



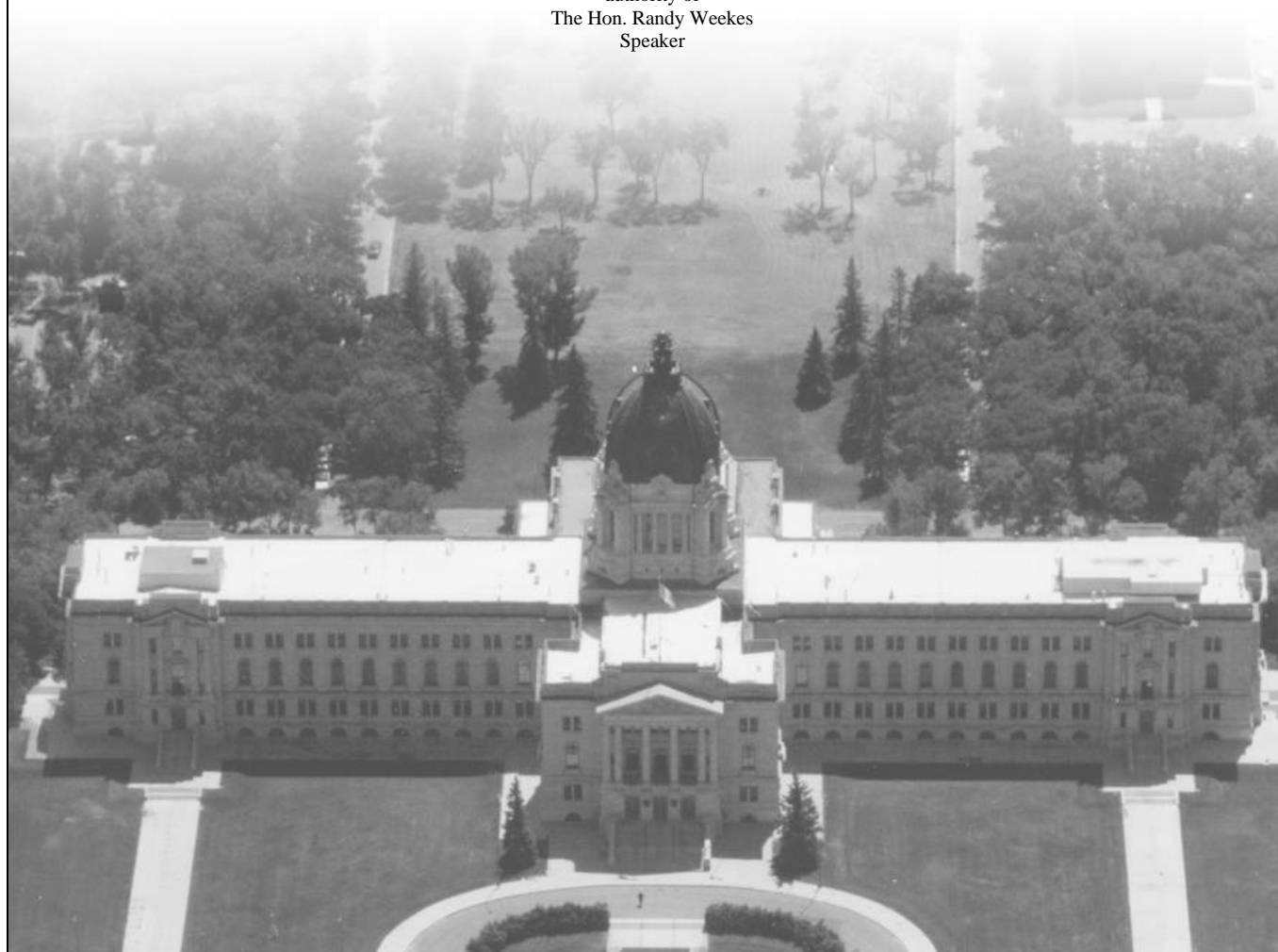
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)	Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)	Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)	Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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CONTENTS

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker.....	2503
------------------	------

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ross, A.	2503
Nippi-Albright.....	2503
McMorris.....	2503
Love.....	2504
Kaeding.....	2504
Ritchie.....	2504
Keisig.....	2504
Bowes.....	2504
Tell.....	2505
Sarauer.....	2505
Nerlien.....	2505
Meili.....	2505, 2506
Wilson.....	2505
Moe.....	2505

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Wotherspoon.....	2506
Vermette.....	2506
Sarauer.....	2506
Love.....	2507
Ritchie.....	2507
Mowat.....	2507
Nippi-Albright.....	2507
Bowes.....	2508

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Award-Winning Salon Spa Focuses on Indigenous Values

Docherty.....	2508
---------------	------

Paramedic Advocates for All First Responders

Love.....	2508
-----------	------

Celebrating Growth in Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Lambert.....	2508
--------------	------

Government's Duty to Consult With Impacted Communities

Nippi-Albright.....	2509
---------------------	------

Local Entrepreneurs Contribute to Their Community

Nerlien.....	2509
--------------	------

Feedlot Facility Owners Believe in Saskatchewan

Skoropad.....	2509
---------------	------

Private Sector Investments Reflect Confidence in Saskatchewan

Stewart.....	2509
--------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Provision of Mental Health Care

Meili.....	2510
Moe.....	2510
Hindley.....	2511

Rising Fuel Prices

Wotherspoon.....	2512
Harpauer.....	2512
Harrison, J.....	2512

Water Security Agency's Drainage Policies

Ritchie.....	2513
Bradshaw.....	2513

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Vermette.....	2513
Hindley.....	2514

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Reduction in Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Eyre.....	2514
Ritchie.....	2515

Project to Advance Micro-Reactors in Saskatchewan	
Harrison, J.	2515
Young, A.	2515
MOTIONS	
Suspension of Specified Bill Process	
Sarauer	2516
PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Docherty	2516
THIRD READINGS	
Bill No. 70 — <i>The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'Assemblée législative</i>	
Tell	2516
Recorded Division	2516
ROYAL ASSENT	2516
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Ottenbreit	2518
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
Federal Government Policies	
Eyre	2518
Meyers	2519
Lawrence	2520
Keisig	2521
Cockrill	2521
Harrison, D.	2523
Ross, A.	2524
Friesen	2524
Skoropad	2525
Goudy	2525
Stewart	2527
Ritchie	2529

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — I would just like to welcome all our guests in the galleries and just remind you you're not to take part in debate, and that means no cheering or clapping or making any noises, and also not texting or emailing while you're in the gallery. So enjoy yourself today.

Yesterday, May 17th, 2022, the Government House Leader rose on a point of order. The point of order was not specific. However I committed to reviewing the record and am now prepared to make my ruling.

At the very end of question period, numerous interjections caused disorder in this Chamber. It was apparent that numerous insults were hurled across the floor by members on both sides. However none of these interjections are on the record, and it's not possible to attribute the interjections to any members.

It was not a proud day for our decorum, especially in light of the fact that I've cautioned members from both sides on several occasions this session that personal comments and remarks intended to impugn a member's integrity, honesty, or character are out of order.

Again, for lack of a reliable record, it is impossible for me to rule on the point of order. If any member would like to take responsibility for their conduct today, I will give them an opportunity at the end of my ruling.

I want to conclude by asking members to curb their personal comments and insults, and treat each other with respect deserving to members duly elected by the people of this province.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to welcome Cheryl Ring and her husband, Stephen, seated in your gallery today. Mr. Speaker, Cheryl, a local P.A. [Prince Albert] artist, was chosen to showcase her artwork at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. Her *Imagine: Thinking outside the box* piece is an acknowledgement to the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls movement. Her primary goal was to release the names of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls from the confines of an acronym. It is a gift of healing and a step in the process of recognition, awareness, and remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Cheryl and Stephen, and congratulating Cheryl for having her artwork selected for display internationally, and for the insight and compassion she has shown towards a movement as important as

this. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — I would also join in welcoming Cheryl and Stephen to their gallery. It is always wonderful to see folks that come out from the Indigenous community and making a statement, and also bringing awareness about issues that impact Indigenous women in this province as well as across the country. So I want to also just say thank you, Cheryl and Stephen, for coming down here and blessing us with your presence and your advocacy around missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and two-spirit. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask leave for an extended introduction?

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't get this opportunity very often to introduce three special people in my life. I think this is maybe the second or third time that I've had the opportunity. Once I think the boys were in school. The second time was in 2014 after the Olympics. And then today.

So three people in the gallery. First I'd like to introduce my wife, Cindy McMorris, who is seated in the gallery. Cindy has just recently retired, about two years ago, from her nursing career. Just about 40 years in nursing: the first three as a psychiatric nurse, then she became an RN [registered nurse]. Spent most of her career in the operating room at the Plains hospital until it was closed and then at the General. Has retired but was retired for a total of two months. And, imagine this: a retired nurse working at the private surgery centre, picking up shifts when she chooses. So she comes to the building but not to the gallery very often. So that's Cindy.

On her right is our oldest son, Craig, and on her left is our younger son, Mark. I'm not going to talk about maybe what they have done in the past, but what I do want to talk about . . . They're in town promoting a celebrity slo-pitch tournament. Every year they invite a bunch of their friends from really around the world, lots of different sports, to come and play a celebrity slo-pitch tournament that raises money.

And all the money . . . The foundation has raised a little over \$300,000. All that, every cent of that, has gone to Jumpstart, which puts money into helping kids that maybe don't have the means to be involved in sports. Something like 2,100 or 2,200 kids have benefited from the charity. They are promoting their charity which is again a celebrity slo-pitch tournament that will be held on June the 18th here in Regina at Douglas Park, Mr.

Speaker. So they've been doing kind of the media tour on that and getting the word out. So I'd just like everybody, if you would, just welcome my family to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming his family members Craig, Mark, and Cindy to their Assembly, and in particular I want to thank you for the work that you do in inspiring our young people in the area of athletics. And not only are you incredible athletes and recognized around the globe, and that we share much respect and admiration for. I've also seen the photos, you know, of you, Craig and Mark, getting out visiting with our school groups, inspiring our young people, showing them that young people from Saskatchewan can do anything. And I want to thank you for that, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two different introductions today. First off I'd like to welcome 19 grade 10 students from the Melville Comprehensive School. They're accompanied by their teacher who is also a city councillor, Andy Rondeau. Mr. Rondeau is a regular attendee of the legislature. I think he has been here almost every year that I've been here, and I know he always has his students very well prepared for some great questions after. So I'd like all members to welcome the Melville Comprehensive School to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, and also with us today I have Jimmy Lauer, seated at the top of the west gallery. Jimmy is a grade 6 student, 12 years old, voracious aptitude for political information. He's a student of Gormley, loves Winston Churchill, really will take anything political on. And I know I've talked to a few members about Jimmy's background and they said, boy, he reminds me of them. He indicates that he's highly skeptical of news from many sources, does have a Twitter handle though now, so he wants to stay engaged in the political process. We had some really great questions today, including what does he need to do to replace me, Mr. Speaker . . .

An Hon. Member: — Not much.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Boy I stepped into that one. And also with Jimmy today is his mom, Tehra Lauer, who is a market and training coordinator for the Churchbridge Credit Union. She just completed a financial literacy trade school for our grade 11 and 12 students in Langenburg and Churchbridge, and it was very well received. It even gained some national attention. So I'd like all members to welcome Tehra and Jimmy to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended

introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise here today and welcome guests seated in your gallery from the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum. Mr. Speaker, you may recall that these fine folk were with us in the fall period, and they're here again today. And I'll have more to say on that later, but I just wanted to take the time here and recognize the work that they're doing.

Seated in your gallery is Aura Lee MacPherson. She is the Chair of the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum. Along with her are Ken and Marj Hutchinson, as well as Rick and Lorna Vigrass. So all of these folks reside within the area of the Calling Lakes, the Katepwa valley. They understand the meaning of connection between downstream and upstream impacts to water because of failures in water management.

And through the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum, they do a lot of really great advocacy work, and through also the regional centre of excellence. And it's through that work that they are able to advocate and educate on the importance of protecting source water throughout our great province.

And it's because of that care that they have for their communities, for the natural environment and the connections between those that work in agricultural production and wanting to see that happen in a sustainable way. They're very supportive of the 17 goals of sustainable development, and want to see Saskatchewan move forward in such a way that we can honour those 17 sustainable development goals. So I invite all members to join with me in welcoming Aura Lee, Marj and Ken, Rick and Lorna to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in the member opposite. These are all my constituents. They live in the wonderful constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood. Ken and Marj, my mother keeps me very well informed on their actions. My mother's an avid bridge player, so she keeps me very knowledgeable on things like that. Rick and I have had many discussions, and it was a pleasure to meet Aura Lee for the first time. So please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce, seated in the east gallery, 47 grade 8 students from Greystone Heights School, which is in my riding of Saskatoon University. It's a pleasure to have these young folks join us here today and to be so engaged and interested in our political process. I'm really looking forward to meeting with them afterwards and answering any burning questions they have about how this place operates. I also want to welcome their teachers who are accompanying them: Sara Stone, Cory Farthing, and Christine Loewen.

Welcome, and thank you for joining us in your legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured today to welcome to this Legislative Assembly Staff Sergeant Shawn Stubbs of the Prince Albert Police Service, who is the provincial coordinator of Saskatchewan's internet child exploitation unit, otherwise known as ICE.

Mr. Speaker, ICE is responsible for investigating and apprehending perpetrators of child sexual exploitation. As provincial ICE coordinator, Staff Sergeant Stubbs oversees a staff of nine investigators, and under his watch ICE has conducted a record 853 investigations in 2021. The work they do is highly sensitive, painstaking, and requires a level of skill and commitment and rigour that very few possess.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all my colleagues here today to join me in welcoming Staff Sergeant Shawn Stubbs to the Legislative Assembly, and thanking him and all the members of the provincial ICE unit for the excellent work they do trying to keep Saskatchewan children safe online. Thank you.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming — there he is; I couldn't see him earlier — Staff Sergeant Shawn to his Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of the official opposition, let me say thank you to you and your team for keeping Saskatchewan children safe, for the hard and devastating work that you and your team have to do. Thank you so much. It's very much appreciated. Again, I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming him to his Assembly.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery, we'd like to welcome the 15 students, grade 11 and 12 students, from Legacy Christian Academy in Saskatoon. Give us a wave. Thank you. They're joined today by assistant principal Dawn Beaudry, chaperone Trina Kroeze.

And I want to particularly mention the principal, who is retiring at the end of this year, who has given . . . He and his wife, Shirley, have dedicated their entire lives to education in Saskatchewan and Alberta. They have built the Legacy school to be a leader in education, and we respect them greatly. They've been married for 47 years, and they are going to retire to spend some time with their grandchildren who live in California and on the coast. I know a lot about Lou because he happens to be my brother-in-law. So please join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise

today and welcome Eve Kinch to her Legislative Building. Eve is my cousin. She is the oldest of Bernie Kinch, my mother's little brother, and Bernadette Hagel — the Berns, as we call them. We always enjoyed so much when we were younger spending time with Eve and her brothers Alex and Paul in Taber and in Medicine Hat when they were growing up. She's lived the last few years in Edmonton with her spouse, Tracey, but they recently moved here to Regina. Tracey is an agronomist here in the city. She's out working in Congress today.

And yesterday was the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, and Eve has recently come out as trans. And that is a big change and a challenging thing, and it's been really remarkable. And I admire watching how she has navigated the challenges of relationships, of facing online hate and in-person discrimination. And she does so with positivity and great humour, the great humour she has always had.

And here in Regina she's spending her time writing, doing some IT [information technology] work, and continuing with her very nerdy obsessions with watches and sandwiches. So if everyone could please join me in welcoming Eve Kinch to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Wilson: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, it's with pleasure I would like to introduce in the east gallery a friend of mine, Nadine Ness. Nadine and I have become friends for the last year. She's a former RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] that's involved with Unified Grassroots. She founded this group after experiencing some discrimination in her family's life and her community, so she is dedicated to supporting personal freedoms. She's also concerned with the future of Saskatchewan. So please welcome Nadine to her Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I have another friend I'd like to introduce, Ken Rutherford and his wife, Jennifer. With them are their children Tori, Joe, Theo and Benny. Now Ken is a professor who hails from the Lloydminster area, and he's involved in the movement called Saskatchewan United after experiencing the government's mandates. And he's wanting a free and democratic society, so he is advocating for solutions. I would like the Assembly to give Ken and his family a very warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I just want to remember that people in the gallery are not to clap. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would take a moment as well to welcome Ken and his wife, Jennifer, to their Legislative Assembly here. I also would take a moment to

welcome Nadine Ness to her Legislative Assembly. As we know, I was fortunate enough to have a phone call with Nadine a number of months ago, Mr. Speaker. We didn't agree on everything in that phone call, but I think we were able to contextualize a number of points within that conversation. And I think we can all be thankful that we can have that type of open debate here in this province, Mr. Speaker, in particular at this time, when we look around the world.

I also want to join with the Minister of Government Relations in introducing his family, Mr. Speaker, and thank both the Minister of Government Relations and Cindy for being friends of my wife and I for a number of years now.

I've had the opportunity for our family to wake up in the middle of the evening, whether there be Olympic Games in Russia, whether they be in China, whether they be in Korea, to watch not only Mark compete — and I know many of us have done that — but more so even maybe in our family to watch Craig commentate Mark compete, Mr. Speaker. And there's some great phrases that have been repeated in this House, due to geopolitical reasons won't be repeated today, Mr. Speaker. But I'd like to join with the Minister of Government Relations in welcoming Cindy, Mark, and Craig McMorris to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the independent member and the Premier in welcoming Ken Rutherford, Jennifer, and Nadine Ness to their legislature.

Truth be told, we share very different opinions. I was disappointed with Unified Grassroots in some of the positions taken, in particular around evidence-based public health measures, and disappointed that the Premier chose to follow those recommendations. I do not begrudge the Premier at all having that conversation, however, with Nadine, though I do note it was disappointing that folks like Hassan Masri didn't get similar calls and similar time.

With that, however, given those disagreements — and we're very clear on that — I certainly respect Ms. Ness and her opinions, her right to express them, and her right to express them publicly, and to be present here in her legislature. I ask all members to join me in welcoming these folks to their Legislative Building.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today, as I have throughout session, to bring attention to the inadequate, unsafe conditions on Highway 9 through east-central Saskatchewan, northeast Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, a real vital artery as a highway that connects businesses and communities and farms and tourism throughout that beautiful part of the province.

And petitioners have been bringing to the minister's attention, the government's attention, to all of our attention throughout this sitting, the unsafe conditions that exist on Highway 9. Today the very specific focus is the very dangerous conditions between

Preeceville and Hudson Bay, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately address the inadequate condition of Highway 9 by working with and listening to the concerns of municipalities, residents, and industry.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Hudson Bay and Weekes. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of countless Saskatchewan families struggling with mental health and addictions and the families that have lost loved ones to suicide. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has record-breaking overdoses and suicide rates. This crisis is felt in every corner of this province, and in many communities young people have lost hope. Both sides of this Assembly must work together to address this mental health and addictions and the suicide crisis. But we see how that went yesterday.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately create a bipartisan legislative committee on the mental health and addictions crisis in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the Ball family and the Ratt family, from Indian Head and La Ronge. I so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to scrap Bill 70. Those who signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: the independence of security at the legislature is of great importance to Saskatchewan people; it is a long-standing parliamentary custom that security maintain independence by reporting to the Speaker; the Speaker has a constitutional duty to defend the privileges of the legislature and its members; the Sergeant-at-Arms has successfully maintained the security of the legislature and its grounds since the '80s.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 70 would turn the Sergeant-at-Arms into a ceremonial role which breaches tradition in how issues of security at the legislature are handled. As you know, Mr. Speaker, traditionally all security concerns have been discussed at the bipartisan Board of Internal Economy. Mr. Speaker, that discussion is no longer happening. I wonder why this government is so desperate for this type of power grab.

I'd like to read to the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the

Government of Saskatchewan to stop the passage of Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

Mr. Speaker, as this is the last day for the government to finally come to their senses and scrap Bill 70, I have several pages of this petition to present. Those who have signed this petition come from Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Unity, and Paddockwood. I do so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet again to present a petition that is similar to the one presented by my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, representing concerns of citizens in Regina at facilities similar to the one I'll speak to today. This petition is signed mostly by residents, their friends, families, and other concerned citizens connected to Luther Heights in Saskatoon. They would like us to know that the Department of Social Services is cancelling government subsidy for 50 apartments in Luther Heights.

Now this building contains 120 units providing vital housing for seniors. Some of those units are life leases and some of those units have been receiving subsidized housing for decades. And the folks who live there are now having to make a very difficult decision of paying more to stay in their homes, which is the standard practice — where seniors want to age in place in their homes surrounded by community — or having to move to a different facility to afford life. And this is a challenging decision, especially for older adults on a fixed income.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Government of Saskatchewan to reverse the decision to eliminate subsidized housing and restore funding for the 50 units affected at Luther Heights.

I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am on my feet today to present a petition calling on the government to protect Saskatchewan's water supply and implement a credible wetland policy.

The undersigned wish to bring to your attention that Saskatchewan's lack of a wetland policy adversely affects water quality, and that significant work remains to be done to better regulate drainage. It has been estimated that inland freshwater wetlands have decreased globally by 70 per cent since the beginning of the 20th century. With climate change and tumultuous weather conditions affecting agricultural production, conserving wetlands is more important than ever.

Wetlands provide crucial ecosystem services such as water and nutrient filtration, climate control, and flood control. They support plant pollination, provide food for wildlife, and supply building and crafting materials. It's more clear now than ever that

wetlands play a crucial role in the overall health of our environment. It's been said that if nature hurts, we hurt as humans, and we need to build back resiliency.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan actively protect Saskatchewan's water from current and future threats to our valuable water supply.

This petition is signed by the residents of Dysart and Pasqua Lake. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present a petition to the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities, leading to many emergency room, acute, lab, and X-ray service disruptions; that the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations, which has rippling effects for small cities and towns; that health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies; and that at the 2021 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted to support a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care worker shortage across Saskatchewan.

I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

This is signed by individuals from Wilkie and Scott, Saskatchewan today, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be on my feet to present the following petition. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: this government has been auctioning off Crown land and leases to the highest bidder, and we only have 10 per cent of Crown land left. They have not been meaningfully consulting with impacted communities. They've been breaching the treaty relationship. The first right of refusal needs to be offered to First Nations in the treaty land entitlement when Crown lands are being sold. The government, this government must immediately stop selling off Crown land and leases and fix their broken duty-to-consult process. Without clear legislation, this results in lack of meaningful consultation with impacted communities.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land, and work with First Nation and Métis communities to develop a new duty-to-consult framework.

The folks who signed this petition reside on Piapot First Nation. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling for universal access to birth control. The residents who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following points: that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the entire country — that's kids and young adults aged 12 to 20; that cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt a policy making no-cost prescription contraceptive available to all Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, the petition today has been signed by residents of Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Award-Winning Salon Spa Focuses on Indigenous Values

Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize a resilient and accomplished entrepreneur here in Regina. Jen Dubois opened Miyosiwin Salon Spa, with a focus on First Nation culture in the salon and spa services. Mr. Speaker, *miyosiwin* means "beauty" in the Cree language.

Unfortunately a fire in the spring of 2018 shut them down for 11 months. It wasn't long after that the pandemic forced them to close and eventually relocate. Then after five months of renovations, Miyosiwin reopened in March of this year. Jen credits the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation, which has helped her to break down the barriers she faced as an Indigenous entrepreneur. She said it also made it possible to have a business focused on Indigenous values.

Jen was named a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] Future 40 under 40, and has been a finalist for both the Paragon and the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. She's also been recognized with multiple awards, including the National

Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association Indigenous Women Entrepreneur Award, 2022; the Mazda Canada Local Legends Award, 2021; and the Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan Indigenous Woman Entrepreneur, 2021.

I now ask all members to join me in congratulating Jen and the staff at Miyosiwin Salon Spa for their resilience, their service, and their contributions to our community and the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Paramedic Advocates for All First Responders

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to honour a resident of Saskatoon Eastview, an advocate for paramedics, a champion for mental health, and a good, good friend, Paul Hills.

As president of the Saskatoon Paramedic Association, Paul has bravely and honestly spoken up about his own journey with mental health and used his experience to advocate for the mental health of all first responders. His courageous approach to talking about his mental health publicly has brought positive change over the years, but Paul recognizes that the current state of our health care system is only further impacting the mental health and well-being of paramedics in the field.

Recently, Paul was featured in a *Maclean's* article titled "Canadian paramedics are in crisis." He was even featured on the Gormley show to discuss his experiences. He spoke about the impact of hallway medicine and other band-aid solutions that offload extra stress and extra work to paramedics when they are unable to offload patients due to crowded and collapsing emergency rooms.

Next week is Paramedic Services Week. I ask all members to join me in recognizing Paul Hills and all paramedics who continue to give this province more than they should ever be asked to give. Let us commit to supporting our paramedics with working conditions that support their mental health as they seek to serve the people of this province during their most challenging moments. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Celebrating Growth in Indigenous Entrepreneurs

Ms. Lambert: — Mr. Speaker, Indigenous entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan is growing rapidly. In the Saskatoon region, the number of Indigenous businesses has grown from 160 to 285, and spending by Indigenous businesses has nearly tripled from 206 million to 608 million over the past decade. Last week, the Saskatchewan Indigenous Economic Development Network celebrated its 10th anniversary. Its founder and board Chair, Milton Tootoosis, said Indigenous people have long prided themselves with innovation.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon's Ally Hrbachek of Ally's Cake Creations is one of the Indigenous entrepreneurs leading that growth. She is a member of Peepeekisis Cree Nation and a mentor for young Indigenous women looking to start

their business. Ally donates her cakes and baking to low-income families and single mothers, and teaches baking to inner-city youth. What started as a hobby quickly become a passion and through hard work has allowed Ally to support her family and serve her community.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to support Indigenous entrepreneurs through a variety of funding programs and services like the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, the SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation, the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation, and Indigenous Business Development Services.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's economic future is bright, thanks in part to the growing number of Indigenous entrepreneurs and the networks that serve them. Thank you.

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

Government's Duty to Consult With Impacted Communities

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge the communities of Kahkewistahaw, Witchehan Lake, Onion Lake, Carry The Kettle, and Crutwell Métis Local 66, who have cc'd me and have taken a stand against this government's failed duty-to-consult policy. There are more communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, that have issues with this broken duty-to-consult process.

Crown lands help protect sensitive ecosystems. They also provide opportunities for hunting, gathering, medicine picking, fishing, and trapping. To the citizens in this province: continue writing to your MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], imploring them to support Bill 609, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act* and cc me as the critic.

For too long this government has had free rein when it comes to the lack of meaningful duty-to-consult with all impacted communities in this province. This needs to stop immediately. It is common knowledge this government has failed the citizens of this province when they fail to follow their own colonial policies. That is why we need legislation such as Bill 609, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*, so it forces this government to consult in a meaningful way to those impacted by the fire sale of Crown land and leases. miigwech.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Local Entrepreneurs Contribute to Their Community

Mr. Nerlien: — Mr. Speaker, the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena is thriving. Farms and businesses are growing and community-based organizations like Mallard Diversified Services and Porcupine Opportunities Program play a key role in participating in that growth. These organizations provide community services such as housing, social care, vocational training, employment, and life skills to people living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Mallard Diversified Services in Wadena operates

several businesses, including retail and manufacturing, where participants work and learn skills transferable to the general workforce. They produce about 20,000 pallets per year. They also own and operate small retail businesses, including a dollar store with 10 participant employees stocking, cleaning, and operating checkouts. They recently acquired a tire shop and service centre where they will train their participants in basic skill sets in a more commercial environment.

Porcupine Opportunities also operates several small businesses and are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of persons experiencing disabilities. Their main facilities manufacture about 30,000 core boxes for 20 mining companies. They also produce wood spacers for Weyerhaeuser at a rate of 510,000 per year. To take on this contract, they added four new full-time employees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking these great examples of Saskatchewan entrepreneurship for their efforts to build a strong, inclusive economy and caring community. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Feedlot Facility Owners Believe in Saskatchewan

Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What began as a vision of two brothers, Stuart and Bryan Thiessen from Strathmore, Alberta over 12 years ago has now become a reality in the RM [rural municipality] of Rudy located on the west side of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the Namaka Farms feedlot near Broderick currently feeds 5,000 head of cattle and employs 10 full-time employees. Once operating at full capacity, this innovative facility will handle approximately 36,000 head of cattle and employ upwards of 40 people.

As Stuart Thiessen toured me through the Namaka facility several months ago, I was taken aback by the state-of-the-art technology integrated into the operation to ensure the utmost in efficiency, precision, and care for animal well-being. Mr. Speaker, when I asked Mr. Thiessen why he chose this particular location, he explained that it was a deliberate, calculated process. Access to reliable water, irrigation, infrastructure, and attractive business climate were all fundamental factors in establishing an operation here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, private investment, investment like that made by the Thiessens, is a critical piece in the puzzle when it comes to invigorating rural communities and strengthening our provincial economy. And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to help me to congratulate Namaka Farms on opening their newest feedlot facility and thank the Thiessens for investing and believing in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Private Sector Investments Reflect Confidence in Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last year our province has seen an unprecedented level of private sector capital investment. Given the members opposite never

seem to miss a chance to run down our economy, I think this is a good opportunity to remind them of some of these investments: BHP's Jansen potash mine, the single largest economic investment in our province's history; Viterra's new canola processing plant in Regina; Cargill's new canola processing facility in Regina; Richardson International's doubling their canola crush plant at Yorkton; Ceres Global Ag Corp's new canola crush plant at Northgate; AGT Food's new logistics and processing hub in Delisle; Northern Nutrients' new fertilizer manufacturing facility near Saskatoon; Paper Excellence's pulp mill in Prince Albert; One Sky's mill in Prince Albert; Dunkley Lumber, expansion of their saw mill in Carrot River.

These investments reflect something very important, Mr. Speaker — confidence. Confidence in our people and confidence in the business environment we have built here. Many of them are from multinational companies that could invest anywhere in Canada or the world, but they choose Saskatchewan. They want to invest and grow here. They know that Saskatchewan is and will continue to be the place to be.

This makes one thing clear: the doom and gloom of the members opposite only exists in their heads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provision of Mental Health Care

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier embarrassed himself yesterday with his cold and unfeeling response in front of families who have suffered so much. Parents who've gone through the unimaginable experience of losing a child to suicide had driven to their legislature from across the province. Their MLAs didn't recognize them. This government didn't meet with them. They certainly didn't leave feeling heard. Members opposite turned their chairs on the grief of these families because it doesn't fit with their political narrative.

[14:15]

To the Premier: does he think that the lives lost to mental health, to addictions, to suicide are just as worthy of investigation as those lost to traffic accidents?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I remember yesterday somewhat differently, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, as always, does offer to meet with families that come to this legislature. The Minister of Health as well would offer often to meet with those families, Mr. Speaker.

The questions that were on the floor of this Assembly yesterday, the answers . . . Although the Leader of the Opposition may not like the answers, Mr. Speaker, they are the answers. The Minister of Mental Health and Addictions has said that we have put together a team specifically for this to provide oversight and to provide guidance on our Pillars for Life strategy, which is the suicide prevention strategy in this province. Mr. Speaker, there is a strategic planning and oversight team that is providing that

guidance, providing that guidance for that strategy in the province.

And the appropriate place for any family across this province, and I had extended that invitation to anyone — whether they unfortunately have lived experience with a loved one, a friend, or family member in the way of suicide, or any other individual or family member in this province — if they would like to provide guidance on where we are going with the structural efforts, initiatives, and strategy on our suicide prevention in this province, this is the appropriate committee of professionals, Mr. Speaker, a wide swath of professionals, community-based organizations, and families to ensure that they can make a difference in the direction of the government's policy on this topic.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you the families certainly didn't feel heard when the minister left the building after his scrum instead of meeting with them. But the Premier can tell them, the Premier can tell them they were wrong.

The Traffic Safety Committee, a committee the member for Cumberland was on, did valuable work, changed the laws in this province to keep people safer on the road. But yesterday, instead of offering Saskatchewan families who are struggling the same kind of robust response on mental health and addictions, the Premier directed families to what he just mentioned — the strategic planning and oversight team.

So we went looking for that team, Mr. Speaker. We used a thing called Google. Nowhere on the internet, nowhere on the Pillars for Life website, no phone number, no email to contact. In fact the only public mention appears to be the Premier's use of it to try to distract from his embarrassing answers yesterday.

Why does he think a committee either entirely invented or so invisible as to be non-existent is a better answer to families than accessible public hearings on the mental health and addictions crisis that is daily taking Saskatchewan lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, there's a ministry website, the Ministry of Health. There's a minister's office phone number that'll be on that website, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we offered yesterday to put families, or even opposition members if they choose, in touch with this committee. Mr. Speaker, this is a committee of a mix of professionals, community-based organizations. It includes officials, yes, from the Ministry of Health, Education, Advanced Education, Social Services, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, and Government Relations from government, as well as the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the coroner's office. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of community-based organizations involved in this committee. A number of front-line workers have been selected on this committee, as well some police organizations, as well as — I would say most importantly — a number of patients and family members that have lived experience, unfortunately lived experience in the area of losing a loved one to suicide.

This is the committee that the government has put together to guide our policy when it comes to suicide prevention, Mr. Speaker. If the members opposite would like to reach out to the committee or provide their input or to provide that contact information for their constituents, Mr. Speaker, we'll have the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions certainly provide them all of the contact information they need, as we did . . .

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

Mr. Meili: — Sending families in mourning to a committee no one can find. That oversight committee is about as accessible as psychiatric care in this province right now.

Samwel Uko's inquest is set to be held later this month. I will never forget Samwel's story — turned away twice from a Regina emergency room as he pleaded for help, only to lose his life to suicide later that day just across the lake. Almost two years to the day, Samwel Uko's uncle, Justin Nyee, sent us this question for the Premier. He said:

Two years later, why does it seem like they were just broken promises, and people with mental health are still going through difficulties to get the help they need in the hospital, and some still not getting that help? What happened to "We let Samwel down and we'll make sure that will not happen again"?

To the Premier: what does he have to say to Samwel's family and all those families demanding a real committee, a real response instead of empty words?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of Samwel Uko, I think, weighs on all Saskatchewan residents. Mr. Speaker, it's something we've had discussion about within our government caucus, our government cabinet as we invest in the area of mental health and addictions. And we've talked about that on numerous occasions on the floor of this Assembly, close to half a billion dollars annually that's invested in this area, Mr. Speaker.

It's stories like this where we make decisions, Mr. Speaker, to fund 77 additional mental health support beds across this province in various communities, in Regina, in Saskatoon, in North Battleford and Prince Albert. It's conversations like Samwel's where government makes decisions to fund new and innovative ways to treat and to get people the supports that they need sooner, Mr. Speaker.

Investments in urgent care centres, Mr. Speaker, part of that is to, yes, offset some of the traffic we have in our emergency room. But a portion of those urgent care centres is to provide an intake for those that may have, you know, a mental health challenge at that point in time, have addictions challenge, and to get those folks in front — those family members of many of ours — in front of the supports that they need within the health care system, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, most certainly the story of Samwel Uko and many others in this province and across the nation are not lost on this government. And I would say that they're not lost on anyone across our health care system, Mr. Speaker, and anyone across

this province.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well if that story's not lost on this government, why has nothing changed? When people like Samwel Uko show up at emergency rooms today, they still struggle to access care.

We're joined today by Dale and Janice Rathgeber. Janice struggles with depression and anxiety, and she recently needed to seek care at both the Pasqua and General emergency rooms. Janice was in extreme distress, banging her head against the wall and screaming in agony. And still she waited hours and hours to get any care at all. She and her family saw staff run off their feet, trying their best but drowning in demand.

Dale wonders why care for people struggling with mental health issues in Regina emergency rooms is still so inadequate, given what happened to Samwel and the lessons that should have been learned.

Is this situation — going on far too often — is this acceptable to the Premier? And if it isn't, why won't he support a special committee to examine why this government continues to let down patients like Janice in their time of need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome Dale and Janice to their Legislative Assembly here today, and I would offer to meet with them afterwards if they so choose, to discuss their case a bit further.

Mr. Speaker, it's cases like this that highlight for us the work that needs to continue to be done in terms of addressing the pressures that are on the system, the pressures that have increased over the past couple of years as a result of the pandemic, Mr. Speaker. It's why we're investing in initiatives like the urgent care centres, and you know, putting a greater focus on the health human resources that we need in this province and the plan that was outlined and funded in this year's budget to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers in Saskatchewan.

We know we have some needs for, whether it's psychiatrists or registered psychiatric nurses, other mental health support workers, and they are in demand not just in this province but across Canada. And we're going to continue to try to do that work as quickly and effectively as we can so we can support patients like those in the gallery today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Doctor shortages. Unacceptable wait times. People waiting in the hallway for hours and hours. No community psychiatrists taking new patients. This is the reality of mental health care in the province's capital today. People like Janice being left without support she so desperately needed. Dale, Dale believes that if it weren't for he and his mother staying with Janice throughout that time that she would've left without receiving care. And Janice has said that if she'd done that that she likely would've found a way to end her life that day.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't working. It's going to take a lot more than what the Premier is trying to pass off to make a difference. A simple question. The Premier was wrong yesterday. The current process isn't working. It's inadequate. He was wrong yesterday, but he has a chance to be right today. Will he agree to strike a special committee to examine mental health and addictions in Saskatchewan? Our team is ready to do the work. Will he?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize that there is more work to do, that there are wait-lists that are unacceptable, and we're trying to address that as quickly as we can.

Mr. Speaker, as of this March we have 120 psychiatrists, licensed psychiatrists in this province, which is more than we've had previously. There's also more mental health staff overall operating and working in Saskatchewan now, Mr. Speaker, than in previous years. We're trying to . . . through investments such as the expansion of more registered psychiatric nursing seats in this year's budget. We're now adding 24 more RPN [registered psychiatric nurse] training seats for a total of 80, which will be in operation later this year, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are 38 residents in the psychiatry residency program at the U of S's [University of Saskatchewan] College of Medicine.

These are some of the training initiatives that are currently under way that are being enhanced and expanded by the provincial government, Mr. Speaker. But we know that there is more work to do on this file to make sure that we can get the timely access to service that people across this province are requesting and looking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Rising Fuel Prices

Mr. Wotherspoon: — No acknowledgement of the tremendous need and duty to ensure supports for people in their time of need. It's beyond disappointing, Mr. Speaker.

There's also been no acknowledgement of the crushing cost of living that Saskatchewan people face by that government. The question is straightforward to the minister. What did it cost the Minister of Finance for her last fill of gas?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — \$64.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I didn't hear her response. How much was the minister's last fill of gas?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — \$64.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, a recent survey found that two-thirds of all Canadians will be staying closer to home this summer due to sky-high fuel costs, three-quarters of young adults. Saskatchewan's tourism industry relies heavily on people getting on the road, seeing what our province has to offer. A signal to provide fuel relief today could be enough for a family to keep that campsite in Cypress Hills, for friends to get on the road to the Gateway music festival in Bengough, or for a family to come in from Yorkton to a Riders game.

A signal that help is coming would go a long way, as well as scrapping the nonsensical PST [provincial sales tax] that they've imposed on entertainment. Will the government commit to that today?

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the minister, those questions to the Minister of Finance that the member from Regina Rosemont . . . was personal and I would ask him to apologize and withdraw.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Apologize and withdraw that question.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to talk about the record budget this year for Tourism Saskatchewan, a very, very significant increase that is going to be used to promote what is our world-class resource, tourism resource . . . Mr. Speaker, beaking from the member for Sask Rivers who, I would note, was not here for one single vote this . . .

The Speaker: — Really? The Government House Leader, you know that's a personal comment. We've dealt with this. I just had a point of order, a reply. Do not make personal comments.

[14:30]

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I would say with regard to the member's question on fuel tax, the hypocrisy from the NDP [New Democratic Party] is something to behold. This is the party opposite that not only supports Justin Trudeau's carbon tax; they support it continuing to go higher. They could talk to their coalition partner, Justin Trudeau, their leader, Jagmeet Singh who promotes . . . props up Justin Trudeau every single day and say, you know what, Mr. Speaker? Get rid of the carbon tax. It's not right for Saskatchewan. It's not right for Canada. In fact it is driving fuel taxes, fuel costs through the roof, Mr. Speaker.

I would note as well, this is what they wanted, Mr. Speaker. The entire policy objective of a carbon tax is to drive fuel up to a price where people no longer use it, no longer drive. They have the gall to stand up now and complain about higher fuel prices. It's something to see, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — What a load of nonsense from that minister. And we see that sort of political hyper-partisan spin from that minister every day who's so out of touch with Saskatchewan people, the crushing cost of living that they face. Of course for that government it's not crushing cost of living they face; it's windfall revenues, windfall profits, Mr. Speaker. That government has the fiscal capacity to help. They're choosing not to, and they're making things worse. People are being failed by this laissez-faire, couldn't-care-less leadership of the Sask Party government.

We're rolling into May Long weekend and into a summer where we need people to be able to get out on the road and to be able to afford some enjoyment, Mr. Speaker. My question again, back to the Minister of Finance: can she offer a commitment here today to provide some cost-of-living relief, some fuel-price relief, and of course to scrap the nonsensical and damaging PST that they've imposed on sectors across Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — My point to the Government House Leader, the Minister of Trade and Export Development was his comment about the reflecting on the absence of a member in this House, and I ask him to withdraw and apologize.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Sure, Mr. Speaker, withdraw and apologize.

What we have here, though, is a stunning example of the continued hypocrisy of the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. They stand up and say the price of fuel is too high. Then they turn around and support and call for a higher carbon tax, supporting Justin Trudeau, Mr. Speaker, because the policy objective of that higher carbon tax is to keep people from driving. They then come in and say people aren't going to be able to drive anywhere. This is exactly why they have no credibility.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, they say, wow, the government is running a deficit; this is a terrible thing. Then they come in and say the government needs to spend way more because they're rolling in cash. This is exactly why they have zero credibility, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I ask the member from Saskatchewan Rivers to come to order please. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Water Security Agency's Drainage Policies

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are joined today by a number of advocates from the Calling Lakes Ecomuseum in your gallery: Aura Lee MacPherson, Ken and Marj Hutchinson, and Rick and Lorna Vigrass. They are concerned about our wetlands. They agree that this government is dragging their feet on illegal drainage. Even the auditor knows this, and I quote: "... not taking timely, effective enforcement action against unapproved drainage works increases the risk of further damage to neighbouring farmland and downstream impacts."

Mr. Speaker, these advocates want to know. When is the minister going to stop rowing upstream without a paddle and fix this mess?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, responsible drainage supports the growth of the agriculture sector and maintains good water quality, safeguards wildlife habitat, and reduces flooding impacts, Mr. Speaker. The approvals processes addresses flooding, water quality, and habitat impacts through a variety of management and mitigation approaches.

The Water Security Agency takes a risk-based approach to compliance that focuses on helping producers achieve approvals. Since the new regulatory program was implemented, the average number of approved quarter sections per year has increased fourteenfold compared to the previous program. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to develop this program, and we'll be advancing continuous improvements to enhance approval timelines and shift to proactive compliance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's certainly not enough. As of last count, there were 286 active RFA [request for assistance] applicants, and of those, 222 have been outstanding for more than a year. Unacceptable. The minister needs to do more to rectify these unapproved drainage works, but it's clear that this government just does not care about protecting the rights of landowners impacted by illegal drainage.

I will be delivering a letter today from a landowner from Kelvington-Wadena who has been waiting for months for the Water Security Agency to address illegal drainage on their land. Again to the minister: why are you pitting neighbours against neighbours and failing to resolve these illegal works, protect wetlands, and clear up the RFA backlog?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the member for the question. This strategy that we're working on will be key to supporting a strong economy and strong communities by building sustainable and resilient agriculture industry. Producers, the producers in Saskatchewan are great stewards of the land. Their input will be very important in this process, and we'll continue to engage with them. The opposition themselves have acknowledged they don't know how to engage in rural Saskatchewan. Just take a look at how many members they have from the rural.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to look at the wetland policy under the NDP government. And you know what? There was nothing to see. They never had one. This is the first time in over 30 years that any provincial government, any provincial government has reviewed the impact of agriculture water management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, this is the 22nd day this spring I

rise on behalf of Saskatchewan families who have lost a loved one to suicide. And I have to say how utterly disappointed — to be honest, I'm even angry — I am at this government, the display yesterday.

You are failing Saskatchewan families. You would know it if you would respond to the family members who have reached out to you. We hear the words, but your actions speak volumes. Have you no shame?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I have before, I extend my condolences to every family in this province who has lost a loved one to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to make significant investments into a number of suicide prevention and mental health initiatives in this province, \$8 million in targeted mental health and addictions investments in this year's budget geared towards a number of different areas, including addictions treatment spaces, more issues identified by the drug task force, funding for the Pillars for Life suicide prevention plan, some of the initiatives that it continues to work on, Mr. Speaker.

And we're going to continue to engage with the communities, as we have over the past couple of years and beyond that, Mr. Speaker, with communities across this province, through myself as the minister, through MLAs on this side, and meeting with people to try to provide some additional supports as best we can, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, the families that came here yesterday have been treated miserably by you as a government. We have asked to work with you . . .

The Speaker: — I ask the member to speak through the Speaker.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, we've asked the government to work with families who are suffering. We've asked them, and time and time again, petitions. We've had 75-minute debates in this Assembly and showed passion from both sides, saying how they wanted to work together. Here's an opportunity for the government to work together with families, who asked you to please work with them. Mr. Speaker, that's all the families want, so no one has to go through this hurt ever again.

I'm going to read off the families: the Ball family, the Irwin family, the Ratt family, McKenzie family, McLeod family, Charles family, the Dyck family, the Sanderson family, the Clarke family, the Bird family, the Roberts family, the Nippi family, the Cook family, the Ratt-Roberts family, the Beatty family.

They wanted the Premier to stand. Why didn't you just tell them yesterday you didn't care about them? And why did the minister . . . Why don't you just tell the truth and say you don't give a shit about anyone?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Going to answer?

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Okay, lookit. This is a very sensitive topic. Yes, I heard the words. Let's move on. Going to answer, or we move on to something else? I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue for people in this Chamber and across this province, and we do take this very seriously. Many members in this Chamber and across this province have been impacted by this. And we're going to continue to do this work, working with communities and with families across this province, to look at the initiatives that we are utilizing right now and continue to do work on this very significant issue. And we're going to continue to do that in the weeks and months ahead, knowing that this is a priority for this government, for people across Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Reduction in Oil and Gas Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's methane action plan, which was introduced in 2019, set out to reduce emissions by 40 to 45 per cent from 2015 levels by 2025. Mr. Speaker, not only are we meeting the targets, we are exceeding them. In 2020 Saskatchewan was already down nearly 50 per cent of CO₂ equivalent. That was five years ahead of schedule. In fact even federal Environment Minister Guilbeault congratulated the province on that accomplishment.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've done it again. Today we released our 2021 oil and gas annual emissions report, and I'm happy to share that GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions from vented and flared gas at upstream oil facilities in Saskatchewan totalled 4.4 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, which represents a massive 60 per cent reduction from 2015 levels, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas sector continues to spend more on environmental protection than any other sector in Canada. That's according to Stats Canada. It deserves to be recognized as one of the most environmentally responsible in the world . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I have heard that. That's unparliamentary language. I ask the member to stand and withdraw and apologize.

I ask the member again to withdraw and apologize.

The third time I'm asking the member to withdraw and apologize.

The member is refusing. Ms. Wilson, I hereby name you for disregarding the authority of the Chair. Pursuant to Rule 57(2), the member is suspended from the service of the Assembly for the remainder of the sitting day. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove the member.

So I'd like to speak again to what the member from Cumberland said. Again I heard it. But it's such a sensitive issue, you know. It's an emotional issue for all of us. And you know, that's going to be my ruling today. I think we should move on from that because of the sensitivity of the issue. He's passionate. It's . . .

Ministerial statements. I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

[14:45]

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is a jurisdictional leader when it comes to our regulatory environment which targets both methane from venting and carbon dioxide from flaring, which makes it more comprehensive than the federal approach, which targets only methane. And keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, if every oil- and gas-producing nation on earth produced and regulated the way we do in Saskatchewan, particularly around methane, global energy-produced emissions would instantly fall by one-quarter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It should come as no surprise that I, along with my colleagues on this side of the House, welcome all and any progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This report is a welcome step in the right direction. The issue of emissions and the impact on climate change is at a crisis level, and all levels of government need to prioritize this work as such. I am hopeful we will see more of a sense of urgency from this Sask Party government around this issue than we have seen to date. The absence of a comprehensive and economy-wide plan continues to delay progress in meeting our collective goals on this front.

Many thanks to those within the oil and gas sector that are endeavouring to make reduction of emissions an ongoing priority, and I would like to thank them for their contribution to Saskatchewan's economy.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Project to Advance Micro-Reactors in Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you. I'm excited to rise and share that this morning the Saskatchewan Research Council announced that they will be collaborating with Westinghouse Electric Canada to jointly develop a project to locate an eVinci micro-reactor in Saskatchewan by the end of the decade for the development and testing of industrial, research, and energy-use applications.

SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council] was the owner and

operator of a Slowpoke II nuclear reactor that was operated safely for 38 years before being recently decommissioned. That hands-on experience, coupled with SRC's extensive expertise in the nuclear and uranium sector, will be very useful as we look to create a customized solution for Saskatchewan's unique clean energy needs.

Modern small modular reactors are safe, reliable, and can provide carbon-free, net zero energy. However the eVinci micro-reactor is different than traditional small modular nuclear reactors. It is a micro-reactor nuclear battery that can provide power solutions at a different scale than centrally generated utility-scale power. Whereas utility-scale small modular reactors can generate up to 300 megawatts of power, the eVinci micro-reactor only generates up to 10 megawatts.

Roughly half the size of a hockey rink, the eVinci micro-reactor is ideal for a variety of applications, including remote mining operations, powering remote communities, industrial-heat scenarios, as well as distributed hydrogen generation and integrated energy solutions.

The announcement today marks an important step towards positioning Saskatchewan as a strong economic participant in the micro-SMR [small modular reactor] space. The eVinci project will kick-start the development of a stronger nuclear supply chain in Western Canada as micro-reactors represent a significant opportunity for economic growth and jobs.

This really is an exciting opportunity for our government and for our province, and we look forward to it.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My appreciation to the minister for providing a copy of his remarks in advance. And I'd like to open with, of course, a salute to the innovators, the hard-working folks in our research and energy sectors who have led the charge for economic and environmental innovations across Saskatchewan, with benefits felt and adopted around the world.

You know, there's a lot of rhetoric thrown around this House, but I think it's important that the record show the appreciation of all members for those who are working to ensure an affordable, secure, and clean energy future for this province. As we've said time and time again in this House, we need an all-of-the-above approach to power generation and creating good jobs. The development of micro-reactors as an economic driver for research and manufacturing in Saskatchewan is significant, as is the potential for remote communities struggling with reliable, affordable, clean energy as well as industrial partners — large consumers of power.

It's great to see this innovation happening in our own backyard. If my recollection is accurate that this is the Strategic Innovation Fund, it's about time that the federal government stepped up to the table with funding for what could be an economic driver and clean, safe energy for Saskatchewan families, farms, and businesses.

I express my appreciation to this minister, but I also want to

express my appreciation to the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] for his strong and clear commitment to the people of this province that the opportunity and ongoing discussion around nuclear power and innovation in Saskatchewan is an open and transparent one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I'd like to go back to what the member from Cumberland said. I've been advised by the Table that his words were much more egregious than I originally thought, and I would like the member from Cumberland to withdraw and apologize concerning the issue of telling the truth or truthfulness of the member. He did say some unparliamentary language as well that I would ask the member to apologize and withdraw.

Why is the member on her feet?

MOTIONS

Suspension of Specified Bill Process

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek leave to move a motion to suspend the specified bill process for Bill 70 and that the bill be considered in Committee of the Whole immediately.

The Speaker: — The member has asked leave . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — And leave is not given.

I am advised that His Honour the Administrator . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, sorry. Sorry. I'm jumping ahead of myself.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair for the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

The Speaker: — Members, in accordance with rule 35(4) and rule 36, all questions necessary to dispose of the main motion must be put. The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 70 — *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'Assemblée législative*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Safety.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:53 until 15:23.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 44]

Moe	Stewart	McMorris
Reiter	Merriman	Harpauer
Morgan	Duncan	Tell
Makowsky	Docherty	Bradshaw
Kaeding	L. Ross	Carr
Eyre	J. Harrison	Dennis
Hindley	Marit	Buckingham
Hargrave	Fiaz	Lambert
Bonk	Kirsch	Steele
Ottenbreit	Francis	A. Ross
Lawrence	Skoropad	Nerlien
Meyers	Friesen	Grewal
McLeod	Cockrill	Goudy
Keisig	Lemaigre	Jenson
D. Harrison	Domotor	

The Speaker: — All those opposed please stand.

[Nays — 12]

Meili	Wotherspoon	Vermette
Sarauer	Conway	Love
Ritchie	Beck	Mowat
Bowes	A. Young	Nippi-Albright

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Drake): — Mr. Speaker, all those in favour of the motion, 44; all those opposed, 12.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Clerk Assistant: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I am advised that His Honour the Administrator is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

[At 15:28 His Honour the Administrator entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour then gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

ROYAL ASSENT

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 43 - *The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 38 - *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 39 - *The Queen's Printer's Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 40 - *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 41 - *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la législation*
- Bill No. 42 - *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 46 - *The Legal Aid Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 51 - *The Privacy (Intimate Images — Additional Remedies) Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 53 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes Repeal Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 54 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative diverse (attestation instrumentaire à distance) de 2021*

[15:30]

- Bill No. 55 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Remote Witnessing) Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 50 - *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 52 - *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 49 - *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 56 - *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*
- Bill No. 57 - *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 58 - *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 59 - *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur les juges de paix*
- Bill No. 63 - *The Reviewable Transactions Act*
- Bill No. 64 - *The Reviewable Transactions Consequential Amendments Act, 2021/Loi de 2021 corrélatrice de la loi intitulée The Reviewable Transactions Act*
- Bill No. 67 - *The Emergency Planning Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 69 - *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales*
- Bill No. 65 - *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 68 - *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*
- Bill No. 47 - *The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 45 - *The Health Shared Services Saskatchewan (3sHealth) Act*
- Bill No. 62 - *The Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, 2021*

- Bill No. 78 - *The Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Amendment Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 61 - *The Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 903 - *The Collège Mathieu Act*
- Bill No. 904 - *The United Church of Canada Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 73 - *The Animal Production Act*
- Bill No. 71 - *The Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 72 - *The Life Leases Act*
- Bill No. 75 - *The Non-profit Corporations Act, 2021/Loi de 2021 sur les organisations sans but lucratif*
- Bill No. 76 - *The Non-profit Corporations Consequential Amendments Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 85 - *The Taxpayers' Fairness (CPR) Act*
- Bill No. 79 - *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*
- Bill No. 80 - *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 81 - *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*
- Bill No. 905 - *The Amity Trust Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 83 - *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 82 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 44 - *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2021*
- Bill No. 84 - *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*
- Bill No. 70 - *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur l'Assemblée législative*

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, that this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

- Bill No. 87 - *The Appropriation Act, 2022 (No. 1)*

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept its benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[At 15:34 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated. I ask the member from Cumberland to stand and withdraw and apologize for his comments about . . . referring to the minister as being untruthful and for making unparliamentary language. I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, for all the families that have suffered so much the way they have, I cannot apologize.

The Speaker: — Well, Member, I will ask you a second time to withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Vermette: — I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I cannot.

The Speaker: — I ask a third time.

Mr. Vermette, I hereby name you for disregarding the authority of the Chair. Pursuant to rule 57(2), the member is suspended from the service of the Assembly for the remainder of the day. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove the member.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 38 to 43.

The Speaker: — The questions have been ordered.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Federal Government Policies

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move the motion:

That this Assembly condemns the Trudeau-NDP coalition government for increasing the carbon tax, blocking pipelines, attacking the energy sector, bringing back the gun registry, and actively working against the interests of Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, if current volatility and issues around affordability have taught us anything, not only in Canada but around the world, it's that policies and positions matter. Members of the opposition might say, as the member for Regina Rosemont did yesterday, that they will stand by the people of Saskatchewan no matter the prime minister.

Call them up, then. Call up your two federal coalition members and take a stand. Hold a press conference. Formally register your opposition to the carbon tax, to the carbon tax increase, Bill C-69, the federal fuel standard, to cancelled pipelines. No federal tax credit for enhanced oil recovery, Mr. Speaker. Talk is cheap.

But the people of Saskatchewan and energy workers, they see through that. Mr. Speaker, that side likes to wrap itself in the flag of jobs and affordability — borrowed robes. But we're not wearing . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Borrowed robes, Mr. Speaker. And we're not wearing what they're knitting. Bottom line, the positions of the provincial opposition and their federal masters are intimately, ideologically intertwined. They've either been passive, as on Bill C-69 — not a peep — or absolutely active. The member for Regina Rosemont, he was formally against Northern Gateway. And that position had an effect. It had consequences, Mr.

Speaker. It was a dramatic setback to pro-energy First Nations communities, and it significantly limited Western Canadian producers from exporting their product to Asian markets. The port of Vancouver remains a bottleneck.

Having no position on Bill C-69 led, by default, to the federal nixing of the Saguenay liquid natural gas facility. Imagine if we had that now, Mr. Speaker, and could be sending LNG [liquefied natural gas] to our partners overseas and increasing energy sector at home. Having no position has an effect.

And that leader, he has been defined by calling the carbon tax a pointless crusade. Look at the effect that tax has on affordability. That leader has been defined by wanting to keep the oil in the ground and standing in solidarity with those who do. Then he tried to get out of it and sheepishly suggested that he was just standing behind a poster, just standing behind a podium with that message on it. Are you kidding? At least have the power of your convictions.

And that leader's other major contribution in the energy space was to commit to replacing every pipeline in the province whether it needed replacing or not. Remember that? Some of the newer members might not remember that. The price tag for that, Mr. Speaker, \$50 billion. Pure economic dilettantism.

Fare thee well, Leader of the Opposition. Fare thee well. We hear he's clearing out his constituency office as we speak.

The Speaker: — Minister, that's inappropriate. Don't make personal comments, please.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, we've said for years that energy security and independence are key to energy affordability, and that's why positions and policy over years matter — creating a climate for jobs, creating a climate for investment — consistency matters. Almost 10,000 jobs were created in the energy and resource sectors last year in this province across mining, across oil and gas, across forestry. And we are so proud of that, Mr. Speaker, and all the promise and possibility that's yet to come.

On that side, they have been defined by being anti-energy. Let's be honest. Their natural soulmates, their BFFs [best friend forever] are their federal NDP-Liberal puppet masters who favour a hard, fast, unjust transition which would only turn the knife further on affordability.

There are consequences to positions like that. For one, half a million energy workers, Mr. Speaker, could lose their jobs. That's according to a recent TD report on energy transition. And there are consequences to not fighting what is an unjust transition.

That leader was also defined when he said that coal is low-hanging fruit. It sounds just like his federal NDP-Liberal coalition bosses, Mr. Speaker. And he should tell that, he should tell that to the people and the communities of the southeast that coal is low-hanging fruit. He should tell them that.

It was the federal government that mandated a transition off coal and has done nothing tangible to help them. They haven't even engaged with the key rural impacted communities and have no plan to start. Even the federal auditor agrees with that, Mr.

Speaker. If Ottawa can't manage so-called transition for the southeast, how does it intend to deal with the thousands in the oil and gas sector? How about agriculture? How about forestry? Mr. Speaker, are they next? Let's ask that side. Let's ask them. What is their position on this? Have they called their federal colleagues to register their discontent with the state of federal coal transition in the southeast of this province, the state of engagement, Mr. Speaker? Or do they have too much contempt for coal to care?

And what about First Nations communities? The president of the National Coalition of Chiefs, Dale Swampy, recently told the federal committee on oil and gas submissions caps that those caps will directly impact First Nations economies and their ability to share in Canada's resource economy. He said to get:

... people, our people out of poverty. There's not a single other sector in Canada, besides the energy sector [Mr. Swampy said] that's provided Indigenous people with as many opportunities including good-paying jobs, contracts, royalties, ownership shares, billions of dollars in revenues they pay for housing, cultural programs, supports for elders and youth. Everyone complains about emissions, [he said] but I never hear real solutions. We need an energy plan that doesn't ruin our economy.

[15:45]

Hear, hear, Mr. Speaker. We agree. And that's why we have an energy plan that builds the energy sector, builds the economy, while at the same time protecting our environment. Just look at our methane emission announcement today, Mr. Speaker, a 60 per cent reduction. And when we announced our last reduction in December, the federal minister of the Environment, Minister Guilbeault, publicly congratulated us. Surely if it's good enough for Minister Guilbeault, it's good enough for his colleagues on that side.

As for Dale Swampy and his position on capping oil production, he should talk to the member for Regina University who cheered when oil workers were laid off, or the member for Regina Elphinstone whose barely concealed contempt for the sector is well documented, Mr. Speaker.

And this as we find ourselves in a delicate time, that the way to navigate through a delicate time and through volatility and maintain stability is not to create more volatility. It's not to hit sectors such as the potash sector which pretty recently, let's not forget, was idling mines and laying off workers, hitting them with a resource tax. Not when our royalty system is already price and profit sensitive. The people of Saskatchewan already benefit more than in any other jurisdiction when commodity prices are high, but as soon as there's a whiff of profit they want redistribution of wealth. They want a new resource surcharge tax. And doing that, Mr. Speaker, only breeds the same investment uncertainty that we're seeing across this country, in Jagmeet-Justin land, where foreign investment is down 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with this. The Saudi energy minister ... And I don't make the habit of quoting the Saudi energy minister. I clearly think Canada should be importing less from Saudi Arabia. But he was recently asked about whether he thinks international geopolitical events will speed up the transition to cleaner energy. And he said — and I found this colourful and

pretty honest — he said, “I think recent events have provided us with a reality check in terms of how aspirations can be compromised by the realities of the day.” And even before the Ukrainian crisis he said, “The la-la land scenario about net zero has been smacked with so many realities.”

We all have to beware the la-la land scenarios and take note of this current major reality check, la-la land scenarios perpetrated by the federal Liberal-NDP coalition and their provincial proxies. We will continue to be pro-energy every day, pro-economy every day, Mr. Speaker, and fight the good fight. And the people of Saskatchewan, investors who want to invest in Saskatchewan, they can take that to the bank, as opposed to that side, Mr. Speaker. The people in Saskatchewan literally cannot afford to let them win. Not ever.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move the motion that I moved at the beginning of my remarks:

That the Assembly condemns the Trudeau-NDP coalition government for increasing the carbon tax, blocking pipelines, attacking the energy sector, bringing back the gun registry and actively working against the interests of Western Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved:

That the Assembly condemns the Trudeau-NDP coalition government for increasing the carbon tax, blocking pipelines, attacking the energy sector, bringing back the gun registry and actively working against the interests of Western Canada.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Meyers: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you. Thank you to the Minister of Energy and Resources for making this motion. I'm 100 per cent all in, agree with this motion. I believe it sums up the very reason why I decided to run for the good people of Saskatchewan. It shows the love, the pride, the drive of the people of Saskatchewan, and the independence of Saskatchewan.

See, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is the land of the living skies. And I believe the sky is the limit for our province. The sky is the limit if our federal counterparts let us actually get off the ground. But all too often we are seeing policies that the Minister of Energy just outlined, the carbon tax, Bill C-48, Bill C-69. These are grounding the very industries that provide the people of our province with jobs and the lives and the services they deserve.

These crippling policies are now made even more devastating by the new coalition deal between the federal Liberals and the NDP. This federal coalition is going out of its way to work against Western Canada and the people of Saskatchewan. Their investment tax credit for carbon capture, utilization, and storage specifically excludes enhanced oil recovery from being eligible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are leading the way in the world when it comes to CCUS [carbon capture, utilization, and storage]. This is a complete slap in the face to our industries and our people

here in Saskatchewan, at a time when it's becoming more and more obvious that the world is not going to flip the switch and go into some, as the Minister of Energy and Resources said, some la-la land, some *Wizard of Oz* land, as this magical green world is going to have. That's not the facts, Mr. Speaker.

We can do it better, we can do it cleaner, and we can do it more sustainable right here in Saskatchewan. And we heard the announcement today on the methane report, a 60 per cent reduction in methane since 2015. But what do we get from the feds? We get the carbon tax that's set to triple over the next number of years.

And we hear a lot about affordability from the other side of the House. Have they looked to what this carbon tax is going to do to the people of this province over the course of the next number of years? Maybe — and I believe she's going to stand up — the member from Saskatoon Nutana in her speech will criticize this and make a stance and agree today to ask Jagmeet and Justin to scrap the carbon tax in Ottawa.

I had the chance to go to the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference over the last couple of days. I didn't see any of the members over there. Four hundred delegates from both sides of the border talking about energy security and how we can continue to use our resources and produce them in a cleaner, more sustainable way because we know that the world needs more of our energy.

The departure of the NDP's leader, the activist, is imminent, Mr. Speaker, but make no mistakes. His anti-resource policies are staying with that party. In fact one of the candidates for leadership for the NDP party lists as one of her top priorities, and I quote, to "Create local, sustainable, good-paying jobs while scaling down dependence on fossil fuels," Mr. Deputy Speaker.

How do I explain these policies that are shared by Justin and Jagmeet and the Saskatchewan NDP to the steelworker that lives in Walsh Acres, the guy that's out there making those pipelines that they want scrapped? How do I explain these policies to the Federated Co-op worker who lives in Walsh Acres, who they are trying to shut down their industry?

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will tell them this. I'll tell those workers that our Saskatchewan Party government will continue to battle for them. Our Saskatchewan Party government is committed to reaching our growth plan target of producing 600,000 barrels of the cleanest oil in the world by 2030. We're going to do it cleaner, more sustainable than anywhere else in the world. I'm going to tell them, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Saskatchewan Party government will continue to flex our provincial autonomy, to protect our economic security and sovereignty, so that they can continue to thrive, to grow, and to receive the services that they've come to expect in the great province of Saskatchewan.

Now the minister mentioned this, and I think it bears saying again. Yesterday the member from Regina Rosemont said, and I'll quote again, "We'll stand up for Saskatchewan every day of the week regardless of who the Prime Minister is." Well today is Wednesday, May 18th. The Prime Minister is Justin Trudeau. His deputy is Jagmeet Singh. Today you have the chance to stand up and support this motion. Because I know I support this motion,

and I support the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is interesting that I get to stand up and take part in this debate, being I grew up working in the oil fields. My grandparents and uncles grew up working in the coal fields. I still have family working in the coal field. I have family working in the oil field. The members opposite want that shut down, the plug pulled, basically my hometown to wither up and die, and have nothing to replace that.

Baseload power, it's a fact, it's not going to go away. Middle of winter on a cold day with no wind, that sun isn't up for a long time, and they don't have the amount of batteries yet built that can store enough to heat all of Saskatchewan, let alone heat a little town like Estevan. Talking about Moose Jaw, we want to . . . they're looking at putting solar panels on a bunch of the roofs just to cut the power bill to get rid of the carbon tax that the NDP support.

This is a motion to condemn the Trudeau-NDP coalition, and I can't help . . . I wish I had more than five minutes. But I'm going to read this into the thing. And I'm glad I'm deaf, that I don't have to listen to them when I'm standing up talking, because I can't hear them.

The provincial NDP failed to stand up for western Saskatchewan and oppose the federal NDP's stance on Trans Mountain and other energy projects. The current provincial NDP leader — yeah, Saskatoon Meewasin, I'll just say the member from Saskatoon Meewasin — has a history of speaking at anti-pipeline rallies. The provincial NDP have failed to include nuclear energy as a clean energy alternative. The provincial NDP have additionally failed to oppose their federal government counterpart, the party they hold memberships in, to hold their federal partners accountable.

They talk about accountability, and I just, I shake my head. The provincial NDP have not spoken out once against the federal firearm ban and support federal control on firearms. The provincial NDP's own report admits, and I quote, "too many working people no longer see the NDP as their party." And by their numbers, that's evident. The provincial NDP admit that the federal NDP don't take into account the needs of Saskatchewan people, yet they continue to support their federal leader and his partner — I won't say that word — his partner in politics, Justin Trudeau.

And the provincial NDP cannot even say exactly which or what federal policies they oppose, let alone what they stand for. The ones they stand for are obvious — carbon tax, hurting Saskatchewan people with that carbon tax.

An Hon. Member: — We stand for hurting people? Really?

Mr. Lawrence: — With the carbon tax, yes. Yeah. Figure it out. Take a look at your energy bill. When your energy bill is 26 per cent of a carbon tax you support, you think that's good for families? I don't think so. It's not good for my family, not good for my large family, not good for my son's ex-wife's kids, which

are my grandkids. It's not good for anybody in this province.

Maybe you think it's good for you. It isn't good for my kids or anybody else's kids in this province, and it hurts them. And you don't care because you support it. That's what you say, we don't care. Well it's obvious you don't care. You have the opportunity to stand up and support this motion today. And because you won't, I'm going to sit down and say, I fully support the minister's motion on this, and I know you guys won't.

[16:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a fantastic speech by my colleague from Moose Jaw Wakamow. I'm honoured to be on my feet today and enter into debate. I want to pose a question to yourself, Mr. Speaker, and to every member in this Chamber. Why did you enter the political realm? What caused each and every person present here today to serve the province of Saskatchewan?

I know everyone will answer with the motivation to serve their communities, their constituents, the province, but there's always a tipping point. There's always that TSN [The Sports Network] turning point, Mr. Speaker. And what was it for yourselves? I want to talk about mine, Mr. Speaker.

April 4th, 2019, I was one of thousands who attended an anti-carbon tax rally in Regina. A fleet of trucks from farmers, energy workers, and many associated industries converged on our capital city to protest against Justin Trudeau's imposition of the carbon tax. Many people across multiple industries organized this event, and they brought forward a non-partisan event, Mr. Speaker, solely against the carbon tax, Bill C-69, C-48 — Justin Trudeau's energy policies.

The organizers requested speakers from all three elected representatives in the province. They asked the federal cabinet minister, Ralph Goodale, to speak, the Opposition Leader, member from Saskatoon Meewasin; and they asked the Premier, the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook. Of those three requests, Mr. Speaker, only one showed up, our Premier. Our Premier gave a fantastic speech detailing all the problems with this form of taxation and how he and his caucus would denounce this new tax and defend Saskatchewan's interests vigorously. The other two political figures who chose not to attend, well their silence spoke volumes, Mr. Speaker.

I've always been politically inclined, but the responsibility of family, work, farming always kept me busy. But being in that group in a large room at exhibition grounds with so many wonderful people listening to a great speech from the Premier, I decided I had to become more involved to ensure that the Premier's message that day got out to all of Saskatchewan. Three years later, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand here and join in on the opposition of the carbon tax.

I was reading some old newspaper articles about the rally, and I came across a quote from Blair Stewart in the *Regina Leader-Post* and this is, "When the carbon tax comes in, it's going to raise the price of our fuel. It's going to increase home heating and

electric bills and increase grocery prices." Well what a prophetic statement, Mr. Speaker. Every prediction Mr. Stewart made is accurate and is coming true right before our eyes. This tax does not reduce emissions. Instead it drives up all the prices of goods and services, puts Saskatchewan exports at an incredible disadvantage, and it hurts Saskatchewan families financially.

But, Mr. Speaker, on a positive note, we know that this tax is an example of horrible government policy but it is a policy that governments can change. My goal is to support elected officials who support the removal of this unfair, job-killing, price-raising form of taxation, Mr. Speaker.

Members opposite have talked all session about inflationary pressure on Saskatchewan people, which is a genuine concern that this government takes seriously. However not once have we seen a single member of the opposition speak out against this policy behind much of this inflation we live through today. They've sat here in this Assembly and spoken to the media about how concerned they are about inflation. Where are they when Saskatchewan people need their voice the most, Mr. Speaker? I can tell you where they were. Many were at rallies against pipelines and these policies that are hurting Saskatchewan families. And it shows Saskatchewan people that they continue to use the same old tactics that want to stunt this province's growth.

Eleven cents a litre, Mr. Speaker, 11 cents a litre right now is the price on fuel of carbon tax, and that's going to go up to 42 cents a litre very shortly. And that carbon tax is fully supported by Jagmeet Singh, the federal New Democratic Party. And our Premier has always been opposed to this tax and our colleagues in caucus have too.

I honestly don't know, Mr. Speaker, if there's been a more out-of-touch government than the current Jagmeet Singh-Trudeau coalition. Their latest thing that they're discussing is reducing nitrogen fertilizer emissions by 30 per cent. It's very early stages but, I mean, what's coming from the federal government right now is absolutely loaded with rhetoric and talking points but very low on factual information, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea why any government would try and impose their will on the absolute best food producers in the world. These emission-target discussions are in very early stages, Mr. Speaker, and we're staying on top of it.

However, the reality in my constituency and across the province, there is so little trust in the coalition government due to their overbearing and heavy-handed approach in dealing with Western Canada. The last thing we need is some government scheme to reduce our farmers' ability to manage their own business and produce agri-food products for ourselves and the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in this time of global uncertainty due to the reprehensible actions of Putin, we desperately need food and energy security. That is something this government understands, and I hope the members opposite will get that message to the Jagmeet Singh-Justin Trudeau coalition government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives

me great pleasure to speak to this motion today. I just want to thank the minister for her initial comments. Certainly, you know, I can't think of very many people who speak more eloquently in support of our province and our resource industries than her, Mr. Speaker.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to have . . . There's other members that are going to speak today on this motion, but I'm going to focus my comments, Mr. Speaker, on the last part of today's motion where it talks about the interests of Western Canada and the fact that we essentially have a Liberal-NDP coalition government that actively works against those interests, Mr. Speaker. And more specifically here in this House, they work against the interests of Saskatchewan.

Now you know, in Saskatchewan and in Western Canada in general, we want to work hard with what we have, Mr. Speaker. We want to create a better life for our families and our communities. And you know, Mr. Speaker, working hard — that's no problem for this province, Mr. Speaker. I see it every day in the people of my constituency and the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. And when we talk about working hard with what we have, Mr. Speaker, what we have is the land. We are just so incredibly blessed with a geology and a geography that positions us so well, Mr. Speaker. And that geology and geography means that we can not only feed and power ourselves, but we can also help other parts of the world, other parts of our country feed themselves and power themselves.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's well known, on this side of the House at least, that it seems regardless of how hard Saskatchewan people work and how hard we push as a provincial government to represent the interests of this province, we just seem to have a federal government that stands in the way of our province, stands in the way of Western Canada succeeding. It seems to be some form of self-inflicted cruelty, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just focus in for a moment here on one policy in particular of the federal government right now, Mr. Speaker, of this Trudeau-NDP coalition that is just flying directly in the face of Western Canadian interests, of Saskatchewan interests. And, Mr. Speaker, those are the current travel restrictions in this country. And I just want to remind members here today that the federal government has still mandated that in order to board a plane in Canada or depart from a Canadian airport, an individual still must show proof of vaccination to the airline that they're flying with. And there's also, as we . . . you know, many of us have probably received calls from constituents as they've tried to navigate these different rules. You know, there's still similar restrictions for people entering the country, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and the result of these policies, Mr. Speaker, it's playing out in airports across Canada. And I mean I'm sure many of us have seen kind of the nightmare that's happening at Pearson Airport in Toronto with extremely long wait times. And then I think, specifically, Mr. Speaker, you know, we have gone . . . we went almost 20-some months in this province not being allowed to receive international flights at either of our two major airports. And that had significant implications, Mr. Speaker, for our province. And that was solely based on a decision by this federal government — a federal government, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP have propped up.

Airport organizations, Canadian airlines, they're rightly upset with this policy, Mr. Speaker, and are themselves pushing the federal government to drop the rules. Mr. Speaker, these rules are out of touch and they're out of line with what's happening elsewhere in the world, Mr. Speaker. As I said self-inflicted cruelty before, it's happening in this specific policy, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, sometimes there's a temptation to think of travel as purely a leisure activity. And you know, for many people in the province it is. It's a great opportunity to escape the winter, Mr. Speaker, and go to a sunnier destination. But you know, Mr. Speaker, the constituents that I've spoken with, that I've heard from, that I know many of my colleagues have heard from in their constituency, Mr. Speaker, many of them just want to go see their families. Many of them want to reconnect with family members they haven't been able to see in the last couple years. They want to be able to celebrate a wedding or a marriage of children or nieces or nephews, grandchildren.

I think, Mr. Speaker, of the many families that have had to delay funerals or memorial services over the last couple years, and those are important things to be at, Mr. Speaker, for family members. And so you know, it's . . . and again, travel is not just about escaping to a sunnier destination. For many people it's about seeing their loved ones, being able to celebrate important life moments with their loved ones. That's a critically important part of life, Mr. Speaker. Don't know how better to put that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I also think of the people that wish to come to Canada as tourists, to come to Saskatchewan as tourists, Mr. Speaker, who are going to come here and spend money and stimulate our economy. And I think particularly of the outfitting industry, Mr. Speaker. That's an industry that's a significant industry in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, and in the Northwest of this province. And that industry depends so much on both domestic and international visitors to our province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also think about the \$14 billion of private sector investment that this province and this government have attracted over the last year. And it's been well canvassed in this House, Mr. Speaker, you know: Cargill investing in a new canola crush facility, Richardson making investments in this province, Mr. Speaker, and of course BHP building Saskatchewan's newest potash mine at their Jansen site.

And, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take a lot of research to find out a few things. Cargill's head office is in Minnesota. BHP has major offices all around the world: Australia, London, etc. Richardson's office is in Winnipeg, Mr. Speaker. And those companies that have made significant investments into this province, Mr. Speaker, they're going to need to send people to this province — some permanent, some temporary — as they scale up these sites, Mr. Speaker. And we need to ensure that those investments are successful, Mr. Speaker.

And again this is where this federal policy, Mr. Speaker, of the travel restrictions is going to significantly affect how these companies may be able to scale up their operations. And you know, I think of the many sectors in this province, Mr. Speaker, the business owners that I speak with in The Battlefords and that I hear from, you know, in Regina when I'm here in the city, Mr. Speaker. There's a significant need for labour capacity in this province, as there is elsewhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker. And so

hundreds if not thousands of people are going to need to come to our province, Mr. Speaker. And I worry, Mr. Speaker, that this federal policy is going to affect that.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's time for the federal government to drop the remaining travel restrictions. It's time for the federal government to allow the free flow of individuals, both domestically and internationally, so that families can see each other, so that people can visit our beautiful province, and so that our Saskatchewan economy can reach its full potential. That's in the interest of Western Canada. That's in the interest of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I can confidently say, Mr. Speaker, to the people of my constituency and to this province that this government is standing up for the people of Saskatchewan. We're working hard to attract new investment into the province. I've spoken briefly about that. We're improving government services where necessary, Mr. Speaker. And we're pushing back on this federal government's, this federal Liberal-NDP coalition's punitive policies that are having negative effects on Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I know that members all across this side of the House regularly speak with members of parliament to advance our province's interest. But, Mr. Speaker, we need to see the same from the members opposite. They have a golden opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to speak with the people who belong to the same party as they do.

[16:15]

And yes, that is true, Mr. Speaker. It's in their provincial NDP constitution. Let's not forget that those members opposite hold the same membership card as Jagmeet Singh. It's right there in the constitution. They have an opportunity to speak with those NDP members who are propping up Justin Trudeau about the policies that are hurting this province. Will they, Mr. Speaker? That's my question.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Regina Rosemont has spoken before in this House about his travels up the Churchill River. Perhaps when he paddles up the Churchill River this summer he'll hop out of his canoe, speak to the NDP MP [Member of Parliament] from northern Manitoba, speak to her about how these federal Liberal-NDP policies are hurting the people of this province. I hope he does, Mr. Speaker.

You know, perhaps more importantly, Mr. Speaker, I hope the member for Regina Lakeview will speak up. She looks like she's likely to become the new Opposition Leader in just over a month's time. But, Mr. Speaker, it looks like her NDP will follow the same old NDP plan: avoid making any criticism of the mother ship federal NDP, even if it comes at the expense of Saskatchewan jobs and communities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let there be no question where members on this side of the House stand when it comes to opposing the carbon tax, respecting responsible gun ownership, promoting the energy sector, and standing up for the interests of Saskatchewan. I will be supporting this government motion, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Trudeau-NDP coalition federal government is dividing Canadians. The electorate voted and elected a minority Liberal government. The NDP signed an agreement that formally ties the NDP to supporting the minority Trudeau government, effectively changing the outcome of the election from a minority to a majority. The members opposite know how these backroom deals turn out in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, the carbon tax will continue to rise year after year, making it unaffordable for Saskatchewan residents to heat their homes and fill their cars with gas. The carbon tax is a tax on everything. All the goods consumed by people are transported by plane, train, or truck and most likely a combination. An increasing carbon tax equates to an increased cost for shipping. The same cost increase would apply to everything Saskatchewan produces and exports — specifically food, fuel and fertilizer — making Saskatchewan commodities less competitive on the world market.

Mr. Speaker, the increasing carbon tax has cost implications for our essential services, services Saskatchewan residents depend on every day: heating and powering our hospitals; cost of operating ambulances, including STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] flying to scene emergencies or undergoing a vital hospital transfer; heating and powering our schools; increased costs of running school buses, including raising the costs of extracurricular activities for our students.

On top of the carbon tax, they also collect and charge goods and services tax — a tax on a tax. Mr. Speaker, an increased cost that residents of Saskatchewan cannot bear. To the members opposite: pick up the phone and call your boss and axe the carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, the recent Alberta Court of Appeal decision on Bill C-69 was welcome news. Common sense has prevailed. The ruling declared that C-69 is unconstitutional. It is a major intrusion into provincial jurisdiction. We eagerly await a decision from the federal NDP-Liberal government appealing this ruling. Perhaps common sense will spread to the federal coalition government.

The Trudeau Liberal government, fully supported and signed onto by the NDP, have continued to harass and punish the law-abiding gun owners of this country. Legal gun owners are not the issue. Federal Minister of Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair, commenting on legal firearms owners, and I quote:

I'd like to take a moment [if I may] to speak to the law-abiding Canadian gun owners. I know from very many years of experience as a police officer that the overwhelming majority of gun owners in this country are law abiding. They are responsible. They are conscientious. They acquire their weapons legally, they store them securely, and they use them safely.

After a comment like this, why would it be necessary to further punish law-abiding firearms owners? The minister clearly knows they are not the problem. Obviously the Liberal-NDP federal government is unable to control the illegal smuggling of firearms into this country. They prefer to take it out on the ordinary gun owners of this country. They need to address the problem directly

and not play politics with such critical issues such as gang violence and smuggling. Mr. Speaker, the federal government needs to address criminal activity and not blame law-abiding citizens of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal-NDP federal government needs to drive in their own lane and let provinces handle matters of provincial jurisdiction. They need to stop actively working against the interests of Western Canada. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion from the Minister of Energy and Resources and member from Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota constituency. It is my pleasure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to rise in the House today to speak briefly on the government motion.

Mr. Speaker, Bill C-69 and this federal government's policy of anti-pipeline, anti-oil and natural gas is a blatant attack on the quality of life of the people of Saskatchewan. This Trudeau-NDP coalition has utilized political policies to pick the winners and the losers in this country, and Western Canada has definitely come out on the losing end, with the cancellation of pipeline projects, the carbon tax, and imposed reductions in the oil and natural gas sector, keeping some of the greenest, most sustainable, ethically produced oil and gas out of the world market.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be able to take advantage of the sale of our products and resources right now, and we haven't been able to do that. Despite this, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that our government's 2022-23 budget provides record investment for Saskatchewan — record investments in health, in education, and assistance for those in need. And yet, Mr. Speaker, as we know, the members opposite are always calling for more.

Think, just think for a minute, what would our level of investment be if the Trudeau-NDP coalition was not so intent on destroying the energy sector in the West? This year we have a record \$6.8 billion invested in health care, Mr. Speaker. Just think what that investment could be if Justin Trudeau and his NDP government stopped interfering and killing opportunities for the West.

Mr. Speaker, this government is investing in a new hospital in my constituency, in Prince Albert. It's very needed and it's on its way. Our government has a record of building and improving the health system. Now just imagine, what other investments could we be making if we could unleash our economic potential without the targeted interference of the federal Trudeau-NDP alliance? Mr. Speaker, we could increase our recruitment efforts even further. We could hire more health care professionals. We could build even more health care facilities and continue improving our technology.

Mr. Speaker, think of those with mental health concerns. If the federal government wasn't so laser-focused on destroying the energy industry in the West, we could invest even more into research and programming, as well as the recruitment of even more professionals.

Mr. Speaker, despite the record investments in this year's budget, we have constantly heard from the members opposite as to how our government needs to do more. Well that would be possible if the unconstitutional, anti-West energy policies of this Trudeau-NDP federal government weren't kneecapping the energy sector in Western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep this short. I still have colleagues who wish to speak on this motion. But I will end by saying I support the motion put forward by the Hon. Minister of Energy and Resources, and I hope the members opposite will as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I echo the comments of a few of my colleagues. It is a pleasure to have our Minister of Energy and Resources as a colleague. She speaks so eloquently about her job and so passionately, and actually has given me a real . . . renewed an interest in the oil and gas sector. I'm not really . . . wasn't from, didn't grow up in the oil and gas sector. However it's a very important thing in our province, in our country, and in the world.

And I would like to discuss a few things today in the time that I have, and one is very important, and it's the Liberal-NDP government's refusal to invest in Canadian oil and gas and actually discourage investments, Mr. Speaker, into this very important sector. It has never been more apparent than now that the world needs energy alternatives, and why not choose some of the cleanest energy in the world, Mr. Speaker? We have the third-largest oil reserves in the world, and yet we choose to buy oil and gas from overseas.

The federal government will not even acknowledge the great work done with enhanced oil recovery, which reduces 82 per cent fewer emissions than traditional extraction methods. Mr. Speaker, even leading environmentalists agree that Canada cannot meet federal climate targets without this, and yet the federal government refuses to further help this great initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure, with a few of my colleagues, at being at an event that the Minister of Energy was speaking at the other day, and learned a little bit about some very important initiatives and things that have been going on even for a little while. And, Mr. Speaker, Whitecap Resources has stored more than 2 million tonnes of CO₂ each year and over 37 million tonnes over the lifetime of their projects. Boundary dam unit 3, Mr. Speaker, is another great example, with the world's first fully integrated post-combustion carbon capture and storage project that has captured over 4 million tonnes of CO₂ to date.

Mr. Speaker, this is something the members opposite might want to pay attention to. This is the equivalent of taking 1 million vehicles off the road on just one project. One million vehicles, Mr. Speaker, and still the NDP-Liberal government won't back enhanced oil recovery. Why is that? Is it because it has "oil" in the title, in its name? It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of my colleagues would like to speak today, but there's something else I'd like to speak of briefly. And it needs to be mentioned here today, what the members opposite

keep calling for, and that's affordability measures. And they seem to find this humorous, I guess. They were banging on their desks earlier when it came to that. But, Mr. Speaker, the big thing about this is that, we've said it before but it obviously needs to be repeated, if we were to drop the carbon tax today, if they were to drop the carbon tax today it would reduce the price of fuel at the pumps by 11 cents per litre today.

And this is not even the worst, Mr. Speaker. If the NDP-Liberal government continues on their plans with carbon tax, the carbon tax on fuel will be 38 cents per litre — 38 cents. They want to talk about affordability measures. Pick up the phone. Give your boss a call. This is not making life more affordable, Mr. Speaker. And I haven't even got into the depth of this, and I know my colleague from Moose Jaw Wakamow spoke a little bit about this. I've done the math on some SaskEnergy bills and the charges for carbon tax alone, just on SaskEnergy are . . . Over 26 per cent of the bill is carbon tax. Over 26 per cent. And that's not even looking at the power bills, Mr. Speaker.

If we want to keep talking about affordability, why can the members, the NDP members opposite not oppose this crippling tax that has no plan to reduce the carbon footprint? Instead it seems to be just aimed at making life more unaffordable to heat our homes, turn on our lights, or fill our vehicles.

[16:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, will the members opposite commit to calling Jagmeet Singh and having this tax removed today? I look forward to hearing from more of my colleagues and especially the member from Lumsden-Morse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Mr. Skoropad: — Mr. Speaker, it is an absolute pleasure to weigh in on this debate, and I thank the Minister of Energy and Resources for making this motion. This is an important motion. It's a very relevant motion. And it is one that, the points of this motion resonate with the folks in Arm River that I represent, whether it be related to the carbon tax, whether it be the need for more pipelines, the gun registry, or the constant headwinds of the federal government which we face here as a province.

You know, I'm trying to rack my head in some cases, how to make sense of this. And when I talk to people . . . And you know, it really feels that . . . It's kind of like football. It's like a football game, and I can liken it to a football game and that the provinces are players. And we've got a responsibility. Each player out there, each province has a responsibility. And I will tell you . . . And we get to handle the ball sometimes. But we would expect, Mr. Speaker, we would expect that our federal government would be there blocking for us, would be taking a leadership role for us, that they would be clearing a path for us.

But unfortunately the reality is, Mr. Speaker, they are often on the other side of the ball. They are tackling us, and we are needing to dodge them, sometimes jump over them, duck under them. They're an obstacle to the end zone at times and on so many fronts, whether it be energy, whether it be mining, whether it be ag, whether it be livestock.

And I will say this, Mr. Speaker, that perception, understanding,

and attitudes, well they drive policy. We all know that. And when we have a federal government that infers that many of our key industries don't align with its vision, it's concerning. When we have a federal government that infers that our farmers and our ranchers are not stewards of the land, it is very concerning.

You know, one only needs to consider the private capital investment that our farmers have made over the years, our producers have made over the years to be more efficient, to be better stewards to the land. You know, I just look at these investments. Whether it be variable-rate capacity, whether it be zero-till equipment, whether it be investments in precision ag technology, this is private investment.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I have never met a farmer that wanted to use more diesel, and I have never met a farmer that wanted to drive more grain. And I will tell you, efficiency and stewardship of the land is how farmers make a living in this province. Spend an afternoon with a rancher and listen to them explain pasture management. Or spend some time as they talk about grass and soil health to understand the stewards of the environment that exist in the livestock sector, Mr. Speaker.

The federal government frequently throws out numbers and stats to support its assault on Saskatchewan industries and people that put food on tables. Well I would like to throw out some of my own numbers if I could for a second, Mr. Speaker. And here's an important number: 1804. You see, in the whole cumulative history of the planet earth, it took until 1804 until we actually achieved a billion people on this planet. Here's another number: 7.9. That's how many billion people live on the planet today. Eight point five, that would be the number of people projected to live on the planet in the year 2030.

You see, Mr. Speaker, we grow things here in this province and we're trying to feed people on planet earth. We are the grocery store, if you will, to the planet here in Saskatchewan. Producers are asked to do more, to feed more, while one hand is tied behind the back because we have a federal government that has a continual attack on energy, as pointed out by the Minister of Energy and Resources, and fertilizer, pointed out by my colleague from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Here's a few more numbers for you, Mr. Speaker: 30 million. This is the average number of metric tons of field crops produced annually over the past 10 years in this province. That's approximately one tridem semi load of crop for each person in this province. Here's another number: 76. That's the per cent of Canada's mustard we produce. Eighty-one is the per cent of durum we produce, 81 is the per cent of chickpeas we produce, and 89 is the per cent of Canada's lentils that we produce.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully I've made my point clear that Saskatchewan feeds the world. Farmers and ranchers do this and do this sustainably like no one else on the planet, while navigating the intrusive and harmful policies of the Trudeau-NDP coalition and supported by members opposite. And with that, I am in full support of the motion put forth by the Minister of Energy and Resources. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to stand

up today and speak in the Chamber with good friends, and about something that . . . You don't really like to have to speak about your federal government. You always figure, growing up, that they're going to work for you; they're going to be on your side. But to be able to have to be a part and support this motion, I have to agree that I feel like the federal government is working against the interests of the people of Saskatchewan. You know, you don't like to say that. You don't like to think you're going to live in that generation, but to look at some of the things that are going on, I have to agree.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I just have talked a little bit in the past about some other problems, maybe with the NDP-Liberal alliance, maybe with some codependency issues and other things. But today I want to just speak a little bit about something that I've heard from the other side of the House. I'm not the guy with the biggest vocabulary in many rooms, unless I'm alone. If I'm by myself, I've got the biggest vocabulary. But I heard something across the way. They said "gaslighting." It was like, I like Google, so I . . . What's gaslighting? So I had to look up what's gaslighting. And so, Mr. Speaker, gaslighting, the act of undermining someone's reality by altering and denying the facts.

So you know, I grew up and we talked a lot about zero-till. And so when I was in high school . . . I know a little bit of the history of zero-till in Saskatchewan because my dad, who passed away this year, was a pretty neat guy. They called . . . won't say that out loud, but my dad, he said . . . He developed Treflan as a chemical when wild oats was a big problem, and I don't know if we realized weeds are a big deal. But you know, if you want to feed the world, you need to get rid of the things that suck the nutrients out of the soil. And so he was a big Treflan guy, worked for Eli Lilly, Elanco. And when he was done, he created a generic to lower the price for it, and he called it Triflurex and sold it. And he was a guy for the farmers.

And so when he was done with Treflan, he said, you know, the next big chemical will be Roundup. And whatever everybody thinks about Roundup, I don't know, but it was \$24 a litre. And my dad said Roundup will be the next big chemical. And I'll never forget. We went to some farmers' yards, and they said, ah, Ken, I've never used a litre of Roundup on my farm and I never will.

So I was the son of Ken Goudy, and I had two older brothers, and so he . . . slave labour, and he'd send us out there. And we started doing test plots, and we got the first high-profile sprayer into Western Canada. It was a big Hagie sprayer, and my brother and I ripped the hydraulics off the inside leg of the thing one day, and it got . . . But anyways, we were trying to figure out how to use this thing, and we were out there.

But I was a staker, so I'd go into the fields and I'd lay the stakes out. And we were spraying half a litre to the acre, one litre to the acre, three-quarters of a litre to the acre. And we didn't know what the results would look like, Mr. Speaker. But when you went to harvest that grain in the next year, seeding into that, farmers may have said, I've never used a litre of Roundup on my farm. But that next year, they said, Goudy, we want that stuff. And so we watched as production increased.

And, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of work. I'm good friends with some of the ag manufacturers in this province. They've

developed to make sure that we're efficient, like the member from south of Melfort said earlier here . . . Arm River. Yeah, Arm River. And a great, great guy, bright suits. So anyways, he was saying earlier that, you know, some of these ag manufacturers, they have got efficiencies. And no farmer wants to spend more time with diesel.

We actually had to do the toxicology studies on Roundup before it was able to be sold and all sorts of things. So the handling of diesel fuel turned out to be more cancer-causing than Roundup. So . . . [inaudible] . . . lots of things. But anyways, nobody wants to be filling up your tank more than you have to. So farmers are . . . And so gaslighting, Mr. Speaker. What is gaslighting? It's changing the reality, changing the facts to make us seem like, well, what? Are we the bad guys?

So here, Melfort, Saskatchewan. We got four RMs to line up with Melfort. And so one day, just for kicks, I worked with my dad and I said, Dad, how many loaves of bread could you bake if you took all of the acres that line up with Melfort and you baked loaves of bread? Because another thing about my dad is he started a bakery to prove that if you take grain and grind it into flour, farmers should be getting more money for their wheat. You know, so anyways, the guy — he was a fairly extreme individual — bought a bakery, bought a mill, had a big huge . . . downtown Melfort, put a bin there, and he'd go and grind the grain in the morning and he'd bake it into bread.

And he wasn't a baker, but he wanted to prove farmers are getting ripped off on their wheat. So anyways he showed . . . So I said, Dad, I wonder, how many loaves of bread could you bake from, you know, the four RMs lined up here? You know what? Turns out, Mr. Speaker, 4.5 million loaves of bread per day come off the land of just four RMs in the corner of Melfort. So that means everybody in the GTA [Greater Toronto Area] could have a loaf of bread from Melfort, Saskatchewan.

You know, something interesting that I learned in high school, or even in grade 3 and 4, was something called photosynthesis. And it's really interesting. I don't know if anybody was paying attention in class back then, but it was very interesting that, you know, carbon isn't our enemy. If you live a balanced life, it's all about balance. Carbon isn't your enemy, Mr. Speaker. Carbon is something that we need to use wisely. So photosynthesis takes the power of the sun . . . Like my goodness, we're talking about all of these — what do you put on your roof to — solar panels. And so you're putting solar panels on your roof.

You know what is taking the sun's energy every single day? The crops in Western Canada. Every single day they're sitting there with their leaves out, and they're sucking in that energy, and they're taking that carbon and that water, that H₂O and the carbon. And you know what they make? They store energy, Mr. Speaker. It stores energy into . . . I don't know, we got a little bit of stored energy around . . . [inaudible] . . . And you can take that food into your body and that drives the engine of these things we have that we enjoy walking around with.

But, Mr. Speaker, farmers in Western Canada are harvesting the power of the sun and taking carbon and water and creating things that people out east eat. And what does it do? It gives oxygen to the people that breathe. And so we have a very balanced province. We take in carbon to our plants; our plants give off

oxygen to us. We seed it. We're very responsible. And, Mr. Speaker, this is just how things work in Western Canada.

So I don't know how things work out east, though my family's from London. You know, sometimes they lose a little bit of reality and they try and tell us what our reality is. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? If Ottawa was in Western Canada, you know where it would be? It would be in Portland, Oregon. Because if you take the latitude line that Ottawa sits on, that's Portland, Oregon.

I don't think they really understand the reality of Melfort, Saskatchewan. And you know, they're kind of dissing our energy and they're blocking our pipelines. My goodness. We have a thing called "please shop local" in Melfort. And I don't understand it — we've got all this oil in Western Canada; we've got all this energy — why they don't let us get it to Eastern Canada, but they go around the world and buy somebody else's oil.

And here our Prime Minister, as I said in the beginning, he seems to be working against the interests of Western Canada. Why he ships oil in rather than take the oil from . . . I thought we were part of his country. I thought he's a citizen of the same country I am. Like I thought we're the same, but it seems like they don't even want to buy oil from themselves. Like they don't want to shop local and support their own brothers and sisters.

So, Mr. Speaker, like I just don't know what to think, but we just want to be able to hop in our cars, fill up our tanks without feeling guilty to go visit our grandma or our mom and dad in a seniors' home down the way because we're an agricultural society in Western Canada.

[16:45]

Melfort is only there because of agriculture. Our hospitals are there, our schools are there, everything is there because we can grow grain in Western Canada. Like trust me. It's not just because of the beautiful weather and climate that we live in Melfort, Saskatchewan. It's because we have incredible farm land around where we live.

And so some of us live in one town, and another one might be 200 kilometres away. That's the way things work in Western Canada. We have a great distance between. And we don't have to feel guilty like it's our fault we're ruining the world because we are, you know, burning carbon out in Western Canada.

I would say that we're a balanced province. We have a balance when it comes to carbon and we would just ask for the eastern Ottawa politicians to consider . . . I'm glad. I've got to give it to them. They said maybe you shouldn't, but I got to give it to them. They took carbon tax off of farm diesel, which was good. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? When it comes to drying our grain, if there's a farm in Western Canada that's large enough, they almost burn as much natural gas to dry their grain to get it out as some of these towns. Because we're a northern part of the world, we're trying to get grain to feed the world, and we need to dry that grain. And I would ask that our friends across the way would strongly encourage the federal government to remove the tax from natural gas that we use to dry our grain. Some things that they're doing, Mr. Speaker, just looks like they're working

against the interests of Western Canada.

So I just want to say thank you to our Energy minister for putting this forward. It's a sad day when you have to speak against your federal government. But I'm hoping that when they heat their homes, when they drive to their kids' sporting events, when they go and visit their grandparents, they'll realize that, Mr. Speaker, we're all in this together. And we need to quit pointing the finger and realize that Saskatchewan is balanced. And they shouldn't be pointing their fingers to blame us for the world's problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join in this debate. And I'll start by reciting a short list of some of the things that the federal government, now supported by the federal NDP Party, and by extension those members opposite, have done that are causing severe harm to this province and the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

Carbon tax. The federal government is raising the carbon tax by \$15 a year, increasing to \$170 per tonne by 2030. This will add 40 cents a litre to gasoline prices as well as raise the costs of groceries, essentials, consumer goods, and almost every single thing that we need in our lives, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the things, you know, in this list . . . Some of the things in this list those members opposite supported actively through the way they voted on motions in this House. Those members voted in favour of the carbon tax in a motion in this very Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Other things that I'm going to talk about they just support passively through their support of the federal NDP and the federal Liberals, who are in a coalition. So the policies of one are the policies of the other.

Clean fuel regulations, Mr. Speaker. These regs will require liquid fossil fuel primary suppliers to meet clean fuel standards. The federal government estimates this will cost the industry \$14 billion in compliance by 2030, including adding 11 more cents a litre to the price of gasoline, and in turn making everybody, everything more expensive. This is one of the ones that they haven't actually supported passively but they support it . . . or actively, but they support it passively through their support.

Bill C-69, the *Impact Assessment Act*. Mr. Speaker, Bill C-69 allows the federal government to assess a broad list of economic activities and allows the federal government to deny approval of new projects on a range of environmental and social issues, including climate change and gendered impacts, Mr. Speaker. Ridiculous overreach. This one they, as far as I know, only supported passively.

Oil and gas emissions cap. The federal government has committed to capping and cutting emissions from the oil and gas sector to meet the federal targets. Oil and gas sector emissions will need to be cut by about 42 per cent in the next eight years, not only making our oil and gas uncompetitive in world markets, but much more expensive domestically, Mr. Speaker.

Fertilizer emissions reduction test. Now this is going to be a popular one that the members opposite will pay dearly for.

Farmers have not seen the impact of that yet, but they will. The federal government — supported by the federal NDP and, by extension, these members opposite — plan to . . . they've committed to reduce N₂O emissions associated with fertilizer application by 30 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030. It's unclear at this time what this means for on-farm costs, but one thing we know for sure that it will reduce yields, reduce production in this province dramatically, maybe by close to 30 per cent. And it'll make a lot of farms non-viable, Mr. Speaker. It'll put farmers out of business. And if this was to catch on in the rest of the world — which it won't because they're all more sensible than our Ottawa leaders — but if it did, would cause mass starvation.

Clean electricity standards. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has committed to mandating a net zero power grid by 2030. Saskatchewan does not have plentiful hydro resources like Manitoba, Quebec, or BC [British Columbia]. Saskatchewan power rates will increase substantially if it must replace both coal and natural gas power plants well before the end of those plants' life cycle, making us less competitive in everything, Mr. Speaker, and life for Saskatchewan people much more expensive.

Mandatory zero emissions. This is a good one. In new light truck sales, Mr. Speaker, the federal Environment minister has stated that all vehicle sales must be electric vehicles by 2035. Further to that, he's planning to impose vehicle sale quotas for dealerships and corresponding fines leading up to 2035. I guess I'll be driving an old truck, Mr. Speaker. You know, the KGB would blush at this kind of government overreach. It would be embarrassing in a communist dictatorship, Mr. Speaker. These folks over here support that.

Mr. Speaker, these are measures aimed squarely at Western Canada and Saskatchewan, and all the measures that these NDP members opposite support, and continue to support to this day, either actively or passively. This list doesn't even mention the legislation to prevent pipelines from being built or a tanker ban on the West Coast, even though every day American tankers carry oil from Alaska to Washington state right through the same waters that tankers are now banned from carrying Canadian oil through by our own federal government, supported by them.

What this federal Liberal government has been doing, nothing more or less than using the full power of the federal government to destroy the economy of an entire region of this country, this region, Mr. Speaker. Who would have thought that in Saskatchewan or Alberta our own federal government would be our biggest enemy, and them, Mr. Speaker?

Now they do this, Mr. Speaker, under the guise of environmentalism. That sells in some areas of the country where they don't understand the impacts and the costs of such actions, Mr. Speaker, but I'll try to point out that it's not only scoring cheap political points in Central Canada, but it also has a strong element of vindictiveness. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I remember when Pierre Trudeau became the prime minister of this country. I was always political, Mr. Speaker, and I can't help it. My parents talked about politics around the dinner table. I remember my dad especially was an influence. He never once suggested how I should vote, but he'd talk at great length about what the various political parties stood for and how it might affect us ordinary folks, and the real difference between right-of-centre parties and socialist parties, like those guys.

If my memory serves correctly, Pierre Trudeau's government was elected in a spring election in 1968, shortly before my 17th birthday. And you can all do the math. I was somewhat naive probably, but a young Canadian patriot, Mr. Speaker. I also knew that Pierre Trudeau was a radical socialist, radical by those days' standards, not by these guys' standards. I also knew that he was a bright man. I thought naively that there are good governments and bad governments, so I didn't know about vindictive governments, Mr. Speaker. Even at that age I was devastated by the victory of the Trudeau brand of new far-left-wing liberalism.

The current Trudeau government, Mr. Speaker, is not blessed with the intelligent leadership of that socialist Liberal government elected in '68. So Justin Trudeau, having had very few original thoughts, likely, in his sheltered lifetime is playing from Pierre's handbook.

Mr. Speaker, the Pierre Trudeau Liberals immediately went on a wild national and international spending spree, which drove inflation in Canada. You know, too many dollars chasing too few goods. You all heard about that. And, Mr. Speaker, like the current Liberal government, they were not politically prepared to do the only thing a government can really do to stop runaway inflation, that being drastically increasing interest rates. So for a couple years they did nothing. Sounds familiar, you know. That's what's going on now.

Then for the next year or two they played around with wage and price controls, which of course didn't work. Never have. By the time they were forced to take real action, the interest rates had to go to 20 per cent to curb inflation, bankrupting thousands of businesses, throwing hundreds of thousands of Canadians out of work, and making everybody poorer.

Eventually, Mr. Speaker, the Trudeau government developed a thing they call the National Energy Program, which transferred the profits from the oil and gas industry in Western Canada directly into the coffers of their government. That will sound familiar as well, Mr. Speaker, except the current Trudeau government has gone much farther than unfairly taxing an industry since the 1930s that has been under the control of the provinces.

With this current Trudeau government, they have gone much farther in their efforts to harm the economy and the future of Western Canada, as per the list of issues I began my remarks with. I recall when Pierre Trudeau government fell on hard times. They suckered the NDP into supporting them in a coalition. That was in the 1970s, Mr. Speaker. It took many years for the NDP to recover from that selfish mistake and, Mr. Speaker, the NDP will spend years in the political wilderness before Canadians forgive them for supporting this tyrannical Liberal government.

Across the floor from where I sit in this honourable Assembly sit a ragtag group of socialists that we politely refer to as the official opposition, the NDP opposition, Mr. Speaker. Evidently, Mr. Speaker, this opposition is not only opposed to our government, also to the people of Saskatchewan, because they've joined with the federal Trudeau government in their harmful actions against us.

Mr. Speaker, how can they go to the people of Saskatchewan after taking this action in lockstep with the federal government,

the federal Liberals, to harm Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan people? How can they hold their heads up, Mr. Speaker? How can they call themselves Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition when they have supported and continue to support these devastating moves against the people of Saskatchewan, the people they say they want to represent, Mr. Speaker?

They will pay a devastating price for their actions, as will their federal masters. And, Mr. Speaker, they will never again be honoured to govern this province.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion of the Minister of Energy and Resources.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well you know, it's been quite the afternoon here in the Assembly, listening to the victimization that we've been subjected to. I mean honestly, I just can't believe the political games that the government side has been up to this past hour, bringing forward such an incoherent motion onto the floor.

There are serious matters here before us today, and I think that what we heard from the other side today is entirely out of touch. And I will be presenting a motion here calling for:

After the word "Assembly," delete and replace with the following:

That this Assembly recognize the critical importance of and support the energy sector, the good jobs the sector provides . . .

The Speaker: — It has now reached the hour of adjournment. This House stands adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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