I really appreciated

his approach to the federal government in that, you know, you dictate 80 per cent of what you want done in our province and you give us about 20 per cent of the funding.

So what we're asking for is maybe a more shared partnership. And if they want to continue dictating 80 per cent, it's fair game. They can do that. But I think asking 35 per cent in a partnership is something that we as a government owe it to ourselves as a governing party, but also on behalf of the taxpayers of this province, to represent them and to ask the federal government to be that more equitable partner, Madam Deputy Speaker.

So you know, I think that is our job here. And again in a non-partisan, non-political way, we will, you know . . . We don't agree with the federal government on a lot of different things but, you know, this is something we've been very respectful, you know, trying to not be political at all. And it's just calling on them with our partners, our fellow Health ministers from across the country and other premiers representing other provinces and territories across this country, the federal government to do that part, to come up to the 35 per cent cost sharing. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, that'll be all the comments I'll share for today. So I just move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adjourn the House?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:27.]

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
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