



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

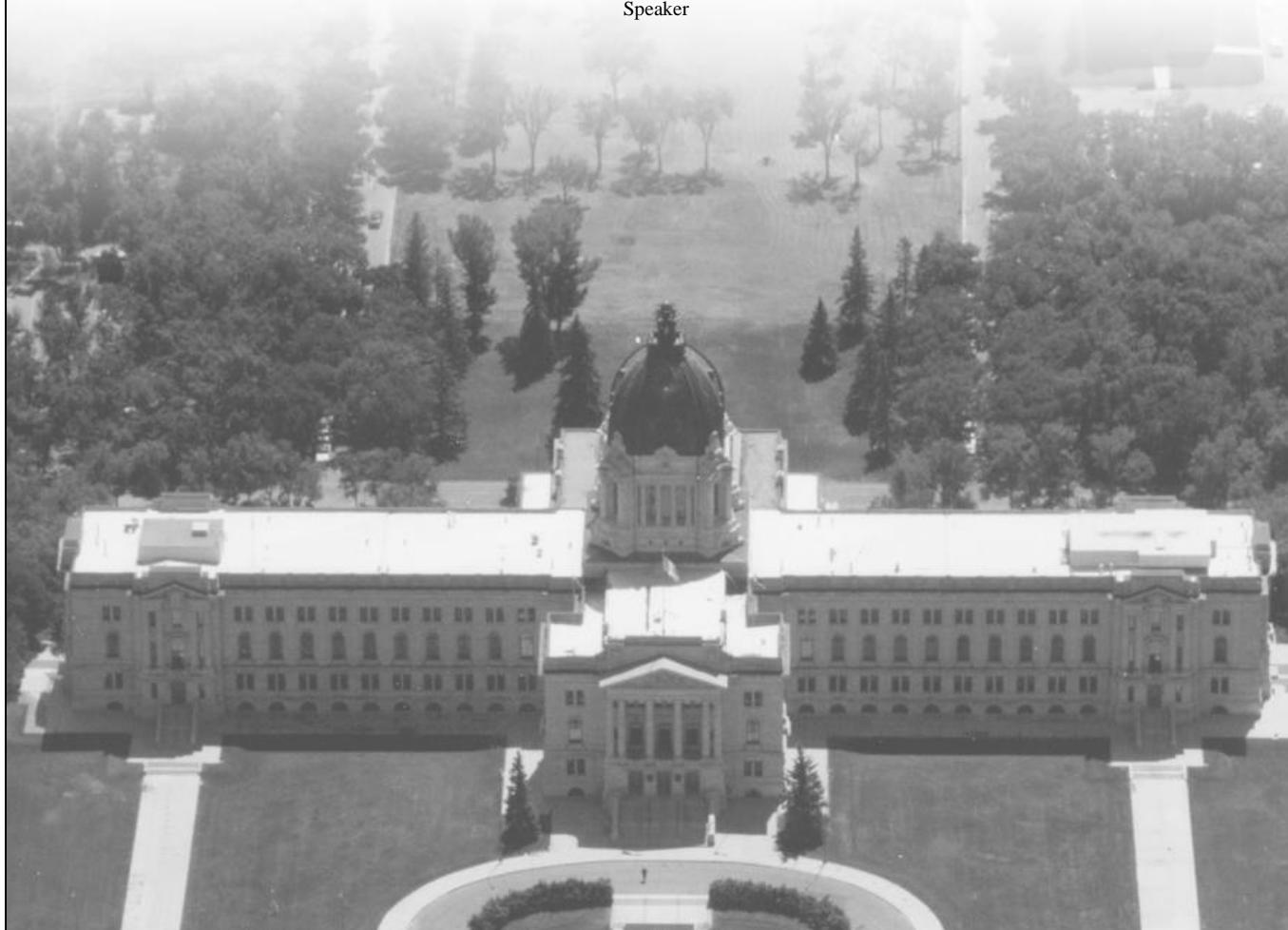
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd 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 — Carla Beck

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)
Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)
Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)
Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Skoropad, Hon. Dana — Arm River (SP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Lumsden-Morse
Vacant — Regina Coronation Park
Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang
Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, K.C.
Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyk
Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I've got a couple announcements. I'd just like to welcome all our guests here today and just like to caution you not to take part in the proceedings, and no clapping or talking, heckling, or taking photos.

Also for all of us, there's going to be a SaskAlert at 1:55. So, Members and the gallery, please shut off your phones, even though the alert may go through anyway even if it's shut off, I notice sometimes. If we have some noise, we can pause for a few seconds till it's over or work through it.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I introduce to you and through you, a good-looking group of 58 students, grade 8 students from the Dr. Sylvia Fedoruk School in the Evergreen neighbourhood in Saskatoon.

They have the pleasure of being from a beautiful new school in the Saskatoon Willowgrove constituency, of course named after a former Lieutenant Governor of the province. They're accompanied by their teachers, Andrew Kitchen, Wayne Gering, and Janelle Lavoie.

Andrew is quite familiar with the parliamentary process. He brings his class here each and every year. And his father is a Member of Parliament from Saskatchewan here as well, the Estevan-Weyburn area.

So, Mr. Speaker, again to you and through you to all members, please help me welcome this group of 58 students to their Saskatchewan legislature.

The Speaker: — I would like to join with the member in welcoming Andrew Kitchen and his class. Andrew became the team leader of Saskatchewan's teachers' institute on parliamentary democracy in 2022. He was a participant of SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] in 2017 and selected to be a member of the steering committee on 2018. The steering committee works with my office, Social Studies Saskatchewan, and the Ministry of Education to host the SSTI each year. Thank you, Andrew, for your dedication to the SSTI program. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kitchen and his grade 7 and 8 class to their Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to welcome, in your east gallery, 22 grade 8 students from a school in my riding of Saskatoon University, École College Park. These students, these bright, young minds are joined today by their

bright, young teacher, Mr. Grayson Beaudin. Many on this side know Grayson well — a very politically engaged, very astute and engaged teacher who is I'm sure just a wonderful pleasure to have as a teacher for these students. I really look forward to meeting with students after question period to answer any questions they may have. I ask all members to welcome these students and their teacher, Grayson, to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are 16 public service employees seated in your gallery, the Speaker's gallery, today, Mr. Speaker. They're here today to take part in the parliamentary program for public service. The program includes a tour of the Legislative Building, briefings presented by various branches of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council, an opportunity to sit in the Speaker's gallery and observe question period, and briefings with members of both sides of the House and Mr. Speaker. Now unfortunately today, because of Premier's estimates, some of that will be cut a bit short. But I will miss getting the chance to dialogue with you because I always look forward to that when these groups come in.

The participants are here today from Agriculture, Education, Finance, Health, Government Relations, Justice and Attorney General, Public Safety Agency, Trade and Export Development, Public Service Commission, Water Security Agency, and the Legislative Assembly Service of Saskatchewan. So please join me in welcoming these people to their Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm still on my feet, I too would like to take the opportunity to welcome Andrew Kitchen to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and I guess just clarify that he is originally from Estevan, not from Weyburn, and his father lives there also. So welcome. He is a great advocate for the education system that we have and he takes part fully. And so welcome Andrew again to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek 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.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome four guests who are seated in the Speaker's gallery today from Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan. We have Marcelline Zimmer, the COO [chief operating officer]; Alicia Gaudet, Ashlyn Yablonski, and Leah Turcotte.

Today is McHappy Day in the province, where a portion of the proceeds from every McDonald's item goes to Ronald

McDonald House Charities in Saskatchewan and this is to raise much-needed funds for their programs and families that they support across the province. They are an important partner in health care in our province, providing programs for families of sick children that positively impact the health and well-being of the whole family.

I am also happy to share that Ronald McDonald House Charities of Saskatchewan is actively pursuing expansion opportunities in Regina and Prince Albert to serve even more Saskatchewan families, and there will be more details to come about this in the coming months. To show your support, I ask all members to participate at their local McDonald's for McHappy Day. I indulged in some fries right before coming in here. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming this group to their Assembly today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not welcome Grayson Beaudin and join in welcoming this group from École College Park. I talk about Grayson a lot in this Assembly. Many of you will know that Grayson is my partner, but he's rarely here to hear about it so I'll briefly introduce him.

Grayson has a number of merits. He has been a recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He has his master's of Education and participated through the Bac program here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. He's a French immersion teacher. He's passionate about education, about fairness, about justice.

And you know, I met Grayson quite a long time ago. He was accomplished through the cadet program in army cadets and at 17 years old hiked up to base camp at Mount Everest, which I don't know many people who could do. He hates it when I talk about that but it's an amazing accomplishment. In our lives he, on the side, is our household mechanic, carpenter, will look anything up on YouTube and be the Mr. Fixit at home. He enjoys smoking meats and doing all things that involve barbecuing and disc golf as well, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to wish him a welcome to this legislature, and also wish him a happy birthday. And I think he created this birthday present for himself by joining here today. I ask all members to join me in welcoming my partner, Grayson, to the Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite, among other things, to welcome Grayson to the Assembly today. I have some things broken at my house as well, and I'd certainly welcome him to come over. And the barbecue is not working either. In any event, welcome him. And I think the important thing is that we all want to recognize our families, spouses, and the people that enable us to do our work. So to the member opposite and to all of the families and spouses that give us support, thank you.

But I rose specifically, Mr. Speaker, to welcome the people from Ronald McDonald House. This is an organization that operates in Saskatoon, but usually for the benefit of people across the province as people come in to deal with a sick child. They've been a wonderful organization and they've been aggressive

recruiters for people to come out, cook, clean, and give some assistance to the people that are staying there.

My neighbour, Doug Osborn, has been active in the past and has recruited me to go there and fix things there that I didn't fix at home. So to the people that are there from Ronald McDonald House, I just want to welcome them.

They did earlier, a number of years ago, recruited MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to go and work at McDonald's here for a media morning on the thing. And I got to work in a drive-through. And after I'd spent a hour and a half in the drive-through mixing up orders and everything else, question period seemed mild. So, Mr. Speaker, to those people, I would welcome them to their legislature and thank them very much for the great work that they've done.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to first join with the minister opposite in welcoming this group of public servants from the parliamentary program to their Legislative Assembly, echoing, as the minister had said, thank you for all the work that you do every single day. It's such a pleasure to see you here today. We're very supportive of the program. As the minister mentioned, very sad that we don't get the opportunity like we normally do to have the dialogue with you after question period. Premier's estimates has got in the way of that today, but I do know that you will still have a wonderful and informative afternoon.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I don't get a lot of family coming to visit me anymore these days — kind of old hat here at this point it seems — but I do want to point out I do have my cousin visiting today. She's one of the individuals from Ronald McDonald House. Leah Turcotte has joined us in the Assembly. Leah is a resident of Saskatoon, of course very passionate about the work she does at Ronald McDonald House. Also a passionate lover of travel and family.

She is from the Sarauer side so, you know, that comes hand in hand — a love of family and gatherings and travel. I had the pleasure and opportunity to live with her family for a few months at the beginning of my law school journey which I think was like 15 years ago already. It feels like such a long time ago. It's been such a pleasure to watch her grow up into such an incredible person. It's such an honour to have her here today and then to ask all members to join me in welcoming her and everyone else to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members, I would like to introduce in the Speaker's gallery, Michelle Miller. I've known Michelle for — we were trying to figure it out — I think it's around 10 years, Mr. Speaker. And we have a mutual best friend and that is John Thompson from Regina here. And a lot of people around the province would certainly know John as Coca-Cola Santa Claus. He travelled around in the Coca-Cola truck throughout the last several years, and he does a bike collection in Regina at the Coca-Cola centre

here.

So Michelle and I have become good friends through that. And this is her first time in the House, even though she's been in Regina I think 35 years. And she's also a recent mother. So please, everyone join me in welcoming Michelle Miller to her gallery today.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few special people in my life to introduce in the Assembly here today. Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce for I believe his first time here, Mr. Speaker — he came for a planned visit — this is my nephew Carson Weninger. Carson, give us a wave. He's grade 6, age 11, plays on two basketball teams right now — Team Fresh and Fresher, Mr. Speaker.

He's an awesome guy. Water polo as well, has played lacrosse, loves camping and biking. He's been my paddling partner and hiking partner, fished and boated together, Mr. Speaker. He likes golf as well, Mr. Speaker, and he saved up all of his money from birthdays and from Christmas and bought a great used set of clubs last year and he's ready for the season, Mr. Speaker.

He's a real special guy. He's thoughtful. He's caring. He's smart as heck, Mr. Speaker, and he's rock solid. And it's real nice to welcome him to his Assembly.

I'd also give a quick shout-out — I've introduced them in the past — to my dad, Craik, who's here today, and to my much better looking mom, Faye, who's here today, Mr. Speaker. Of course Mother's Day is this weekend, Mr. Speaker. I would just give a shout-out to all the moms and to my mom for the unwavering love and support and for being such a light in all of our lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I noticed just before the proceedings started that one of the people visiting here today is a constituent and a friend of mine and former CA [constituency assistant] for Warren, my colleague that used to be in Moose Jaw North. And her name is Judy Hatfield. She's hanging around the clock there. There she is. And I wanted to just have everybody give Judy a special welcome to her legislature.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Briefly I just want to rise today and welcome all of the guests who have gathered here today to watch the proceedings. It's lovely to hear people talk about their loved ones and their families in the way that we've heard this morning. A shout-out to Andrew, who we've seen here before, of course.

But I want to give a special welcome to some of the family members of this team that we have here today, and I know there are probably more that are listening at home. And I hope he's

listening because I'm going to agree with the Minister of Labour on this. The work that our families do — our parents, our partners, our extended family like we have here today — they allow us to do what we do here. And I know that's the case for both sides of the House.

You have sent some extraordinary people here to this legislature, raised them in some cases. And you know, we probably don't say thank you enough. We don't ask forgiveness enough for the time that we keep them away from you. But please know that it is appreciated and it allows us to do the work that we need to do here on behalf of the people of this province.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members to join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition and many other members as well in just acknowledging that the members in this Assembly today, those that have gone before us, those that have yet to arrive here, certainly don't serve in this Assembly alone. We only serve with the love and, more importantly, the support of our family members.

And so I too would like to acknowledge Grayson here today, the support that he provides. I'd also like to acknowledge both Craik and Faye in supporting a member on the floor of this Assembly through his career as a politician, I would say in some respects effective career as well. Most certainly we don't agree on everything, but I would say that we actually agree on more than what people might realize.

Here's some, a little bit of advice — it's free advice so you take it for what it's worth — to Carson. I heard you're interested in basketball, paddling with your uncle, and those types of things. Don't take advice from him on picking your hockey team that you're going to cheer for. It's been a very exciting year for the Boston Bruins as we know, most certainly not as exciting a post-season.

But I would like to join with the Leader of the Opposition and all others in welcoming everyone that has joined us here today, but in particular welcoming and thanking those family members that support us in our work on the floor of this Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan whereas we, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the NDP [New Democratic Party]-Liberal federal tax on carbon continues to make life more expensive for Saskatchewan residents; that the federal NDP-Liberal coalition government continues to be disingenuous with their rhetoric surrounding the carbon tax; and that according to the parliamentary budget officer's analysis, most households will pay more in fuel charges and GST [goods and services tax], as well as receiving slightly lower incomes than they will receive in climate action incentive

payments. Despite promises from the federal government that the tax would remain revenue neutral and that families would benefit, the reality is that families are paying more than they receive.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to call upon the Government of Canada to immediately end the federal carbon tax and support Saskatchewan's development as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer.

The below undersigned residents are from the town of Kindersley. I do so submit. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling for recruitment and retention of pediatric specialists. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan's sole practising pediatric gastroenterologist has announced her intention to close her practice this year and leave the province; the parents of pediatric GI [gastroenterology] patients will have to leave the province to get medical care for their children; that Saskatchewan has an insufficient number of pediatric specialists in other fields, including neurologists, immunologists, adolescent medicine, and ENTs [ear, nose, and throat]; and that Saskatchewan children requiring specialized care are not receiving the medical treatment they need.

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 recruit an appropriate complement of pediatric GI specialists and adjunct services, and develop a plan to address the service gaps in pediatric specialty fields.

This is signed today by individuals from Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand as I have every day since thousands gathered on these steps to stand up for publicly funded and delivered education in our province. Those who signed this petition would like us to be aware that the education funding included in this year's budget is wholly inadequate and will lead to cuts in the classroom again.

Today I'd like to highlight the voices of teachers, Saskatchewan teachers who said after this budget that they were baffled by this government's disregard for students. The STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] president, Samantha Becotte, says, "This government either doesn't understand the issues or doesn't think they are important."

Mr. Speaker, we have incredible teachers in this province, but it's not fair year after year that they're being asked to do more with less.

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 provide adequate, sustainable, and predictable operating funds for our 27 public and separate school divisions to ensure that schools, teachers, and other caring professionals are able to meet the needs of every student in Saskatchewan.

This petition today is signed by residents of Regina, Moose Jaw, and Warman. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to renew its 35-year relationship with Luther Heights in Saskatoon in providing affordable housing units to seniors in my riding of Saskatoon Meewasin.

Thus the undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: the department of Social Services is cancelling the government's subsidy for 50 apartments in Luther Heights, a seniors residence in Saskatoon; the decision to eliminate these subsidies reduces the supply of affordable housing to seniors on fixed incomes and creates a burden and stress on us all; and it's forcing seniors to leave their homes. We urge the government to reconsider ending this relationship and renew the partnership with Luther Heights.

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 reverse the decision to eliminate subsidized housing and restore funding for the 50 units affected at Luther Heights.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to present a petition calling on this government to provide equitable and adequate SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] rates. The SAID program supports some of the most vulnerable across our province. It is a program of support for folks with significant and enduring disabilities with barriers to employment.

Mr. Speaker, for nearly a decade the SAID program didn't see any kind of raise from this government. Folks were told times are tough; we just can't do it. Now this year, with a billion in windfall revenue, the folks on the SAID program got a measly buck a day, a 2 per cent increase after the failure to increase SAID rates represented an overall reduction in benefits of 20 per cent. No wonder many folks on the program have described this as a slap in the face, Mr. Speaker.

Further to this, this government is being taken to court by the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry due to their discriminatory clawback policies under this program. What a shame, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly to increase SAID rates; respect the constitutional rights of folks with disability in this province; index SAID rates going forward; and provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty, namely single individuals paying market rent.

The signatories of this petition reside in Saskatoon and Wakaw. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to present our petition calling for pay equity legislation here in Saskatchewan.

The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that has not implemented pay equity legislation in Canada; that Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in all of Canada, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work that must be corrected with pay equity legislation; that over 25 years ago, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation, which to date has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; that while *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* prohibits gender-based compensation discrimination, the complaint-driven process puts no positive obligation on employers; and finally, that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be very mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

I'll read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Lintlaw and Kelvington. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition today to prohibit conversion therapy.

The undersigned residents wish to bring to your attention the following: conversion therapy used discredited and abusive practices which attempt to actively change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* names sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination; the practice

of conversion therapy or reparative therapy is seriously harmful to individuals and is opposed by the Canadian Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, and the American Psychiatric Association; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child indicates that children should not be discriminated against based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to ban the practice of conversion therapy and prohibit transporting youth and adults outside Saskatchewan for such purposes.

This petition is signed by the residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Ms. Conway: — I rise today on Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day to recognize the incredible work of educators and child care providers across our great province. They nurture and stimulate our kids. They foster empathy, curiosity, and creativity. They help kids get a good start in life. They also allow parents to get a much-needed break and continue to devote themselves to work and careers outside the home. As a busy parent of two young kids, I wake up thankful for their educators each and every day, Mr. Speaker.

And as part of my appreciation for this profession, I've been speaking to educators across the province. And they've been clear about what they need — fair wages; good working conditions; action along with this government's words; more spaces for a child care desert, the worst in the nation, and the need has only become more intense with the \$10-a-day announcement. We recently learned the concerning fact that this government has only created 17 per cent of targeted spaces under the federal agreement.

More help — the increased workload with reporting, juggling all the many demands has been tough. Inclusion funding, qualified folks to work with kids with higher needs and many more spaces for those with needs which are getting more intense, more complex, and more challenging.

These changes will show this government's true commitment to the sector. It will allow the focus to remain on laying a foundation for the future success and well-being of kids, and we will all benefit. Please join me in thanking these amazing educators.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Meadow Lake Tribal Council Industrial Investments Receives Award for Economic Development

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, May

2nd, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council Industrial Investments was awarded the 2023 Aboriginal Economic Development Corporation Award by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. The MLTC Industrial Investments was created in 2012 by a group of nine First Nations. These member Nations share a combined compilation of 15,000 Indigenous people. Since then they've made a significant positive impact on First Nation engagement and economic development in five sectors: forestry, renewable energy, oil and gas, agriculture, and hospitality services.

Mr. Speaker, more than 1,800 direct and indirect jobs have been created as a result of the business relationships that MLTC [Meadow Lake Tribal Council] has created in northwest Saskatchewan. Each First Nations chief and their respective council determine priorities for their communities, with investment made into business development, as well as support of community-based initiatives such as housing, arenas, elders, or youth programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating the MLTC Industrial Investments on this remarkable achievement and award. I expect many more awards and recognition of their work in the future as they create more opportunities for Indigenous investment and northwest business to flourish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Trans Legislator in Montana

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of Representative Zooey Zephyr, a state representative from our neighbour to the south, Montana. Zooey, a proud trans woman, bravely spoke out against a discriminatory bill aimed at barring transgender minors from accessing gender-affirming care. Since then, although there has been no official censure, the conservative House Leader has blocked her from speaking on the floor and cancelled all committees she was meant to attend. She's still showing up, working from a bench in the legislature hallways.

This censoring of Zooey Zephyr for defending the rights and dignity of trans people has been dubiously legal and blatantly undemocratic. It's also a disturbing reminder that across the world, even in our own backyard, people in the 2SLGBTQIA [two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual] community have been threatened, demeaned, and harassed.

The Sask Party government has failed to defend members of this community a number of times, most recently by refusing to ban conversion therapy in the province. But we can all agree that behaviour like this, that we've seen in Montana, will not stand in this province. And if that ever changes, you'll find me outside finishing the rest of this session in the hall.

I ask all members to join me in supporting Representative Zephyr and join me in condemning her undemocratic silencing and the inexcusable attacks on the LBGTQ [lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, queer] minors. Representative Zephyr, from Regina to Helena, we are with you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Fire School

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 28th to 30th the volunteer fire departments of Pilot Butte and Emerald Park were host to the 2023 spring Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association school. Approximately 300 volunteer fire department personnel from all over the province participated in the weekend.

Fire services are integral to Saskatchewan's public safety continuum, keeping people, families, and communities safe. They respond to much more than fire calls and are often first on the scene of motor vehicle collisions, rescue services, hazardous material containment and cleanup, and some medical calls as well, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association ensure that the brave volunteers in our province receive proper fire education which is vital to ensuring the safety of those in their communities. This association provides volunteers with hands-on experience, allows them to practise and refine their skills. The volunteers received several classes throughout the weekend, from firefighting basics to courses on structures, search and rescue, vehicle extraction, livestock rescue, emergency scene traffic management, and many others.

The association also helps the volunteers engage in teamwork and effective communications, which is critical in an emergency. Thank you to the Pilot Butte and Emerald Park fire departments for hosting this great weekend. And especially thank you to all those volunteer firefighters. We appreciate everything you do.

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

Sanctum Care Group Expansion

Mr. Friesen: — It's another great day in Riversdale, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell you a brief story of two people with a dream in the heart of Riversdale, started in 2015. They operate the first and only HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] hospice and transitional care home, improving lives of people living with HIV. I'm referring to Sanctum Care Group.

Only fours years later they expanded with Sanctum 1.5, Canada's first HIV and high-risk pre- and postnatal care home. This home serves women who are injecting drugs and pregnant. The goals are to improve health and social outcomes through improved access to prenatal care and prevent children from being apprehended at birth by providing a wraparound model of care.

In this time, Mr. Speaker, over 123 mothers and their infants have been able to stay together. Only two infants have gone into foster care system. Over 80 per cent of the mothers are able to graduate from the program sober with their children. Others are placed with family. These mothers that have graduated have regained custody of over 65 children. That's over 188 children out of foster care.

On May 25th and 26th I will be living on the street for 36 hours, raising money and awareness for Sanctum and really doing what I like to do — spend time with the homeless and the less fortunate. I ask all members to join me in thanking Sanctum.

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

Lipton Mud Bog Event

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For over 12 years the community of Lipton has been home to the infamous Mud Bog event. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know what you may be thinking. What events transpire at mud bogs? Let me paint a picture for you. Imagine you enter the event with your souped-up truck racing down this track with cheering spectators covered in mud from head to toe. I know what you're thinking, Mr. Speaker. This is right up your alley.

Since the inception of mud bogs, Lipton has been the hot spot for all things mud and loud trucks. Waylon Scholler, a seasoned participant from Regina pitched an idea for Lipton Mud Bog organizers to sell raffle tickets to fans while raising money for various community organizations. The prize to be won would allow 12 lucky individuals to ride through the mud pits.

Mr. Speaker, a total of \$1,600 was donated to Hope's Home. Due to the raffle's success last August, organizers plan to continue this raffle and donate funds to various organizations.

I ask that all members join me in thanking the Lipton Mud Bog crew for giving back to organizations across the province. I encourage all members and guests to drive out June 3rd to Lipton, cheer on the drivers raising money for various charities across the province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Saskatchewan Exports to the United States Hit Record High

Mr. Francis: — Mr. Speaker, it's another beautiful and record-breaking day here in Saskatchewan. Today we announced that 2022 provincial exports to the United States have hit a record all-time high of \$29.3 billion. Mr. Speaker, our top three exports to the United States last year included crude oil, potash, and canola oil. The United States is our largest export market here in Saskatchewan, and since 2018 exports have increased by a whopping 74 per cent.

The Premier recently returned from Washington, DC [District of Columbia] where he shared Saskatchewan's story to further increase trade in natural resources, including uranium and the critical minerals necessary to support high global demand.

On this side of the House we are committed to supporting our growing economy. Focusing on international markets to increase trade and investment opportunities creates more jobs and opportunities here at home. And you know, Mr. Speaker, while the NDP continue to talk down our economic growth, on this side of the House we are proud of the successes that we are seeing.

And, Mr. Speaker, you might also know we never experienced this type of growth under the NDP. In fact the last time they were

in office, they drove people, jobs, and investment out of this province. But under this government, we are seeing record exports, record population, and endless opportunities. And, Mr. Speaker, that is something to be very proud of, and most certainly growth that works for everyone.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Cost of Living and Affordability

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government failed to deliver any relief at all for families struggling with the cost of living. Yesterday the Finance minister acknowledged that the average families in this province were left out of their budget. She mused that it was her own personal opinion that a cut to the PST [provincial sales tax], that is something that should have been brought forward. Mr. Speaker, we haven't even finished voting off the estimates and the Finance minister is already admitting that families in this province need some relief. Mr. Speaker, we agree.

Curious. What does the Premier think about the fact that his Finance minister doesn't think that there was any relief at all for the cost-of-living crisis for families in his budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the Finance minister, I'm happy to inform the Leader of the Opposition and all in this House that I think a great deal of her, Mr. Speaker, to the level that we've appointed her the Deputy Premier of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, she introduced the budget just this last month, again \$2 billion in affordability measures. I went through one of them yesterday. I'll go into a little more detail, Mr. Speaker, and that's a family of four, compared today to when the members opposite were government. Mr. Speaker, under the members opposite, that family of four paid about \$5,000, paid about \$5,000 in income tax. That family of four, that same family of four with a household income of \$75,000 today, paying just a little less than \$2,000 a year, Mr. Speaker.

How did that happen, you might ask? And, Mr. Speaker, how that happened is we raised the personal exemption. We raised the spousal exemption. We raised the child tax exemption, and we lowered income tax rates in this province, Mr. Speaker. That most certainly, in addition to the \$2 billion in each and every budget, including this budget, that address affordability concerns for families and for Saskatchewan residents, Mr. Speaker, that most certainly is growth that continues to work for everyone.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it's obvious the Premier came prepped with some lines, and I can understand why. Here's what the Finance minister, Mr. Speaker, had to say in her own words, and I quote, "Into the future, and this is speculative and my own opinion so we don't have a position as a government, I would like to lower the PST."

Of course, Mr. Speaker, this budget does none of that. This budget keeps all of the PST increases plus all of the ones from 2017, Mr. Speaker, the highest tax increase in the history of this province. So I'm curious, what is the Premier's own personal opinion about the fact that his Finance minister thinks that they should have lowered the PST?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd love to lower the PST. And we did from 9 per cent, Mr. Speaker, under the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, as we know in this House and across the province, there was \$500 tax affordability cheques that were disbursed last fall to families across Saskatchewan, far in excess of the \$105, I believe, or \$104 that were offered by the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. We've lowered personal income tax. We introduced the active families benefit, an affordability measure for families with young children in the province, Mr. Speaker.

First-time homebuyers are receiving a tax credit here in Saskatchewan, and in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, \$10-a-day child care. And we are going to retain, unlike the members opposite, one of the largest tax incentives for young career people that are choosing to live in Saskatchewan, often families with children, and that's the graduate retention program that 81,000 Saskatchewan residents benefit from day in, day out.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, despite the spin, we saw a pretty stunning break in cabinet solidarity over there yesterday: the Finance minister admitting, Mr. Speaker, admitting that there was no relief for regular families in their budget, Mr. Speaker. And she admitted that she thinks that there need to be cuts to PST to help families who are struggling. But none of that of course, Mr. Speaker, was actually in this budget.

So what is the policy of that Premier? Should families keep paying more PST like we see in this budget, or does he agree with the Finance minister that there should be some cost-of-living relief? Which is it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Because I went through a number of the tax incentives that we have, most notably for our families in the province of Saskatchewan, there's many more, and I would hope that over the course of this afternoon, we are going to have the opportunity to put those all on the record, Mr. Speaker, and contrast those with some of the policies that we hear are coming from the members opposite.

But I want to just mention one of those, Mr. Speaker, and that's the active families benefit introduced by this government, delivered again in this budget this particular year, an active families benefit that actually is being emulated by the NDP party in Alberta that's running for election there, Mr. Speaker. If it's good enough for the NDP party in Alberta, Mr. Speaker, we would hope that it's good enough for Saskatchewan residents.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had a pretty unprecedented break in cabinet solidarity by that Finance minister and that Deputy Premier. You know, when the guffaws are their tell, Mr. Speaker, they know what a breach it was. To defend her government's awful record on increasing the cost of living, delivering no relief, and bringing about the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan history, she now floated that she thinks that PST relief is needed.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this is a bush league move. This is the Finance minister who has a budget before us that should be offering that relief. What does the Finance minister say to her colleagues who have been defending that tired and out-of-touch budget that we know that she doesn't even agree with?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to share those conversations because on this side of the House, we're all unified on the same opinion. We are going to keep growth. We believe in growth. We believe in investment into our province and attracting that investment. And if you look at our past years, do you know what? As we grow, as we grow, we have lowered taxes, lowered taxes, lowered taxes.

So let's put that conversation in context, Mr. Speaker. You bet, we are going to continue to stand up for Saskatchewan. We're going to continue to try to attract more investment. And as the economy grows, we're going to continue to lower taxes.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's laughable. For weeks members of that cabinet and government have been carrying water for that minister and that budget that doesn't offer a dime of relief, a budget that keeps the PST on construction labour and on the foods families buy in the grocery store, Mr. Speaker.

But now the Finance minister shares that she doesn't believe in her budget and that it's time to roll back the damaging tax that they've imposed on Saskatchewan people, the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history. So when will the Finance minister actually deliver some relief, relief that could be part of this budget before it's voted off, or will it be yet another partisan vote-buying announcement on the eve of an election?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Let me help the member opposite out just a little bit on our record and what we are very unified on on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. You know what the general rate for the corporate income tax was when they were government in 2007? It was 14 per cent, Mr. Speaker. It was 14 per cent. What is it today? Twelve. We lowered that tax.

Mr. Speaker, small business that he pretends that he cares about. What was the small-business tax when they were in government in 2007? It was 4.5 per cent. What is it today in this budget? It's 1. It's 1 per cent, Mr. Speaker — that's the record of our

government.

And what was the threshold for those small businesses? Well it was 400,000. What is it today? 600,000, Mr. Speaker. Personal income taxes, we've put on record again and again and again how much we've lowered it. That is the record of this government, is any time that we can stimulate the economy, we need that economy and that growth to work for everyone, and that lowers the taxes.

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

Provincial Revenue Agency and Party Unity

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You bet they're unified, Mr. Speaker. Unified in scandal and waste and sticking Saskatchewan people with the bill, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in rejecting our calls to take the PST off of food that families buy at the grocery store, like muffins and salads and rotisserie chickens, the Finance minister said her hands were tied because that's the system that the feds use on the GST, Mr. Speaker.

That's nonsense, Mr. Speaker, especially when you consider the reasons that the minister gives for plowing ahead with the costly, redundant, virtue-signalling exercise that is the Saskatchewan revenue agency. On the one hand, they say they have to be in lock-step with Ottawa on taxes. On the other, we apparently need to chart boldly our own way. How does this make any sense?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance has responded to that particular question, which that member has asked a hundred times a hundred times.

Let's talk about unity, Mr. Speaker. This is a crew opposite with 12 members who have literally 12 positions on every single issue. Just pick one that day, Mr. Speaker, and pick that member.

Let's talk about the NRTA [Natural Resources Transfer Agreement], for example. We have the member for Saskatoon Centre who says that that power should be taken away. It was illegal. She's supporting a lawsuit that wants to give the authority over natural resources to the Trudeau government. These members say, oh, no, no, that's not our position, Mr. Speaker. Who knows what their position actually is, but I think it's probably the member for Saskatoon Centre.

On pipelines, the member for Rosemont stands up and votes against Keystone XL, and then he stands up every second day and says, oh, I love pipelines, Mr. Speaker. Which one is it? I think we know which one it is, Mr. Speaker.

On the carbon tax, what is their position? We know because Ryan Meili said he supports a carbon tax, which they ran on, Mr. Speaker. Obviously we don't support that. They have a different . . .

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, that minister just says whatever he wants in here, Mr. Speaker. You know, the facts don't matter, Mr. Speaker. People know where we stand.

And no answer on the Saskatchewan revenue agency that will cause people, taxpayers and businesses to pay more than \$260 million more over the next decade, forcing businesses to file twice, all in an effort to pander to their separatist base.

But when it comes to taking the PST off food that people buy in grocery stores during a cost-of-living crisis, well that's just a bridge too far. Mr. Speaker, does the minister actually believe that this widely panned and wasteful revenue agency project . . . Or is this just another policy where her personal opinion differs from that of her government?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well that was quite an assertion, Mr. Speaker, from the member opposite. This government has 60-per-cent-plus support of the province of Saskatchewan. He just called that base separatist, Mr. Speaker. That is, that's quite an accusation to make against 60 per cent of the public that support this government.

But let's continue with the unity theme here, Mr. Speaker, and the members opposite. This is a crew that has literally 12 positions on every single issue. What about the grad retention program? This is just literally from this week, Mr. Speaker. We have the member for Saskatoon University said it is a waste of money, we need to get rid of it. Then they stand up and say, oh, great program. Mr. Speaker, which one do you believe? They actually voted against it, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to allowing alcohol consumption in parks, on the one hand they stand up . . . Actually they didn't vote for the bill, but they said that they supported it. And then we have the member for Nutana — and there's a whole bunch of ground on this one to go, Mr. Speaker — but said that she actually does not support that, Mr. Speaker.

Then we have the firearms bill. Make a great show of being supportive of *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. Then what happens? Well the member for Nutana says, we actually don't support that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Yes. No answer, all deflection. As for unity, you know, they're unified with mismanagement. They're unified on the taxes, Mr. Speaker. Not so unified though when it comes to nominations these days, Mr. Speaker, though.

You know, the minister can't have it both ways when it comes to taxes and the federal government. She can't claim that it's Ottawa's fault that that Sask Party government is applying the PST to regular foods that parents and seniors buy every day in the grocery store, while at the same time they keep pouring millions into a costly tax collection virtue-signalling project, all as some misguided policy to pander to, you know, a separatist base, Mr. Speaker.

How does that minister square this circle? Why won't she do the right thing and scrap this plan before another dime, or millions, are wasted?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — There they go again, Mr. Speaker. Sixty per cent of the public of the province are separatists apparently to the NDP. I guess if you don't support the NDP, Mr. Speaker, you are a separatist, according to that member opposite.

But we know who they are unified with, Mr. Speaker, because they have made it very, very clear. They are unified with their two leaders: Jagmeet Singh and Justin Trudeau. They are unified on the policy agenda of Justin Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh. And what is that policy agenda, Mr. Speaker? It is anti-energy, it is anti-pipeline, it is pro-carbon tax, it is anti-development — all things that they have a long record of being in favour of.

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

Health Care Staffing

Ms. Mowat: — That's simply not the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in doctors' offices across the province, posters are popping up. They're from the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians, and they're targeted at people who don't have a family doctor. The poster asks patients who can't get a family doctor to write to their MLAs to call for a solution.

The minister has constantly downplayed the problems in health care. He thinks everything is fine. Does the fact that doctors are organizing a letter-writing campaign not bother the minister? What else do they need to do before he'll admit there are problems when it comes to family medicine?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And this government does take it very serious. That's why the Minister of Rural and Remote, myself, and all members on this House meet with health care providers, almost on a daily basis, to be able to talk about what's going on in their community and where we can make some improvement.

Mr. Speaker, just last week, I didn't hear any comments from the opposition on this, other than their one statement on the blended capitation model that is being brought forward by the Saskatchewan Medical Association specifically to retain, Mr. Speaker, specifically to retain and recruit physicians from across the province.

And also this year I want to be able to say that this is the first time that the College of Medicine was able to fill up all of their family medicine. This is the first time in history we've been able to do this, better than any other medicine school across the country, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to invest within our physicians and all of our health care team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, changing compensation is a positive step forward, but it's only one step, and we need physician-led, team-based care across this province.

The poster reads, "This crisis will worsen as more family physicians retire and fewer medical school graduates enter this profession unless we act now." They're not saying there will be a crisis, Mr. Speaker, they're saying we're already in a crisis.

Doctors are saying it and patients are saying it, but the minister is not saying it. Who does the minister think we should believe about the state of our health care system — family doctors or him?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This coming from a group that cut the positions, Mr. Speaker. They cut psychiatric nurse positions in our province, Mr. Speaker. We've added from 60 positions in our Medicine up to 128, over doubling it, Mr. Speaker.

The members ask, who do I listen to, Mr. Speaker? How about Dr. John Gjevre, the outgoing SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] president: "This is positive news, and we are very pleased to hear that the Minister of Health and the government are willing to be partners with us and improve our care for patients improving." Or I . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm not back-patting. This is the doctors, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are the doctors. And if they don't want to believe them, then that's fine, Mr. Speaker.

This is exactly what the physicians are telling me. It's in the news. It's in the media, Mr. Speaker, to be able to talk about the great investment that this government is continuing to do in our primary care, our surgical backlog to make sure that the patients of Saskatchewan get the service that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — The SMA has also said that we still need team-based care, Mr. Speaker. They've been very clear about this, and that this is a step in that direction, but this is not team-based care, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's always the same from this tired and out-of-touch government. People in health care flag a serious urgent issue, the government ignores it. The issue gets worse and worse and explodes into a full-blown crisis. The government finally takes notice at the last minute and announces a plan to make a plan. We've seen it with the lack of pediatric GI specialists, we're seeing it with family physicians.

When is this minister going to start doing his job and deal with the crises before they get to the point of no return?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just a news update that we announced this back in September with a very public event on our four-point human resource plan to be able to secure individuals, recruit, retain, incentivize, and train individuals across this province, Mr. Speaker. We've been talking about this all the time, Mr. Speaker.

We do have great successes in this, Mr. Speaker. We have added 550 seats across 18 designations, Mr. Speaker, on top of the 150 nursing seats. That brings us to 944 nursing seats in our province. Again, as I identified in my previous question, going from 60 back in 2007 when they had the privilege of forming government up to 128, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

We have a great working relationship with this Saskatchewan Medical Association, with the College of Medicine, to be able to make sure. And also, Mr. Speaker, introducing physician assistants, Mr. Speaker, which is absolutely brand new to this province. It's going to help secure our health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is totally failing to deliver in our kids' classrooms around this province. Saskatoon Public and Regina Public have already told parents and teachers that cuts will be needed to balance the budget. Now Prairie Valley School Division is the latest, with an email sent to parents last week because their division is actually getting a black-and-white cut to its operating dollars.

While its enrolment is increasing by over 100 students, they wrote families saying, "PBSD's operating funding for 2023-24 is 103.9 million, a reduction of 261,000 compared to last year. With enrolment projected to increase by 105 students, per-student funding will decrease."

Mr. Speaker, again it's more students with fewer dollars. How does this make any sense to that out-of-touch government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to meet with the senior administration and the board — board members, not all of them — last week of Regina Public School Division. I have a meeting with the senior leadership of Saskatoon Public School Division later this week. I have meetings with both Regina and Saskatoon Catholic school divisions next week.

What I have indicated to them, even on budget day, Mr. Speaker, is that we based our budget based on their projections that they gave us in January. And we at that time indicated that we thought their projections were low compared to what enrolment is expected to be in September. But we used their numbers like we did last year, Mr. Speaker. And what we did last year was provide a mid-year adjustment and an additional \$20 million in

enrolment growth, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will be having conversations with those school divisions to look at not only enrolment growth that we're expecting, and working with them through that. But as well, Mr. Speaker, we're also expecting recommendations from the class size and composition committee, hopefully by the end of this month. And we'll be looking to address those as well.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this minister keeps talking about doing the same as what they did last year. What they did last year is why thousands of people came here to protest outside the steps of this legislature. And they came from all over Saskatchewan, including rural areas like Prairie Valley.

Now the Premier and the minister can claim that these folks have been heard and that they'll look at funding for in-year enrolment in the cities. But that's not the issue in these rural school divisions. Their problem isn't an influx of thousands of new students. Their problem is that there simply is not enough funding for education, and they will see a reduction in per-student funding this year again, below 2015 levels.

What is that minister going to do to respond to the needs in rural school divisions?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in his previous question he referenced that enrolment is going up in Prairie Valley, and now he says that it's not enrolment that's driving issues, Mr. Speaker.

What I've indicated to the school divisions is that we knew last year that enrolment projections provided to the ministry by the school divisions in January that we budgeted on in March, Mr. Speaker, by the September reconciliation date at the end of September, that those numbers were no longer accurate, Mr. Speaker. So we did provide dollars in November.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from school divisions that would like to know prior, certainly prior to November what we will do in terms of an enrolment adjustment. That's what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. We are working with those school divisions to look at what their projections were to see what may actually be the case when enrolment does show up in schools in September, Mr. Speaker. We'll be working with them over the next number of weeks to try to get a better sense of what their numbers actually will be in September, Mr. Speaker, and then we will be making decisions based on that.

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

Overdose Deaths and Harm Reduction Initiatives

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Every life lost to drug overdose is a tragedy. In the last four months Saskatchewan has had 186 tragedies. 186 families who have lost a loved one, 186 times paramedics, doctors, and nurses couldn't

save a person's life. There are few families who've been left untouched by these tragedies. These numbers are too high and action is needed to save lives.

The minister touts recovery programs, but you have to be alive to get treatment. When will the minister fund safe consumption sites like Prairie Harm Reduction in Saskatoon to ensure that people survive the tainted drug crisis and ensure fewer families have to bury loved ones?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We extend our condolences to each and every family across this province that's lost a loved one to overdose, Mr. Speaker.

In this year's budget, \$80 million specifically towards addictions services and supports. Of that, 12.4 million targeted specifically at accessing treatment and detox. As well, additional dollars for harm reduction and prevention, Mr. Speaker. More funding for more treatment spaces in this province. The launch of overdose outreach teams, Mr. Speaker. The launch of mass spectrometers in Regina and Saskatoon as part of our harm reduction efforts, Mr. Speaker.

Funding for housing supports at the Phoenix Society here in Regina, for the SHA's [Saskatchewan Health Authority] opioid stewardship program, Mr. Speaker. Partnerships with the Saskatoon Tribal Council and other organizations across this province to provide mobile services, Mr. Speaker. And more to come in the months ahead.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present the fifth report, which includes the 2023-24 estimates and the '22-23 supplementary estimates, no. 2.

I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice now be concurred in.

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

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 125, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on the bill and that this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 125, *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Minister, you may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 125 — *The Cannabis Control (Saskatchewan) Amendment Act, 2022*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

**Standing Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the

Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report, which includes the 2023-24 estimates and the 2022-23 supplementary estimates no. 2.

I move:

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

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

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

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 91, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 91 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Part III) Amendment Act, 2022*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 134, *The Education Amendment Act, 2023* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 134, *The Education Amendment Act, 2023* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 134 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2023* *Loi modificative de 2023 sur l'éducation*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — 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 the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 135, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 135, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

[14:45]

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 135 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — 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 the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Third reading.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for Committee of Finance.

[15:00]

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

The Chair: — Good afternoon. The business before the committee are the estimates for the Executive Council. The first item on business are the main estimates for Executive Council, vote 10, found on page 49 of the Government of Saskatchewan Estimates book.

Before we begin, I'd like to advise the Committee of Finance of the process. First I will invite the Premier to introduce his officials, followed by calling the estimate. Then the Premier can make his opening remarks. Will the Premier now introduce his officials.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or Deputy Chair, or Mr. Chair. I'll just take a few moments to introduce the officials that have joined us here today, starting with my chief of staff seated to my left, Shannon Andrews. To my right is a special advisor to the Premier, Reg Downs. We have to Shannon's left, Raynelle Wilson. She's the deputy minister to the Premier and the cabinet secretary. We have Kristen Fry behind Raynelle. She's the executive director of corporate services. To her right is Jared Dunlop, the director of policy and research. And immediately behind Jared is Ashley Knisley, the manager of House business.

General Revenue Fund Executive Council Vote 10

Subvote (EX01)

The Chair: — Thank you, Premier. Executive Council, vote 10, subvote (EX01), central management and services. The Premier may proceed with his opening remarks. Premier?

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I will stand corrected. The proper pronunciation is Knisley and I've been doing this for four months, and she's just informed me now that I've been using the wrong pronunciation of her name. But it might stick, so we might stick with Knisley actually. I'll have to discuss that with her parents.

But, Mr. Chair, I do want to welcome everyone to this House

here today, and welcome the Leader of the Opposition as her first time in Premier's estimates as Leader of the Opposition party. And I'm looking forward to the next number of hours — three hours — and the chance for us to debate many important issues, issues that are important to the people of Saskatchewan.

Estimates does provide more time for each of us to outline some of the government's actions in much greater depth, but also allow our government to explain our policies and our actions as we do every day when it comes to question period inside this House and then ultimately outside this House. But the estimates does provide us with a greater length of time to get into some more of the details. And I'm also looking forward to the Leader of the Opposition to clarify some of the policies that their party has.

But I want to first start by saying a few words about our government's record, and a few of the great things that are going on in Saskatchewan today due to the work of Saskatchewan people. And as we know, a few months ago we had our Speech from the Throne that was titled "Growth That Works for Everyone." And over the course of this session we have made every effort to put those words into action, up to and including the most recent budget that we'll debate here today.

The very first word of that statement is "growth" and that's, I think, where we can say that it all starts. Everything that we are able to do as a government, everything we have ever been able to do as a government, regardless of who is the governing party in this province, comes from growth. It comes from the ability for us to grow our economy, ultimately grow our population, grow our trade, more exports here in the province, more investment arriving in the province, and ultimately more jobs.

We are able to do that, I would say, today more than we have ever been before in the history of the province. We have more growth than we have experienced in the history of the province. The strongest economic growth in Canada is not in Alberta; it's not in British Columbia; it's not in Ontario. It's right here in our province, the province of Saskatchewan. Twenty-nine thousand people have chosen to make this province home over the course of the last year. That's the largest rate of population growth in over 108 years, Mr. Speaker.

Saskatchewan is now home to 1.221 million people. That is the largest number of people that have ever lived in our province and that's according to Statistics Canada live counter as of a couple of hours ago. It's about 200,000-and-some people more than when the opposition had the opportunity to be government in this party. That's up nearly 30 per cent through the first three months of 2023, and that's on top of a 41 per cent increase last year.

Mr. Speaker, we have more export sales abroad. And that ultimately means more jobs here at home — 5,600 more jobs in Saskatchewan so far this year. That's on top of 20,000 jobs that arrived here last year. And all this growth allows us to make record investments in health care and in education and in affordability measures that have been brought forward on behalf of the people we represent and support and yes, for those in our province that do require some help.

It's allowed for important new projects like schools and hospitals, new highways, and upgrading existing highway infrastructure to make it safer for our families. And it still allows

us to pay down, not just this year but this year and last year, in each of them, a billion dollars in debt. That truly is growth and then that subsequent growth working for everyone.

And I know that we're going to have the chance to discuss those issues of our . . . the record of our government in much more depth here over the next few hours.

But today is also an opportunity for the members opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, to explain some of their party's positions, because they are variable. Today the NDP likes to say that they've been crystal clear in some of those positions, but that just simply is not the case. Their crystal has actually been quite cloudy on most days, for instance the carbon tax, provincial control over natural resources, economic growth, firearms laws, and a number of other issues that I'm sure we'll get to throughout the afternoon.

The NDP, they either have no position or they have a number of different positions on each of those topics. And so today is going to be a good opportunity, yes, for us to defend the government record, but also for the Leader of the Opposition to put on the record where some of their crystal cloudy, crystal cloudy positions are.

Mr. Speaker, for example they claim day in, day out to oppose a Trudeau carbon tax, but the NDP member for Saskatoon Nutana has publicly stated she supports that carbon tax. They say they support pipelines, but last week the member for Lloydminster listed several examples of where the NDP had voted against and several times they had spoken out against pipelines. And we know the federal NDP leader, their federal NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh, he supports the Trudeau carbon tax and he most certainly opposes every single pipeline project that has been proposed in this nation.

The NDP claim to support provincial control of our natural resources as per the Constitution, but the NDP member for Saskatoon Centre tweeted that the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement should be illegal. And she publicly supported and attended a news conference launching a lawsuit trying to strip this constitutionally protected control of resources away from the province.

And so while we're on that topic, we've seen many previous NDP leaders take positions both in favour and against and opposed to First Nations revenue sharing, for example. But we haven't yet heard where the NDP and this NDP leader stands today. Dwain Lingenfelter, for example, supported it. Cam Brotin opposed it. Ryan Meili, he supported it before he became leader and was very critical of Brotin, but then he never talked about it again once he became leader. So maybe today the Leader of the Opposition is going to take this opportunity and tell us where her party stands when it comes to resource revenue sharing in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Chair, the NDP desperately continue trying to convince people that Saskatchewan's economy is dire or a dumpster fire, but I think deep down they even know that's not true. They know that we have record population growth in this province. They know that we have record exports and strong job growth in this province. And they know that Statistics Canada says that Saskatchewan led the country in economic growth last year. And

according to many over there, including the Leader of the Opposition, Statistics Canada does not lie.

Mr. Speaker, also we see the NDP, they claim to be concerned about people leaving this province, even though Saskatchewan is today growing at its fastest rate of growth, its fastest pace in over a century.

But in last week's estimates, we had the NDP member for Saskatoon University who said that we should scrap the graduate retention plan, one of the largest tax incentives creating affordability measures for those young career families that are living in our province. This plan has provided thousands of dollars in tax incentives to young people who stay in Saskatchewan, and I believe at last count, it's about 81,000 young people.

So at the same time that they want us to get rid of the graduate retention program, which is a tax credit creating affordability opportunities for young career people in this province, the NDP also want us to allow a new tax on Saskatchewan residents. Last Thursday, for example, the NDP member for Elphinstone-Centre, she called on the government to give school boards back the ability to impose property tax.

So, Mr. Speaker, we all remember when the education property tax in this province were under control . . . that was under a New Democrat administration, education property taxes were so high that we saw tax revolts across this province. We saw tax revolts right in the hallways of this very building. And even with those high taxes, Mr. Chair, even with those high taxes, the NDP was still able to manage and managed to close roughly about a school a month — 176 schools over 16 years, Mr. Speaker, even with those uncontrollable taxes. So I hope that we have the opportunity to discuss the NDP's plan to give back the high education property taxes to the people of the province alongside with potential school closures.

And while I'm on the topic of education, we've heard from a number of NDP members on this, Mr. Speaker, including their leader, that says the government should stop funding all independent schools in this province. Last week the same member who wants higher education property tax also spoke out against school choice for parents. School choice for parents, Mr. Speaker. And the NDP member for Eastview was very critical of any funding at all for independent schools. So today is a chance to very clearly, for the NDP to explain, would they eliminate school choice for those parents in this province and stop the funding to independent schools?

Also, Mr. Speaker, the NDP, they say they want to shorten surgical wait times in this province, but they then oppose publicly funded private surgeries. Would the NDP cancel all the publicly funded private surgeries that are occurring in this province today, Mr. Speaker? And I hope that there will be some enlightenment on that today.

They say they are opposed to the privatization of liquor stores, which we have had for decades in this province in rural communities. But their SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] critic actually asked the government for more private liquor stores, Mr. Speaker. They voted in favour of the firearms Act, but a couple weeks later we saw the member for

Saskatoon Nutana said that she actually opposed the firearms Act. That same NDP member also came out against municipalities to have the right to allow, at their choosing, alcohol consumption in their provincial parks, even though other NDP members called for this change and actually publicly supported it. Again a variable view.

And that same NDP member, Mr. Chair, called for the legalization of more illegal drugs in Saskatchewan, which we did see them recently do in NDP British Columbia. So today would be a great opportunity for the NDP leader to tell us which, exactly, harmful drugs that an NDP government — heaven forbid — would legalize in this province.

Mr. Chair, that's just a short list, and there's more to come of the NDP's inconsistent and crystal cloudy positions on a number of issues that are very important to Saskatchewan residents. And I look forward to discussing both the government's position and the opposition's position on these as well as many other important topics over the course of the next few hours.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is indeed an honour to rise for the first time as the Leader of the Official Opposition and enter into Premier's estimates. I'd like to thank the Premier for his opening remarks, and I'd like to thank his officials for joining us here today.

In some of that preamble I worry that the Premier is, you know, torqued up with some spin for perhaps a fight that doesn't exist. I want to talk about the people of this province. I would like to talk about that Premier's record and look forward to the bright future that I think we all can agree that we want for ourselves and for our children in this province, Mr. Chair.

You know, there is untapped potential in this province. We have an amazing, an amazing abundance of resources, and the most, the most precious resource we have in this province are the people who live here. No matter how long people have chosen, how long people have lived on these lands in this province — if it's been generations back to the time immemorial or those who have just come, Mr. Speaker — we are incredibly lucky.

And you know, it is an incredible honour to get to stand here in this place, not something I ever thought would happen, Mr. Chair, when I was growing up on the farm. But it is an honour.

[15:15]

And I want to say when I was first elected, I remember thinking about how do you represent the views of 10,000 people? Well here we are now. How do you represent the views of over a million people in this province and a land mass that is larger than Germany? I think the only way that you can even hope to get close to that is by listening to people, by hearing from them, and sharing not only their concerns and their frustrations — and there certainly are those, Mr. Chair — but their hopes, their dreams. And I can't tell you how proud I am. You know, it's often remarked, it is a small team over here. But you've got a group of dedicated people who do just that.

The questions that we bring today are focused on those

conversations that people have had with us, that we've been privileged enough to hear. They're focused on this Premier's record, and they're focused on the potential that we see in this province, Mr. Speaker. And sometimes, you know, government needs to give people a hand. Sometimes they need to get out of the way. But they always, always must have as their north star the well-being of people in this province today and into the future. So you'll find that's where the majority of my remarks are focused.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the chance to slow it down, to retreat from some of the spin, the vitriol, because I think the people of this province deserve to hear real answers, and not that spin.

With that, my first question. In the Premier's opening comments he mentioned year-over-year GDP [gross domestic product] growth. We've heard it a few times. Could the Premier please share with the committee what Saskatchewan's GDP was each year that he's been in office — five years. What was it in 2018? What was it in 2022?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Chair, just pulling some numbers on various years here, as we don't have the list of the years. But what I would say is, if we go back to 2007 when we formed government, about \$65.9 billion was the GDP of the province. In '11 when I was first elected it was \$72.6 billion, and this past year was \$81.8 billion, Mr. Speaker.

If you go more recently, Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last five years, in those last five years there's been some challenges that have been faced here in Saskatchewan, I would say, but not just in Saskatchewan, all of them. However some of them are more exclusive to maybe we would say the rural or Prairie provinces, Mr. Speaker.

And the first of that was a drought. A generational drought in 2021 had an impact on Saskatchewan's GDP. The second I think was more broadly an impact across the nation and likely around the world, and that was a global pandemic in 2020, where there was some unprecedented decisions that were made by this government and many, many other governments across Canada and around the world.

So more recently, Mr. Speaker, I would point to a few things. In 2020 there was a general election in this province, and that was as we were finding our way, navigating our way through a global pandemic just prior to a generational drought, in the year prior to that generational drought that impacted our agricultural economy here. And the ballot question in that election was, who's best to lead that recovery, Mr. Speaker? Who's best to lead the economic recovery here in the province that we live and love, Mr. Speaker? Who was best to lead the pandemic recovery as we found our way through that very unprecedented time, Mr. Speaker? And the people of Saskatchewan, they spoke in that election, Mr. Speaker.

And since that time, what we are seeing is unprecedented investment into various industries — climbing the ag value-add chain, Mr. Speaker — one of the largest, largest single investments in the province of Saskatchewan in the development

of what will be the largest potash mine in the province, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing investment back into our forestry industry, investment back into our energy industry so that we can do what we do best, which is provide global energy and food security to not only our allies but to all around the world, Mr. Speaker.

More notably to this last year, as our nation and the world finds themselves economically fully recovering from a global pandemic, what we are seeing here is our GDP growth in this province is leading the nation. Last year in forecasts to lead the nation this year. 5.7 per cent was the growth in 2022. That was top in the nation. Second was Alberta at 5.1 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's notable that there wasn't one other province that crested the 4 per cent mark. And so you had these two outliers in Alberta at 5.1, Saskatchewan at 5.7, and no other province even cresting 4 per cent in the GDP growth from last year.

So as we look out to this next year, we see a number of different economic quotes from folks that are watching these sorts of things very closely, Mr. Chair. And I just want to read a couple of those in. The first is from The Conference Board of Canada and it's from April 16th of this year: "The government has made it clear that the fiscal plan is to return to budget to balance, but there are still funds available to help build a strong Saskatchewan." RBC [Royal Bank of Canada], the Canadian economic outlook in March of this year said, "The province led the country last year in GDP growth and we expect a sharp increase in capital investment which will keep that expansion going." Mr. Chair, *TD Economics* had this to say: "Saskatchewan should be one of the nation's growth leaders in 2023."

And so what I would say is as we ran that last election, the provincial election in 2020, we ran very much on that ballot question of who is best to recover economically and who is best to recover from a global pandemic in this province. We feel the people of the province have made their selection in that election. We have followed up with our actions by making every effort to attract investment into our province, whether that be through engagement with our international trade offices, engagement with ministers or myself in markets of interest around the world. And I very much would say that that investment is landing here today.

I mentioned the potash mine, BHP, twelve and a half billion dollars, the largest single investment ever to land in the province. The largest investment by the largest mining company that the largest mining company in the world has ever made — the largest single investment that BHP has ever made.

We see Foran Mining proposing a net zero copper mine in the northeastern portion of our province, Mr. Speaker. We see the forestry industry expanding in Carrot River. We see the forestry industry making additional investments in the Prince Albert area. That has precipitated decisions made by the Minister of Highways to upgrade some of our forestry roads that are used by the forestry industry but are also used by families that are experiencing and touring our province's beautiful North.

We're seeing value-added investment, Mr. Speaker, in particular in agricultural value-added investment. And most notably in the canola — but not only — but most notably in the canola crush

sector with Cargill building their facility just west of the city, Mr. Speaker, at the Global Transportation Hub.

[15:30]

We see Viterra are going to begin building what would be the largest canola crush facility in the world, AGT partnering with Federated Co-operatives, another expansion to Cargill's facility in Saskatoon. And we see both Richardson and Louis Dreyfus doubling the capacity of their facilities.

And I would say on that front and the engagement that we're having in areas around the world and with folks that are investing in that ag value-added space, Mr. Speaker, that the story is just beginning. And we are in the very early chapters of what I think is going to be a tremendously exciting and successful book for Saskatchewan people, continuing to attract that investment, attract those jobs, ultimately attract people to live here, and so that we can continue to grow the number of jobs, grow the number of people, and ultimately grow the opportunities for our own children that live here in the province.

And so, Mr. Speaker, the growth since 2007 when we had the opportunity and the honour to form government has been about 24 per cent. It was 5.7 per cent last year, Mr. Speaker, and forecast to continue to grow into the foreseeable future.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, I always love a good next year country story, sometimes a good fable about the olden days. But my question was to the Premier about his record, his five-year record on the GDP in this province. I found the answer.

So the answer is since this Premier took office, the size of Saskatchewan's GDP has actually shrunk by \$560 million. That is a 0.7 per cent shrinkage. So not only is that not growth that works for everyone, Mr. Chair, that's not even growth.

And you know, that's unfortunate. It doesn't surprise me, because we've been out — as I noted — talking with people, hearing from people. And certainly as much as they do have optimism and, you know, are ready to dig in and get after that opportunity that is out there, people in this province are feeling the effects of a shrinking economy over the last five years since the Premier took office.

So my question is simply this to the Premier: why is the economy in this province smaller today than it was when he took office?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I walked through the last number of years with respect to GDP growth, which is one marker, Mr. Speaker. But thankfully in this province, unlike say many other provinces and many other governments, Mr. Speaker, across Canada and to my knowledge around the world, this is a government that continues to set targets, long-term targets for not only the economic growth in our province but also what people expect to see from their provincial government and what they envision their province to look like in a decade out per se.

And I remember the first time that we went through the exercise

of consulting and talking to Saskatchewan people. The Leader of the Opposition's correct: you need to talk and listen to Saskatchewan people. It was in 2012, shortly after I was elected, where we as MLAs went out to our various constituencies and talked to people about if we were to set targets for our province — economic targets, job targets, population targets, level-of-service targets quite frankly, you know — what would our communities look like across the province? And ultimately what would our province look like then more collectively?

Well we achieved many of those targets, setting them out to the year 2020, Mr. Speaker. Some of those population targets, some of those economic targets were ridiculed by the opposition of the day, Mr. Speaker. And as we found our way to 2020, which was shortly after I assumed this chair, Mr. Speaker, we undertook for a second time a consultation process with our constituents across Saskatchewan as to now . . . We looked out to 2020. Let's now look out to 2030. What does our community, collectively our communities, what does our province, what is it going to look like out to the year 2030?

And so we put in place, and it's a well known public document, our plan for growth out to the year 2030, Mr. Speaker. And so we've done some work over the course of the last number of months looking at some of the targets that were in that plan or in that document, Mr. Speaker, and you know, have we started to work towards and are we on track to achieving those targets?

And so like I said, my previous answer was, where we've been in this province, how we've managed through a pandemic, asked the people of the province for their support at the ballot box in deciding who was best to recover, to economically recover this province after a global pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, we have put in place the targets that govern and steer our decisions as a caucus and as a cabinet and as individuals in this government on how now can we work towards achieving these targets alongside Saskatchewan people. And so one of the most notable targets in that document, Mr. Speaker, was built on a plan-for-growth target of 1.2 million people by the year 2020, of which we achieved in 2022, Mr. Speaker, a couple years late, but again 200,000 people higher than when we had the honour to form government. A target of 1.4 million people out to the year 2030 in the updated document, Mr. Speaker. We've grown over 20,000 people since December 3rd, when we achieved that 1.2 million people. And we are on track, we are on track to reach 1.4 million people in the year 2030.

To grow our private capital investment in Saskatchewan to \$16 billion annually. That is a significant growth, Mr. Speaker. We're on track. We're at 14.3 billion in total investment. 10.4 is private capital investment, Mr. Speaker. That was in 2022. In 2023 we're at 13.2 billion in private capital investment, Mr. Speaker. A significant growth, year over year, and on track to ultimately achieve that target.

To increase the value of our exports from this province by 50 per cent. We are not on track for that target, Mr. Chair, because we achieved it. We have grown our export value by 50 per cent, far before we reached the 2030 growth target year.

We had a target to grow the number of international markets in which Saskatchewan exports would be more than a billion

dollars. Again, we're not on track to achieve that; we've achieved it, Mr. Speaker. And most notable of those is our largest trading partner, of which was announced today that we set a record of value of exports going to the United States of America, just today.

We set a target to grow Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion, Mr. Speaker. This is the operations of what that campaign platform was ran on, Mr. Speaker. And we had the target to grow Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to \$20 billion. We're on track to achieve that. Increase crop production to 45 million metric tons. Livestock cash receipts, \$3 billion. On track to achieve that, Mr. Chair. Increase our agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion, very much on track, and we'll be achieving that with the investments that I spoke of earlier.

Increase our crush capacity of canola to 75 per cent of the canola that we grow in the province. Definitely on track for that number. To process 50 per cent of the pulse crops that Saskatchewan produces. On track to achieve that number. Double the meat processing and animal feed value revenue to more than a billion dollars. Not on track, Mr. Chair, because that goal has been achieved already.

Increase the oil production by 25 per cent to 600,000 barrels a day. We're on track to do that despite having a pandemic year where we saw the price of oil go to negative \$7.50. So you could actually take a barrel of oil and little bit of money to go buy a Starbucks coffee and that's the only way you could get rid of the thing, Mr. Chair. Even despite that type of a challenging economic environment, we are still on track to achieve 600,000 barrels per day, which would put us very solidly in second pole position of being the second-largest oil producer, of which we are today, in the nation of Canada.

To increase the annual value of uranium sales to 2 billion. Very much on track in providing that energy security for today and, yes, tomorrow to our allies around the world.

To increase the annual value of potash sales to 9 billion. Not on track for that, because we've achieved it already.

To double the growth of Saskatchewan's forestry sector. Very much on track with the investment that we see arriving in the province.

To grow Indigenous participation in Saskatchewan's natural resource industries. Very much on track with that. And I would say, with some of the initiatives that are in place like the Indigenous finance corporation, Mr. Chair, we're not only going to see increased employment in our natural resource sector, Indigenous employment, but increased Indigenous ownership, emulating the successes that we've seen in, for example, the forestry industry where 30 per cent of the allocation, the forest management areas, are allocated to Indigenous companies and Indigenous communities. And now what we've seen follow that is 30 per cent of the employees in the forestry industry are Indigenous, and 30 per cent of the companies that are operating in the forestry industry also Indigenous-owned, Mr. Chair. And we want to emulate that across many of the other natural resource industries that we have.

To increase the value of our manufacturing exports by 50 per

cent. Not on track for that target, Mr. Chair; it's achieved.

To invest \$30 billion in infrastructure over the next decade. Most certainly on track. In fact we're ahead of our target when it comes to highways investment, hospital investment, and education investment. Which brings me to the next one: to build and upgrade 10 000 kilometres of highway. Again we're ahead of track on that target.

And to keep the budget balanced here in the province has always been a north star of ours. We've had some challenging times, like the last few years where we had to run a deficit for a couple of years during the pandemic to support Saskatchewan businesses, in particular small businesses, through a very challenging time but also to support Saskatchewan families and to support our education sector, to support our health care sector through what was really unprecedented times. We have returned not only to balance, but have returned to a surplus situation. We have taken those surpluses and are paying off that pandemic deficit that we acquired, Mr. Chair.

We also are going to continue in the advancement — and this is part of our growth plan goal — to advance the development of zero-emission small modular reactors, of which we very much are at the forefront of alongside New Brunswick, alongside Ontario and Alberta in pushing along small modular reactor technology.

We don't have many hydro opportunities here. Folks, maybe even some opposite, might think that we can run this place on windmills and solar panels, but we most certainly cannot. It doesn't provide baseload power. We either need coal-fired power, we either need natural-gas-fired power, or we're going to need something like a small modular reactor to provide that baseload power for Saskatchewan residents. And that's why we have stepped into this space, because it's one of the only realistic options that we have moving forward.

And I would just say in advent of the next week or two that most certainly this is an area where we are going to differ from some of the federal government's targets that they have out there with respect to phasing out of coal by 2030 — not realistic. Phasing out of natural gas by 2035 with their clean electricity standard — most certainly not realistic, not affordable, and not achievable, Mr. Chair. And we'll have more to say on that over the course of the next few weeks.

Mr. Chair, I would just say there's many more of these. There's many more of our growth plan targets of which we are on track to achieve, or many that we have already achieved. And we may have to reset some of those targets long before 2030. But that is only possible, it's only possible due to a government that is wholly focused on an attractive investment environment, only focused on, yes, recovering after a couple of very challenging times.

We had a generational drought in this province. We had a global pandemic that did impact folks operating in our communities, operating businesses in our communities. It did impact our health care sector. It did impact our education sector. But, Mr. Chair, what I would say is in the advent, in the post environment of that pandemic and that drought, that Saskatchewan most certainly is poised . . . [inaudible] . . . We are in this year leading the nation

in GDP growth, and we are poised to continue to lead the nation for years to come.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, lost in that answer I guess from the Premier is the fact that Saskatchewan, over the course of the premiership of that Premier, has shrunk by 0.7 per cent, and we are one of only two provinces to have seen negative growth over that time.

But I'll shift, Mr. Chair, for fear that he's going to give the same answer again. Shifting to jobs, Mr. Chair, how many people were employed in February 2018 when that Premier came to office, as compared to April 2023?

[15:45]

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I'm going to go through a number of facts and figures here, Mr. Chair, starting again at the time we had the opportunity to form government here, 506,000 jobs in the province. I'm happy to report today we're up about 75,000 jobs above that number — about just under 580,000 jobs currently here today. That number was 554,000 in February of 2018.

Mr. Chair, this is precisely what we have been focused on in attracting investment and creating a more solid relationship with our export markets around the world to ensure that we can preserve not only the jobs that we have here today but preserve the rate of growth that we have in those jobs in the province. We have . . . I've got lots of numbers going on here. So far this year we're up about 5,600 jobs in the province. That's unprecedented growth. That's building on 20,000 jobs last year. And I would say that that unprecedented growth is going to continue for some period of time as I just . . . We brought up saskjobs.ca. There's 18,006 job openings here in the province.

So I'm sure there's many folks, Canadians and international residents that are eagerly watching the estimates in Saskatchewan this afternoon. And I'd take the opportunity to invite each of them to visit the saskjobs.ca website and look for a career for them and their family to make their home here in this province.

They have incentives if they are to move here, for example, the graduate retention program of which the member for Saskatoon University said that they would do away with. A tax incentive of about \$20,000 over a number of years will essentially refund to you much of the tuition costs that you had if you live and reside and work right here in the province of Saskatchewan. It's unique to this province. No other province has a graduate retention program, and I would say that it's working and working very well.

Alongside those jobs, Mr. Chair, come people, come a lot of people, actually 212,532 of them, and that's an old number. It's actually over 221,000 people that have arrived here in the province since 2007. This is an interesting number actually, Mr. Chair. And I'd just take a moment, because I think at the end of the day at the very core of the growth agenda, the plan for growth that we have, it's about people. It's about attracting people, creating jobs in this province, having the private sector create jobs. People move here to fill those jobs. They move their families here and ultimately become part of the very fabric of our

community. It's been the success of our province for literally years, and I would even say decades now.

And so herein lies the opportunity for us to compare. To compare 16 years under the members opposite versus the most recent 16 years under the current administration. And so under the members opposite in 1991, 1,002,713 people lived here. In '07, 1,002,086. So net loss, 627 people. About 100 people a year, not quite, 85, maybe, people a year leaving the province.

I remember actually driving to my beloved Oilers games in Edmonton and you'd see on the back of the sign, the back of the Welcome to Alberta sign was, "Would the last one leaving Saskatchewan please turn out the lights." I remember that sign very well as a youth driving to Edmonton, Mr. Chair. Thankfully we were just there for a hockey game and didn't stay. We came back to this province.

You compare that to the last 16 years, Mr. Chair, with a plan-for-growth target of achieving 1.2 million people, of which we did December 3rd in 2022. And well over 21,000 people, 23,000 people have moved here even since that date.

Over 220,000 people have made their home in the province relative to about an 85-person loss per year under the members opposite. And I think that is really telling, and it's about all we need to say on where this province is today, where this province is going tomorrow versus where this province was a decade and a half ago.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm starting to get the impression that the Premier doesn't exactly want to answer my questions or talk about his own record. But good thing I was able to find those answers. And the answer is in that period, during the Premier's term, we saw job growth February of 2018, 565,000. By April of '23 that number was five hundred and eighty-seven thousand point five, Mr. Chair. That represents 4 per cent growth, which is the lowest growth in the country.

But I have to move on to some other questions here that again, these are the questions that people in this province have indicated to us are important to them. These are the concerns that they've come to this legislature, Mr. Chair, many times to talk about. Not easy to do, especially — and I'm going to talk a bit about health care now — not easy to do for people to bring their own personal health care stories, concerns to this legislature, but that's how strongly people feel about this.

And I want to point out one thing, and this was something that was mentioned here, brought forth by my colleagues. In the first six weeks of this year, with SHA ambulances alone, there were 216 times that an ambulance was called but none was available. And we certainly heard stories about that, what impact that has on people.

What I want to ask the Premier is how many times since then — and that was February 14th — has it been the case that people in this province have called for an SHA ambulance, only to find that there was none available?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do not have the number specific to that, but I can speak more broadly to the emergency medical services that are being invested in here in the province. And I can maybe speak, before I get to that, just . . . Maybe I'll start with this, and then I'll go to a little bit of just my personal experience as well, Mr. Chair.

First, there's \$3 million that was invested in and transferred to our ambulance operators across the province for fuel subsidy, with the inflationary pressures that they were feeling when it comes to the cost of fuel. And about \$20 million has been additionally invested in our EMS [emergency medical services] operations across the province, including on the public, as SHA operates some of their ambulances, but more specific right here to Regina, there's \$2.4 million that was provided in addition to their funding.

That created twenty-four and a half full-time equivalents, paramedic positions that are available. It helps to staff two additional ambulances in the community of Regina, understanding the pressures that we have, not just in Regina, but across the province, Mr. Chair. Two additional paramedic response units will join those ambulances. Further there's an investment of \$5.6 million in total since 2020, has added two more additional 24-hour-a-day, seven-day staffed ambulances in Regina, and three more 24-hour-a-day, seven-day ambulances staffed in Saskatoon.

On the private ambulance side — and maybe this is where I would just digress for a moment — I live in an area of the province where the ambulances are not owned by the SHA. And there are times when, yes, they're busy covering a vast area. And most notably, I would say, one of them had a car added to their fleet there, which is entirely helpful. But when you do call for an ambulance in my area, it may not come from Blaine Lake, which is the closest point.

[16:00]

It may come from Spiritwood. It may come from Big River. It may actually come from Rosthern, as they are busy. They are busy servicing all of the people encompassing that area. Understanding that there was significant investments made in this budget, and this might be one of the reasons why the members opposite might support this budget this particular year. Over 33 full-time equivalent paramedics in 27 different communities have been added to our ambulance fleet. So those communities, Mr. Chair, are Biggar, Carnduff, Cupar, Cut Knife, Eston, Fillmore, Hudson Bay, Kamsack, Kindersley, Lestock, Lloydminster, Melville, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Norquay, North Battleford, Outlook, Porcupine Plain, Prince Albert, Radville, Shaunavon, Stoughton, Wakaw, Wawota, Weyburn, Wilkie, and Yorkton.

All have received additional FTEs [full-time equivalent] or additional investment due to this budget, in addition the SHA-owned ambulances, in addition to the private operators that we have that provide an excellent service across the province including, as I said, the place of the province where I live, including the fixed-wing ambulance service that we have that will service many of our northern communities.

We have added, in our time in government, the STARS [Shock

Trauma Air Rescue Service] air ambulance, Mr. Chair. Saskatchewan air ambulance and STARS received this last year about \$27 million annually to purchase a new helicopter which is one of three new helicopters that they are in the process of purchasing. And I would remind this committee at this point that STARS was brought in — and those of you that were here — STARS was brought into this province over the very loud objections of the members opposite. They did not want the STARS ambulance investment to ultimately occur. STARS ambulance lands between 30 and 40, 45 times in the community where I live and many other communities across this province.

In fact, Mr. Chair, just a couple of weeks ago, it was my constituency assistant that was on that helicopter finding her way to the care that she needed in Saskatoon. And a ground ambulance was able to get her out of the back country where she was, but it was the STARS air ambulance that ultimately got her quickly to the very excellent care that she received in Saskatoon and then subsequently in Shellbrook. An initiative again that was opposed by, not these specific members, but by their party — maybe a couple of them — in years gone by.

And so, Mr. Chair, the investments in our EMS, we're proud of those investments, not only in our ground ambulance crews both operated in cities like Regina that are operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, but also those private operators that are operating in Wakaw and Rosthern and Spiritwood and Big River and Prince Albert, Mr. Chair, of which you know well, as well as our fixed-air fleet, Mr. Chair, that does service the northern areas of our province — and I would say service them very competently, getting people to the care that they need — and then ultimately the significant investment that was made by this government, objected to by the opposition, in the STARS air ambulance service.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, I'm quite confident that the Premier is able to access that information, specifically again SHA ambulance times since February 14th when the SHA ambulance was called but no ambulance was available. To the Premier: will he undertake, will he commit to get those figures to us by the end of committee?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. We've undertaken contact from the Saskatchewan Health Authority. I can't speak for them on whether they would have them to this committee by the end of the day, but we certainly would submit them to this committee as soon as we're able to acquire them.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, one of the problems with the long waits for ambulance of course is the state of our emergency rooms — backlogs, bypass closures. The SHA and this government, they're aware of which emergency rooms are on bypass at any given time in the province; however people in this province are often not aware. One time this summer, there were 37 different communities that had closures and bypass of their emergency rooms and services, Mr. Chair.

I understand why the Premier may not want to post that information. Again 37 at one time is a shocking number; however it is a matter of safety for people in this province to know. In fact people in this province have taken to Facebook or social media to advise their community members — as we do in this province; we take care of each other when we're at our best — to advise which emergency rooms are on bypass because this government doesn't do that.

My question is, they know this information. Why don't they post it on the SHA website so that the people of Saskatchewan can have that valuable information?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Chair, I'm not sure who "they" is, but I would say this: with respect to interruption of any services, whether it be an emergency room service or whatever that service might be, the Saskatchewan Health Authority works first and foremost very diligently alongside and supported by the Ministry of Health and the Government of Saskatchewan in increasing the number of people that are offering services, assisting Saskatchewan people in their health care to ensure that we don't have those disruptions, or at the very least, they're at a minimum.

With respect to many rural areas — and I live this and I experience this, Mr. Chair — there are interruptions at times for short periods of time. For example, when we had a snowstorm a few weeks ago there was a number of interruptions across the province, up to and including close to where I live, because people quite simply, the people that are employed in those facilities, weren't able to get there.

And so credit to all of the folks that are employed in those facilities. They made it work, but there was some interruptions across the province at that point. And so for whatever reason when someone in a smaller, rural service — one or two people — aren't able to, for whatever reason, find their way to that shift that particular day, we do experience some interruptions. And I would just say thank you to all of the other folks that ensure that those interruptions are minimal, for a minimal period of time, and most certainly are minimal in the services that are being interrupted or disrupted.

With respect to the larger centres . . . And the Minister of Health has said this in this Assembly and I think he actually quoted the website a few days ago. And if I'm not mistaken, I think he failed to add three letters to the end of that website; p-d-f needed to be added. I think when you add that, you can conveniently find yourself on that website that reports on the situation in Saskatoon. And we're looking at doing the very same here in Regina.

And again I wouldn't say "we" are looking at that. The SHA is doing that work and leading on, ensuring that they're doing the very best that they can to communicate with the residents in a service area in the province as to what is happening, what interruption might be there for services.

But I would say this as well, and this is not only the goal of the Saskatchewan Health Authority but most certainly is the goal of the Government of Saskatchewan: to continue to support the Saskatchewan Health Authority in hiring enough people,

whether they be nurses, whether it be LPNs [licensed practical nurse], RNs [registered nurse], nurse practitioners, whether they be physicians, whether they be CCAs [continuing care aide], lab and X-ray technologists. Whatever that position might be, we are supporting the Saskatchewan Health Authority in their endeavours, in their efforts to ultimately hire as many people as we need to offer those services.

That is why we have the most ambitious four-point health human resource plan in the nation. We're talking about it and we've discussed — and I won't go through all of the points in here; I could if you like but I won't, Mr. Chair — the efforts that we are making in recruiting, retaining, ultimately training, and then incentivizing a number of hard-to-recruit positions across the province. And we're starting to show some results in this area, I would say more broadly.

We have over 400 job offers that have been made. I believe that's the most recent number, over 400 job offers that have been made to folks in the Philippines that would ultimately come here and lend assistance and provide that support to our current front-line health care workers. We have a number of Ukrainian newcomers that are working with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. We have 600 applications that the SHA's going through now from health care professionals that are international but are living right here in Canada.

We have 108 new or enhanced full-time permanent positions that have been filled across Saskatchewan. These are from Saskatchewan or Canadian graduates this past year. As we get to spring and we see a number of additional graduates coming, you will see that number grow. And I would say this: 2022 over 2021, 547 additional RNs and nurse practitioners are practising in our communities and in our facilities across Saskatchewan.

And so we are showing results today, Mr. Chair, in what is a collective challenge across our nation. We do have plans and initiatives in place that are going to ensure that those results continue into the future. We've increased drastically the training positions of all designations. We have incentives in place for hard-to-recruit places, rural and remote quite often but not necessarily so, across the province. We have some of the highest compensation agreements in Canada for many of the disciplines that we have in health care, Mr. Chair.

And we're going to continue to utilize folks, like where it was here I believe it was last week now, that are leading the health recruitment agency that we have realigned back into the Ministry of Health. It's going to be working and supporting communities with their initiatives, taking the provincial initiatives that are there and the guidance from the Saskatchewan Health Authority on the positions that are available in attracting people to work in our health care facilities, but more importantly to offer and assist with those health care services to Saskatchewan people a level of service ultimately that they expect.

And so the most ambitious health human resource plan in the nation of Canada — I can go through it in much more detail if need be — supported by the recruitment agency, supported by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, ensuring that they are moving to full-time positions in their facilities wherever they can, and all the while the Saskatchewan Health Authority being supported by this Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that we

do have the people on the ground that ensure that we're not having delays in our ambulance service, that we're not having delays or disruptions of services in our emergency rooms, whether they be in the most rural areas of this province, the most northern areas of this province, or whether they be in our largest centres like Saskatoon and Regina.

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

Ms. Beck: — I'm not sure if that was a no to displaying that information on the SHA website, Mr. Chair, but I won't go back and interject on all of the Premier's answers — I don't know if that's the right word — the remarks that he puts on the record. But I will say this with regard to the information, the little bit of information that's going to be displayed or being displayed about Saskatoon: that does not address what was happening this summer — 37 different communities, most of them outside of Saskatoon. And I don't think any of them saw short-staffing because of a blizzard, but I'll move on.

Mr. Chair, every person, and I think we can agree on this — I certainly hope so — that every person in this province should be able to have access to a family doctor, not only for their health of course but the health of the system. We know right now in this province one out of six people don't. Two hundred thousand people in this province do not have access to that critical primary care.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons indicate, and I'm going to quote here, Mr. Chair, "Family physicians are maxed out and cannot take on more work or more patients in the current system." Now between the administrative tasks, taking on extra patients, a thousand or more patients, leadership roles, paperwork, physicians are reporting feeling burnt-out. They're warning of retirements, pending retirements, and people leaving the province.

Last week, last week the government did announce some changes to billing. And I think that is something that is welcome and is a good start, and certainly something that my colleague here has been advocating for, as have the physicians and many others in this province for a very long time. But it's not team-based care. That's something that has been called for right across the country, and certainly no exception here at home. When will we see any action on that front? What's the plan on team-based care?

[16:15]

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I've got a number of facts and figures here, and I'll try to get through some of them. I mentioned earlier the four-point health human resource plan we have. That includes some of the work that we're doing in the space of physicians.

In fact it was this government that, a number of years ago, over a decade ago . . . I was a volunteer on our physician recruitment committee in the community where I live. I was a volunteer on the health foundation as well, Mr. Chair. But it was at that time that I remember there was a significant change that needed to happen in recruiting physicians into our province, in particular those internationally trained physicians.

And not everyone in here will remember the words and the horrors of things like the CAPE [clinicians' assessment and professional enhancement] exam, but the member, the member from ... What is your constituency? The Minister of Government Relations will. The current Minister of Government Relations was the Minister of Health at that point in time.

And we brought in the SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] program. It was at that time as well we made a significant investment in the College of Medicine. Sixty seats was the training capacity that we had at the College of Medicine. Sixty residency seats is what we had here in the province.

That was increased to 100 seats, training seats at the College of Medicine and 120 resident seats, which was key, which was key and is part of why we have 1,000 more physicians practising in the province here today than we did at that point in time. In fact it's most recently we've increased that 120 residency seats to 128 and I think it's this year that we have filled entirely, unlike any other province or even unlike the history of this province, our family medicine seats in that space as well. And so we are having successes here, Mr. Chair.

With respect to the 1,000 doctors that have joined our health system due to those decisions in part that occurred so many years ago, changing how we recruit and register international physicians in the province, how we changed the numbers that we were training right here in Saskatchewan, that has resulted in 1,000 additional doctors here today. I think we're just under 3,000 physicians in the ... 2,800 doctors who call Saskatchewan home. That's 1,000 over where we were 15 years ago. That's an increase of 60 per cent and it's 450 more family physicians in that 1,000-physician complement, for about 1,400 family physicians in the province. And the number of other specialists has also increased and increased substantially.

What I would say with respect to those physicians is, as we move forward in the questions about team-based care, I think you're seeing in many communities that team-based care is already in many cases under way. There's nurse practitioners that are offering services in many, many communities across this province. I myself — full disclosure — see a nurse practitioner, Mr. Chair.

In this most recent budget it should be of note — another reason for all of us in this Assembly to support the budget that was introduced by the Deputy Premier just this past month — was funding and a path, a road map for physician assistants to be part of that team in our communities across the province, again adding other options for people to offer care in our communities. We see nurse practitioners, physician assistants. We've seen that team-based care starting to move forward.

But I would say that one piece to that is the change in the physician compensation package that was highlighted by both ministers of Health at the Saskatchewan Medical Association's meeting, conference this past week. And I would say that the outgoing president, I believe this is ... [inaudible interjection] ... incoming president, pardon me. Dr. Annette Epp, who is the incoming president of the SMA had this to say, and I quote, Mr. Chair:

It's pretty exciting that the government, together with physicians, is working to develop a new model of care that hopefully is going to benefit patients in this province and the doctors as well.

So to answer the Leader of the Opposition's question, we're already moving alongside our health care professionals, and not just physicians, but nurse practitioners, now physician assistants, as well as others that deliver health care in the province to delivering that team-based care. And I would say that in many ways we are already doing that, whether that be in our emergency rooms, whether that be in our hospitals, or even whether it be in some of our primary care clinics across the province.

And most certainly you're going to see more of that team-based care on a number of fronts when you see the opening of what will be first here in Regina, the urgent care centre. The urgent care centre that is looking to be just that, see people that may be urgent but not necessarily emergent and isn't necessary that they're in the emergency room either at the General or the Pasqua in Regina's case. Or in Saskatoon at RUH [Royal University Hospital] or St. Paul's as we are building a similar structure in Saskatoon.

Just a little bit behind there, that structure, that urgent care centre is in partnership with Ahtahkakop Cree Nation, another very innovative partnership. But you are going to see those urgent care centres offer, very simply, something similar working alongside our health care providers as to how we can provide the very best care to those folks that need it in the province.

And as an aside and not really related to the question, but I think equally important to Saskatchewan people and everyone in this room as well, is the other side of those urgent care centres are going to offer something quite different, that isn't about seeing people maybe as quickly as they come through the door, but it's going to offer an access point for those that may be struggling through a mental health crisis or have entered, unfortunately, a life of addictions and are looking to make a change in their life.

The other side, the other entry point in those urgent care centres is going to be very much about providing an access point and an access level to health care professionals that you may need for those that maybe don't need that urgent care service but needs something more in line with mental health support or ultimately have made a choice in their life where they're going to move away from living a lifestyle with addictions.

That's something I think that has been long needed, not just in our urban centres, but across the province. It's not necessarily a pilot per se but it's going to in many ways help alleviate some of the pressures that we have in our emergency rooms that were alluded to in the question, but also try to offer that access point in some of the care that ultimately so many families need in this province on the topic of mental health and addictions.

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

Ms. Beck: — It did get back around to team-based care there eventually, Mr. Chair. And you know, some of that answer sounds plausible and, you know, even hopeful. But unfortunately it doesn't meet the definition, the criteria that when you talk to most health care providers of team-based care — and I think

that's why it's so important, Mr. Chair — that these solutions not only be designed to play well in here or, you know, to be tag lines or slogans, that those solutions are actually built with those front-line professionals, those actually on the front line in these jobs.

You know, after we saw Regina General Hospital right here in this city, the largest emergency room in this city, on bypass, which is really a horrifying thought, Mr. Chair, when it was on bypass because of short-staffing, we heard the SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] president, Tracy Zambory, again repeating calls for a nursing task force.

And I think you see this. You see health care providers, those on the front lines, those in communities who want to be part of the solutions, but time and time again, we're hearing that they're not being heard by this government. And that was the theme all through the summer and certainly continues today.

So my question is this: what does he have to say about SUN's request for a nursing task force? Is he going to say yes?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. With respect to how we engage with not only the nurses' organizations that . . . and any individual nurses that offer those services in community after community, Mr. Chair, there are many, many representative organizations that both ministers of Health engage with repeatedly. As I mentioned earlier, the Sask Medical Association is one of those organizations alongside many of our labour partners such as SUN, CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees], many others, Mr. Chair.

[16:30]

Sask Medical Association represents a number of doctors practising in a number of different capacities. Some are surgeons, specialists, researchers. Some are family physicians offering services. Some are family physicians offering services under salary, some offering under private delivery services as well, Mr. Chair.

Many other health care providers, also some private operators. We talked about private ambulance and public ambulance operators. Here in the province we have both public and private diagnostic facilities, surgical centres, here in the province. And so many, many folks across the spectrum.

But I would say first and foremost our focus is always on how we can deliver the very best service to the patient, Mr. Chair. And I think if you go back a number of years ago, one of the very first documents or reviews that the then minister of Health did was a Patient First Review, I believe it was called, so many years ago.

And I think that some of the outcomes of that review, Mr. Chair, are so very relevant to, you know, how we find our way to working with all of our teams across — SUN as well as all of the other representative organizations — across what is a very diverse, and I would even say, getting even more diverse health care delivery sector into the future, when we start expanding into the areas of mental health and addictions and some of the partners and community-based organizations that we work with, and really appreciate to work with in that space.

But it's all of those conversations that helped us, for example, come forward with a number of initiatives. You know, most recently we were discussing the other day about some of the admitted challenges we have around registered psychiatric nurses for example. That was a program that was actually cancelled. The training program was cancelled under the members opposite.

It was 2009 that we brought that program, that training program back in to the universities here in this province. We've been graduating about 30, I believe, a year and just recently we . . . Nope, pardon me. Thirty new Saskatchewan-trained registered psychiatric nurses have been registered each year since that program came back in. And now we've added another 16 seats to that program. It was actually an annual total number of seats now of 80 in that program, a program that had zero seats under the members opposite.

So that's one example of an action taken by this government by the conversations that we had, not only with SUN but with all of our health care partners and organizations and representatives, and our health care, the individuals that we talk to when we go out, quite frankly. We don't go on a health care tour or rural health care tour. We go home and we talk to our neighbours that work in our health care facilities across the province, and they provide us advice as well. And we take that advice very seriously from the front lines.

That's why some of that discussion of individuals offering those services — as well as labour organizations, our partners in health care, all the representative organizations — helped us shape what is the most ambitious four-point health human resource plan in the nation, and the plan that is showing results in offering positions and hiring folks from not just this nation or this province, but hiring folks from all around the world.

It's part of those discussions that quite frankly informed a decision — and again, I said earlier and I'll reiterate, a reason, a very good reason to vote for this budget — over the course of the next short while, the incorporation of not just additional nurse practitioners to offer services in our communities, but the incorporation of now physician assistants that are going to help expand the service delivery of health care, adding to the suite of health care professionals that can offer that service here in Saskatchewan.

So with respect to conversations that we have with SUN or any other of the health care representative organizations, individuals, we are going to work alongside them, all the while making what we feel are the very best decisions. Yes, with their guidance, but the very best decisions in the interests of the patient. Because it has always been, and will continue to be, about offering the very best service to the patients that are walking through the front door of our health care facilities in this province.

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

Ms. Beck: — That's an awful, awful lot of words, Mr. Chair, to say no to the nurses. And I haven't done this up to this point, Mr. Chair, but I'm going to give the Premier a couple of words of advice, free advice. He can take them if he wants or not.

First of all, let me assure him that nurses in this province have the very best needs of their patients in mind at all times. Second

piece of advice — and maybe this is a little more unlikely, and I couldn't quite find the exact link to it but I know the date, May 15th, 2007 — there was a leader of the opposition standing right about here that gave the then premier a little bit of advice about listening to those people on the front lines. In fact they shouldn't have to take out advertisements and billboards to get your attention, Mr. Chair. It was good advice, Mr. Chair.

So we know that so many of the problems in health care in this province right now are because of a lack of staff. They report being burnt-out, retiring early, overload, Mr. Speaker. But most of all, what we hear most often and frequently is the lack of respect that these nurses and front-line health care providers have felt from this government. We have to do more to retain the workers that we have in this province. It is important to ensure that we have nurses coming from all over the place to practise here because I do think we have that wonderful story to tell, wonderful communities, Mr. Speaker. But those solutions have to be built with those workers and we have to retain those that we have.

There are a number of ways to do this, but one I think is really important. And we haven't heard anything, any details from that government about this. And it's this: we need to be recruiting First Nations and Métis people to work in our health care systems. And I think the member from Canora-Pelly heard some of these comments last summer outside the Kamsack Hospital.

My question to the Premier is this: what is the plan to ensure that there is a recruitment and retention plan for First Nations and Métis people in this province?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would make three points on this, I think. One would be just a general initiative of the government. Two would be going into just a touch more detail on a partnership that we are working on with an Indigenous training organization. And then three would be, and I don't have the precise numbers, but some of the work that's happening around some of the training seats that are being expanded here over the next short while.

So I'll maybe start there, with the training. The Minister of Advanced Education is working right now, as we speak, with SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies], working with them on the expansion that we did of 550 health care training seats, some of those EMT [emergency medical technician] and paramedic seats, we talked about ambulances earlier, some of those nurses, LPNs and such. A number of those seats are going to be located at SIIT, and the negotiation with respect to just how many seats is currently under way. In addition, the 150 nurse training seats that we had added to bring our health care training increase of seats this year to 700 in total.

And so those conversations are happening right now between the Minister of Advanced Education, his ministry, and the various post-secondary institutes that can offer that training. Among them, and very well respected, is SIIT. So that's number one, is a number of our training seats will be located at an Indigenous training organization.

I would say, just secondary to that, when you look not far from

where I live in the community of Prince Albert, the University of Saskatchewan has moved their nursing college right downtown Prince Albert. They bought the old forestry building members opposite built, and then the forestry industry didn't work out for a few years.

Thankfully that investment is back now. They call it the hall of Eldon Lautermilch, but anyway I didn't say that. Most certainly it is being used well and used well now. So I guess over the broader 20-year investment I would say thank you for that facility because we're training young nurses, many of them Indigenous coming from our province's North to the community of Prince Albert and taking their nurse training right in the community of Prince Albert in that facility.

Second, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is currently finalizing their Indigenous recruitment and retention strategy. Some of the work on these seats, they're going to SIIT, and work on their Indigenous recruitment and retention strategy came from those broader discussions that we talked about in the last question between many of our organized labour groups, discussions with many other of the organizations that represent folks in health care, as well as the people that work in health care and informing and shaping this document that is very close to, I would say it's coming to fruition.

And third, last but not least, is just a general initiative of this government. And whether maybe it's a broader initiative with respect to reconciliation, more general, but I would say an initiative that has all sorts of opportunity to grow off of what is an initial, just essentially a property agreement. And that is the urgent care centre in Saskatoon. We see the urgent care centre being constructed here in Regina; that is a Saskatchewan Health Authority-owned and -operated building.

In Saskatoon we've taken a little different track. It was through a suggestion that came forward from Chief Larry Ahenakew from Ahtahkakoop First Nation that they would like to build the building, not just to lease the Saskatchewan Health Authority the space, so that they can operate a parallel service in Saskatoon of urgent care and some of the access points for mental health and, all too often, addictions, but to actually add on to that building and the services offered, most notably among them providing training opportunities through, quite likely, SIIT so that you could have an internship or training program that is associated with the Saskatchewan Health Authority-run facility like the urgent care centre, have the mental health and addictions component to that as well.

And so where we are today is advancing the training seats. Where we most certainly are going in the very, very short term is to finalize the Indigenous recruitment and retention strategy within the Saskatchewan Health Authority. And I'd say, most excitingly where we're going in this province, the sky is really the limit on partnering with Indigenous communities on not only the offering of services to all Saskatchewan residents, but partnering with Indigenous communities on the training of not just Indigenous residents but all Saskatchewan residents moving forward.

[16:45]

So it's an exciting time in this space, Mr. Chair, and I think again lends itself to the earlier question on ensuring that we are

including all of our health care partners, whether they be Indigenous representatives or folks right in the health care centres themselves in the conversations that we're having on how we're going to deliver health care, whether that be team-based health care or any type of health care across the province in the months and years ahead.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, training seats. And when I heard the Premier delivering that answer, you know, it's good to hear a plan. We'll check back in and see how those plans work out. The record on that side isn't always the best. But I do know this: that those students going into those training seats, the best way that we can set them up for success, to be successful health care workers in this province, is to ensure that they get the education that they need.

You know, in this budget, I think people really were expecting something more than they've gotten from this government over the last decade, and that is declining per-pupil funding. Government sitting on windfall revenues, billion-dollar surplus, people really thought that they might see an investment in our kids' classrooms to set them up for success and to set the province up for success in the future. Vitally important. One of the most crucial investments that we can make in our kids and in our future.

But of course, Mr. Chair, they didn't see that. They saw a budget that, again and really inexplicably fell short, that will force more cuts into our kids' classrooms. You know, we've heard that from Saskatoon Public. We've heard it from Regina Public. We've heard cuts in South East Cornerstone, Prairie Valley, Prairie South, and I'm afraid the list goes on and on.

A recent memo from Regina Public Schools outlined some of the choices that school boards are facing. Besides cutting staff, which we're seeing school divisions do, Regina Public is looking at examining fees for noon supervision, increasing fees again, downloading onto those parents sending their kids to school because this government didn't fund education.

Reducing spending on technology and learning resources and facility projects — you know, the things that we need kids to be learning for the future. Striving to minimize transportation costs. Reducing positions at division office that support the delivery of education programs and services. Reducing noon-hour staff allocations, and reducing instruction positions in schools that will increase again student/teacher ratios, Mr. Chair.

The question to the Premier is simple. What does he think that Regina Public or other school divisions in this province should cut to make up for the deficit handed to them again this year by that government?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Each school division of the 27 will make the decisions in the best interest of the folks that they ultimately represent.

What I will speak to is the funding levels that the provincial government provided and maybe a little bit about how we came

about to those numbers and where we're going over the course of the next number of months here as well. But as we know in this budget, again education portion of that budget was \$3.1 billion. That's up 6.7 per cent year over year. The portion of that budget going to the school divisions was just over \$2 billion, up about two and a half per cent.

That portion of that budget is allocated on the projections as provided to the Ministry of Education by the school divisions. And what we have seen over the course of the last 18 or so months, maybe even a little longer, is that the traditional way of providing those student population projections to the ministry on a once annually basis is not working. Quite frankly, it's just not working. Our province is growing, growing too quickly. We have tremendous economic growth of which we talked to at the outset of these estimates. We have tremendous population growth, in fact a higher rate of population growth in this province than we have had in 108 years. And with those people that are moving to the province, they are bringing their children, and they're entering our schools.

And so the student population estimates that we received last year from the divisions, quite simply we just grew quicker than that, likely about double actually by the time we found our way through the year.

We're seeing those estimates come in again this year. Pardon me. Last year what we did once we realized and were informed by the school divisions is we came forward with interim funding, interim funding to the school divisions to ensure that they could offer the educational services and opportunities throughout last year.

So this year what we have already committed to, Mr. Chair, is that we are, and the Minister of Education, I believe, has met with Regina Public this last week, meeting with Saskatoon school divisions next week, has already committed that we will be coming forward with some degree of funding to help address some of the very rapid population growth — unprecedented population growth — and student population growth that we're experiencing in our schools.

However in saying that, with the decisions that many of the boards are facing . . . And there's no doubt, Mr. Chair, that there are decisions, and at times difficult decisions that have to be made by multiple school divisions across the province, but there are also opportunities in this year's budget, in addition to the two and a half per cent increase that went to the school divisions, 6.7 per cent more broadly across the education portfolio.

For example the \$23 million that is outside of the school division funding, that went to the Sask DLC [Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation] is to fund that DLC [distance learning centre]. All of the teachers that are working in various school divisions across the province that were offering online services no longer need to offer those online services. That'll be offered by the Sask DLC. So they are now available for classroom instruction or those funds are available to be utilized somewhere else in the division.

Now Regina Public did not report their numbers, but Saskatoon did, and I suspect Saskatoon Public School Division, it'd be similar here in Regina. But they had 49 online teachers that are

now available for classroom instruction, about \$5 million freed up in resources available for in-class instruction or wherever those decisions may need to be made. Now as I said, Regina Public School Division did not submit — Saskatoon did — but it would likely be something similar in that space. I don't know exactly what the student population differentials might be.

So that \$23 million that goes into the Saskatchewan DLC, those savings will, not entirely, but largely be felt by the school divisions as they previously had the expenses of offering that service and no longer will. Those expenses will be incurred by the DLC, which is funded outside of the division transfer by the education budget which I said was increased 6.7 per cent this year.

And so the Minister of Education is going to continue to meet with school divisions so that we can put some shape to what an interim funding quantum and how that funding can assuredly be focused on the classroom supports, which is where we want that funding to arrive. Whether there's opportunities, you know, across the divisions, there's about \$268 million in reserves that are available across the divisions as well, and whether some of that can be utilized as well, potentially, Mr. Chair.

So those discussions are happening. They're happening as we speak with the Minister of Education, the board Chairs, many of the board members, starting with our larger urban school divisions where the student population pressures, I think, are most relevant and likely most evident, Mr. Chair. But we're going to continue to, you know, talk about and build on really what is record investment this year in education of \$3.1 billion, up 6.7 per cent since last year. And all the while, continue to work alongside our school divisions in ensuring that they do have the resources to provide the services in shaping that next generation, our children.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, I hardly know where to start with that. Let's start with this. The Premier and I have very different definitions of "opportunity." He's talking about the opportunity, all the ways the boards can cut our kids' classrooms, the supports that they need. Mr. Chair, I think that there's a great deal of opportunity in those classrooms, but it requires us. Us in this building, us as the adults in this province, to make those investments in our kids today. Something they haven't done for a decade, Mr. Chair.

And you know, I was going to ask the Premier this: he said he'd heard the people that came to the steps of their legislature, not that long ago, over 3,500 people. Mr. Chair, they didn't come here to throw that Premier or that Education minister a parade. They came here to be heard, have their concerns heard. And now, the Premier would like to characterize that this is only a city issue or in some communities. You had people here from Creighton, from Carnduff, from Rose Valley, from Morse, from communities right across this province, Mr. Speaker. But the Premier, maybe he doesn't know what they had to say, because the Premier didn't have the courage to be out there to listen to them, Mr. Speaker. He found his way to Washington to talk to teachers instead.

[17:00]

So, Mr. Speaker, I was there when the Education minister . . . I would invite the member from Meadow Lake to quiet down because people in his community want to hear this too. Mr. Speaker, I was there when the Minister of Education spoke — "spoke" might be an interesting word — to the folks at the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] this year in Saskatoon. And I want to say, this is what they had to say.

And again, back to my opening comments, Mr. Chair, this stuff spins in here. And you know, the minister looks so pleased, pleased of himself, Mr. Speaker. But it doesn't fly out there, and it certainly didn't fly with the 3,500 people who made their way to this legislature to have their voices heard.

But I'll tell you what Jaimie Smith-Windsor had to say. You know, the person who was elected to represent the 27 publicly funded boards in this province. She said that the numbers that that Premier just used are "an irresponsible misrepresentation to frame these dollars announced last year as being part of the increase."

The numbers they use, the experts, those who are actually building their budgets right now, the increase to operational funding at a time, a generational cost-of-living crisis, Mr. Chair, their number is a 0.7. That's all this government, sitting on windfall revenues, sitting on a surplus, could muster to invest in the kids of this province. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't say this often, but that is absolutely shameful.

So I want to say, as I said, you know, this is not just . . . Well I hear some of the members over there, you know, complaining. Their constituents are concerned about what this government is doing to education as well. Again it's not just rural schools; it's not just urban schools. It's schools right across this province.

But I'll ask a specific question of rural schools. What can we see? What increase in supports will there be for rural schools that are now looking at cuts because of underfunding by this government?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I'll just display one example, Mr. Chair, of where not only rural school divisions will find some cost savings, but rural students are going to have access to many more programs than certainly they ever had access to when I attended a rural school, even my children today.

Rural kids are going to have access to more programs than they have ever had access to before in the rural areas of our province, thanks to the Sask DLC [Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre] programs in the way of an agreement signed just the other day with the auto dealers across the province for technician programs, Mr. Chair. The ag dealers association have also signed an agreement. There's a number of film classes that have some connections very deep into very professional film educators, I think, notably in Western Canada, in Vancouver, associated with Pixar and whatnot, Mr. Chair. So the opportunities of, I believe, 180 . . . Is it 80 or 180 classes? 180 additional classes that would be available in rural communities.

I can share a story about someone I know very well, in his later years, that wanted to go to university, required a prerequisite of

calculus, which was not available in a rural school. Had the DLC been in place they could have accessed it through there. They ended up doing it through correspondence, which would have been much simpler and a better learning environment through an online school most certainly and access to that course so that you have your prerequisites no matter where you go to school, because not all of those classes are available in rural communities like they are in some of our larger urban centres.

Second to that, the public school divisions, through the operation and funding of the Sask DLC by the provincial government, 250 teacher positions . . . I said 50 were in Saskatoon, but many of those are across rural communities as well, rural school divisions as well. Many of those positions now are available to offer services somewhere in some other classroom in that community or somewhere else in the school division itself. And so those are actual resources, human resources, not just money. But more importantly, a human resource, person, individual that has been hired who was teaching online for the school division, now will be available to teach in the school division itself, whether that be in a live classroom or where that might be.

Through our discussions I'd also maybe just put forward a couple of things that we aren't going to do, Mr. Chair, and I think this is part of the theme of where we've been over the last number of years. And it's under this government that year in, year out, notwithstanding discussions with unprecedented population growth of which we did address last year, of which we will address this year with some interim funding, but in general there's been more for education.

There has been more for education across the province. There's been more schools built, there's no denying that. There's been more students in those schools, there's no denying that. There's more teachers in our classrooms, no denying that. There's more EAs [educational assistant] in those classrooms as well. There's more funding per student. There's more funding for school divisions. There's more access to child care across this province.

And it's not particularly surprising that the NDP have some questions around and in this area because it's something they quite frankly never had to deal with when they had the opportunity or the honour to be government.

Education under an NDP government wasn't about more — more schools, more students, more funding. It was about less. Much, much, much less starting with less schools. 176 fewer schools because of an NDP government, that 16 per cent decline in student enrolment from the years 1997 to 2007, a 10-year period. Sixteen per cent lower enrolment in our schools, a far cry from the challenges of growth that we're working through with the school divisions today. With 16 per cent less students came 400 less teachers, 400 less teachers in our facilities across this province, Mr. Chair.

For the NDP most certainly in education, it was always about less. So it only makes sense that we're going to see some, day in day out, members opposite grasping to understand how we are managing through this unprecedented student population growth that we're seeing. But I'm quite happy this afternoon to have the opportunity to help them just a little bit.

So I want to start with the capital investments. The amount of

infrastructure projects that have occurred in this province since 2007: 90. Ninety major school infrastructure projects that have been announced; 60 of those are new schools. Mr. Chair, that's almost a new school just about for every single member sitting in this House. Every single member in this House. We have built a new school for every single member of the legislature. And for context, and we can do the comparison. When you take 176 schools closed, that's three schools closed for every single member sitting in this House under the members opposite. That's the comparison: three schools closed per member; one school built per member.

When it comes to preventative maintenance and renewal, never offered under the members opposite when they had the opportunity. This year \$50 million is being provided to school divisions to use how they see fit for preventative maintenance and renewal of the facilities that they have, that thankfully the government changed in 2007 and we quit closing school after school, three per person in this Assembly.

So, Mr. Chair, one likely won't be surprised that under the NDP the amount of funding provided by the PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal] year in, year out was zero. And we saw our schools declining in their student population, declining in investment, ultimately closed them, less teachers, Mr. Speaker, across the province. And the result of that, and here's the contrast, all the while that was going on, we saw school divisions with the ability to tax. And those school divisions raised those education property tax, due in part to underfunding from the members opposite.

And we're quite familiar in this Assembly as well is what the result of that environment was. School divisions increased the education property tax. They had underfunding from the then NDP government to the level that there were protests across this province, protests up to and including in the very hallways of this legislature, Mr. Chair.

Thankfully today education is very much about more. It's about more funding and more to come interim this year. It's about more schools. It's about more students. It's about more teachers. It's about more educational assistants. And most certainly, when you look at what's happening in the broader economy across Saskatchewan, it's going to be about more opportunity for each and every one of those students that's graduating.

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

Ms. Beck: — I don't know I promised that I wouldn't give the Premier any more advice, but I'm going to give him one more piece of advice. And actually it's not from me, and we'll see if folks can guess who this advice is from, Mr. Chair. This is the quote: "They have to come up with something other . . . That's an old talking point and quite honestly I'm a bit tired of it." Mr. Chair, not my words, but I think wise words. That is of course former cabinet minister Nancy Heppner, Mr. Speaker.

I understand why the Premier doesn't want to talk about his own record, certainly not about this budget. Not even the last five years. You know, he doesn't even want to talk about the record of his government because the record of his government is 10 years, 10 years of reduced funding for the education system, Mr. Chair.

But you know, there was a time in this province when we did value those schools. You know, if you go to any rural community right now, you know, you look at any rural community . . . And I think a lot of different municipalities do this, Mr. Speaker. One of the first things that people did when they came here was to set up a school for their kids. Something that we value, that investment, Mr. Speaker, something that seems to be lost on those members opposite.

And you know, something else that has a long history in this province is the fact that we have people who are incredible, incredible stewards of this land that we are all lucky enough to live on. And that goes back generations, thousands of years in this province. And we've seen our producers be incredible stewards of that land. They sequester carbon, Mr. Chair, zero-till practices, you know, something that I'm not sure any particular government can take credit for. We have producers that, you know, they're innovative. They know how to make a dollar stretch, if anyone, you know, grew up on the farm certainly with someone who lived through the '30s in this province.

You know, they sequester carbon in the soil. Our livestock producers being the last line of defence through pastures when it comes to preserving prairie native grasses. And, Mr. Chair, that work in the ag sector that they do to sequester, to mitigate emissions is important. But right now under this government, there's no recognition and no incentive under this government. I want to ask, why is that the case? And when will we see a plan from this government that recognizes the important role that producers do in this province to sequester carbon?

[17:15]

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Good question. This is a good question with respect to recognizing . . . Really what we're talking about is recognizing from a monetary perspective, a financial perspective, the investments that have already been made by Saskatchewan agricultural producers. And it most certainly is an initiative that we have been working on in order to recognize that investment, that innovation, that technology that is being used in our farms across this province to really combat what is really an unnecessary policy that is not helpful in any way in food production or energy security across North America, that has been brought forward by a federal Liberal administration which is supported by Jagmeet Singh and the NDP.

And so, Mr. Deputy Chair, where do we start with this from a provincial perspective? And maybe what we'll do first is identify the problem. Well first, the problem are those two federal leaders, but the policies that those two federal leaders are supporting, the increasing carbon tax that we see that was promised never to go above \$50. Well actually first of all, if you go back, it was promised to have a discussion with the provinces before we ever moved forward with it. They moved forward with it, promised it would never go over \$50, but with Jagmeet's support, \$65 it is today, on its way to 175 and likely 243.

Mr. Chair, that is what we are dealing with from the federal perspective is shifting sands, shifting policy, a shifting policy network, whether it be on a carbon taxation front, now suggesting

that we should also reduce our fertilizer use by some 30 per cent. Eh, what? What are they talking about, Mr. Chair? Honestly. Talk about not having a clue, not having a clue with respect to not only how we are producing food, providing food security for Canadians, for North Americans, and for over 150 countries around the world. This 1.2 million — was a million, now it's 1.2 million and growing — person province is doing just that. And we aren't doing it, we aren't doing it, Mr. Chair, by reducing the fertilizer use.

What we are doing is ensuring that the fertilizer that we are using is most certainly being placed in the right place at the right time and right amount, Mr. Chair, and it's the right product. Which is the 4R [right source at right rate, right time, right place], which is the national stewardship program which many agricultural producers in this province are following.

So we're not going to reduce our fertilizer use, sacrificing our food security in this nation, this continent, and ultimately for the 150 countries that we export to around the world. We would and we'll continue to advocate to get rid of the costly carbon tax, again promised to go to 50 with Jagmeet's support and the NDP's support, up to 173 and likely 243 at some . . . 176 and 243, is it 176 schools or 176 carbon? I can't remember all these numbers, Mr. Chair.

But you add to that now, federal policy that's coming around the regulations with the clean electricity standard. And if you don't think our ag producers are large users of electricity and are not supportive of a doubling and a tripling and a quadrupling of our electrical rates in this province because of some ill-thought-out policy brought down from above by Jagmeet and Justin on Saskatchewan agricultural farmers, adding to their bottom-line cost of doing business, Mr. Chair, well sadly, sadly, you would be mistaken.

So we don't support any of those policies, but we will do, as the question asked, do what we can to mitigate the impact of those policies on our farmers who are producing some of the most sustainable food that you can find on earth. Last year's budget had \$2 million available in that budget that went to the Global Institute for Food Security to do just that: to identify and to recognize and to quantify what is actually happening in our Saskatchewan farms when it comes to carbon sequestration.

And what they have found on a per tonne basis, for every tonne of canola that we produce in this province, we do so emitting 64 per cent less carbon emissions than our competitors, the next seven largest competitors around the world. Wheat, 65 per cent lower carbon emissions per tonne in Saskatchewan than the next seven largest competitors around the world. Field peas, 92 per cent lower carbon emissions on a per tonne basis than our competitors around the world.

And what we tell folks when we're around the world talking to them about Saskatchewan canola oil, Saskatchewan wheat, Saskatchewan peas is that our environmental story, our sustainable story — when you purchase our products which are of the highest quality, competitively priced and the most sustainable on earth — now becomes your story. And that is precisely why so many people are lined up to do just that, to purchase our agri-food products, but also to purchase our energy products of which the narrative is the same.

Which is why we have shifted in how we communicate to the world what we are doing here in this province. That's why we have created the secretariat for sustainable growth in the Premier's office that is working with our international partners, working with all of the ministries, working with the industries in Saskatchewan, working with our research institutes to ensure that we're communicating, communicating to other levels of government that they need to get it through their thick heads that their policies just aren't productive, aren't going to work in the province of Saskatchewan. And at times we're going to use the tools that we have to buck those policies on behalf of the people that we represent, Mr. Chair.

But also to work with our research institutes and our farmers, there are some pilot projects going on across this province on how we can actually find our way to a monetary credit with no help, zero help from the federal Liberal administration, and even less from Jagmeet Singh and his NDP band of compatriots there, Mr. Speaker, comrades, whatever you want to call them.

No help from them on how we can monetize and recognize the investment that has been made in Saskatchewan agriculture like zero-till, like precision ag, Mr. Speaker — all of these things that have been innovated and really have started right here in our province. Zero-till drills are manufactured in Saskatchewan. They were innovated in Saskatchewan. They're sequestering carbon here as well as throughout the prairie Midwest in the US [United States], Mr. Speaker, in Ukraine, in Australia, as well as many other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great story to tell in this province. Nowhere is that story stronger than in the industry of agriculture where we produce the highest quality, we produce the cost-competitive, but we also produce the most sustainable food that you can buy on earth. And it should be recognized by a federal government that has brought in wrong-handed policy that is doing nothing but costing our Saskatchewan producers money. And we'd ask the members opposite to support us in removing those policies on our Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Chair, it's clear that the producers in this province have done their part, as they always have. And it's clear, I guess from that answer, that the Premier is going to continue to bellow and bellow but not actually achieve any results.

Mr. Speaker, if he wants to talk about the federal leaders, I'm happy, happy to clear the air. Very happy. So any time, if I have the privilege of being the Premier of this province, it will be the case that I have no problem telling any federal leader, whether it's Justin Trudeau or Jagmeet Singh or any other prime minister, Mr. Chair, I have no problem telling them when they are offside with the interests of the people of Saskatchewan like they are with the carbon tax.

And further, further, Mr. Chair, I have no problem speaking up to their federal leader, Pierre Poilievre, when he's dead wrong with his plans to cut the child care program. And further, and further this: if I'm allowed a little bit of looking in the rear-view, Mr. Chair, I never would have rolled over for Stephen Harper and cost the people of this province hundreds of millions of dollars on equalization. And I certainly wouldn't have then gone on to

put him on the payroll, Mr. Speaker.

But anyway, moving on, you know, I've heard tale about this Premier's slapshot but, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, he is a world-class puck dragger. So I'm going to move on to the next piece.

And I want to ask a question because this is a question that was on the minds of everyone at SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association]. Ninety per cent of those delegates there called on this government to do something about their broken plans with the SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program, their changes, Mr. Speaker, that have caused downloading of responsibility to municipalities across this province, have increased suffering, have increased homelessness in communities large and small. You don't have to go through many communities in this province before you see the evidence of just how failed this government is when it comes to supports for our most vulnerable.

My question to the Premier: will he follow through on what SUMA is calling for and scrap his failed plans and get back to the drawing board?

[17:30]

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll walk through again a few quotes and a number of initiatives. But if we just back up a number of years, the previous programs that we had, the SIS program, were, I believe, SAP [Saskatchewan assistance program] and TEA [transitional employment allowance]. And we'd had a number of conversations around those programs with a number of stakeholders. In fact we brought a committee together to look at how could we improve those programs, maybe bring them together into one more simple program.

And so that was the SAP and TEA program. For example, what we heard and heard about it in this House was those programs that we had at that point in time would start to claw back . . . Yeah, I guess they were. They were brought in under the New Democrat government, the NDP government. But if someone started to have employment income, they would start to claw back those benefits immediately. And so there was questions, and rightfully so, around could there be a buffer so that folks could, you know, have some income exemption, so that they could start earning some income without experiencing a dollar-for-dollar clawback right out of the gate?

And so those were some of the discussions that the then minister at the time brought together a committee to look at improving the income assistance program that we have in this province. And former leader Ryan Meili actually sat on that committee and came forward with a number of the recommendations that went into the SIS program. In that program it had some of those income exemptions that we had discussed. The last couple of budgets this program has been increased about \$145. It's one of the highest income support programs in the nation of Canada.

And one of the questions that we had heard — and the minister is reaching out and attempting to answer this question to all that

may have asked it at the SUMA convention — was around direct pay for rental to the landowners.

And there's two minds on that, Mr. Chair. Many think that you need to have the option to not have that direct pay because these folks are good budgeters and then learn to be even better budgeters, and then have opportunities to earn income without that dollar-for-dollar clawback.

And so there's some that think it should be the way it is but there should be some mechanism in place for those that may need that direct-pay model. And there is. There is. There is a trustee that can be appointed that will ultimately manage that direct pay for things such as rent.

In fact this most recent budget, this year's budget . . . The last two years' budget increased the number of trustees to work with those folks that may want to utilize that direct-pay model. I believe under the previous two programs it was about 70 per cent of the folks did not use the direct-pay model. And we have trustees in place to support those that may want to use the direct-pay model under the current system that came about through recommendations by a committee that was consulted with that the former leader of the opposition sat on.

On the direct-pay model, I have a quote here from a fellow by the name . . . a fellow with the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry. It's Peter Gilmer, and he says, Mr. Chair, I quote, "Many of the people that we work with are among the best budgeters that I know. They're better budgeters than I am, so I don't want to take that away from anybody." And so that's in reference to the option for not having direct pay for budgeting your way through. Mr. Chair, this is a program among a suite of programs that received increases this past year, about a 6 per cent increase this past year.

I also want to take the opportunity to address a couple of the comments that were in the preamble as well with respect to the Leader of the Opposition ever standing up for the people of Saskatchewan and explaining quite clearly, not in a crystal cloudy way but in a crystal clear way the position of the NDP. And I guess I would have a question of my own, is how would you ever stand up to Justin or Jagmeet and articulate what your position is when you can't even articulate it to the members of your caucus?

Quite frankly, what we have seen over the course of the last while is the members of the NDP caucus coming off on different policy positions than what is coming across here, the question period floor. For example, the NRTA. We hear they support the NRTA, then we see the member from Saskatoon Centre saying that that document is actually illegal. And the ability, the constitutionally protected ability of provinces to develop their natural resources is illegal according to the NDP member from Saskatoon Centre.

They say, "we don't support the carbon tax" but the member for Nutana has said a price on pollution is a necessary one. "We support legal firearms owners in Saskatchewan" is what we hear from across the way, but then again the member for Nutana says, "*The Saskatchewan Firearms Act* continues to seed strife and division and promotes fear," Mr. Chair. "We support pipelines." We heard a little bit about this over the course of the last week. The member for Elphinstone-Centre opposed to the Trans Mountain XL pipeline, and the NDP voted against the KXL

[Keystone XL] and Northern Gateway in this very House. Never mind the tweets about what goes in those pipelines by that member.

"We won't decriminalize hard drugs." Then the member for Nutana: "You will see merits on why it's necessary to legalize the toxic drug supply," Mr. Chair. "We don't support the equalization formula." The member from Nutana goes on to say the formula was fair. She went on to criticize the province for signing on to the equalization program decades ago, only to turn around and claim that now it is unfair to Western Canada.

Mr. Chair, "We support small business," the members opposite claim. The member for Elphinstone-Centre, she shared a petition to support Justin Trudeau's tax increases on small business, Mr. Chair. We need to investigate Toronto-based grocery chains, is a long policy position of the NDP through and through, is the need to investigate Toronto-based grocery chains. We've seen the federal members of the NDP push and push very ambitiously on this when, as a matter of fact, the NDP accepts donations from Galen Weston-owned businesses, Mr. Chair. It is nothing you can imagine.

"We support retaining our graduates." And again just the other night we saw the member for Saskatoon University say that they would do away with the graduate retention program, the greatest and largest tax increase that young career professionals are receiving here in this province. So, Mr. Chair, I would ask the member of the opposition, the Leader of the Opposition to, if she wants to practise standing up to Justin and Jagmeet, she should start with her own caucus members.

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

Ms. Beck: — Again, Mr. Chair, that was a lot of words to say no to SUMA. And a lot of nerve actually coming from that Premier when he can't even get it straight with his seatmate about their position on PST. But I digress, Mr. Speaker.

You know, he's got quite a list there. I have a list of my own, Mr. Chair. First of all, I was corrected. The member from Indian Head-Milestone is probably right. My dad would be embarrassed that I said "dragging the puck," which up until today I thought was "dragging the puck." It's "ragging the puck." So I apologize, Mr. Chair. I've got a baseball quote that hopefully I get to use at some point today.

But I do have a list. And the Premier went through a list, you know. It's spin. It's a bunch of things. I've got a list about positions of members opposite. We could talk about the GTH [Global Transportation Hub]. We could talk about abortion. We could talk about the notwithstanding clause — a whole bunch of things.

But you know what? I want to focus on the needs of the people of this province and the things that they want us to be talking about. So here's a list for that Premier about his record. Not spin, not cute lines in this legislature, but the things that bloody well matter to the people of this province, Mr. Chair.

So again here we have the lowest rate, under this Premier, the lowest rate of job growth under his watch, the second-lowest economic growth rate, the highest rate of mortgages in arrears,

second-highest rate of child poverty, the worst five-year retention of immigrants outside of Atlantic Canada, and over 35,000 people lost from this province through net out-migration. That's his record, Mr. Chair, and that is something that is impacting people right across this province right now.

Well the member from Meadow Lake has got his tell going on over there. But here's another one and he should listen up because this impacts his community too. And we have this . . . Oh, it's a laughing matter, Mr. Speaker? That is the rate of suicides in this province year over year. You know what? These members told us hey, we've got this. You know, all of the things that the member for Cumberland brought forward to this House; Tristen Durocher, walking half the length of the province to be here to draw attention to suicides in this province, Mr. Speaker. Last year they were up again under this government. That is their record.

But there's, you know, there's so many things I want to talk about here, but this one . . . You know, I'm running out of time again with the ragging the puck. This is one I want to talk about. And it's about addictions in this province. You know, folks saw the article that was in the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] about the faces of overdose deaths in this province in the last three years: people from communities large and small, people that are represented by members on both sides of this Assembly, people with hopes and dreams and families.

What's the record under this government? Well you know, this year again we're on track, on track for another year of record overdose deaths, 186 so far this year. That means every three days, every two days in this province, we lose three people to overdose deaths. Mr. Chair, this is not a partisan issue. This is not one to be injecting one's ideology. This is one to get very serious about and lean into the solutions that we know work.

This government, sitting on windfall revenue, refused to do what was right, what's evidence-based, something that would have cost lives, and that is fund safe consumption sites. Well they're groaning over there, Mr. Chair. This is incredibly serious. Again, 186 deaths this year alone. When will this Premier and this government step up to the plate, do what's right, do what saves lives, and fund those safe consumption sites?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. And this is a challenge. Mental health, addictions, suicide, opioid overdoses, opioid bad drugs essentially on our streets, Mr. Chair, are a challenge, not just in Saskatchewan but across the nation.

With respect to funding a safe injection site here in Saskatchewan, that's not a consideration that the government is considering at this time. We take advice from many with respect to where we invest the dollars that we do in both mental health and addiction services and are choosing to focus those investments.

Due to many conversations that we have on rehabilitation and access to those rehabilitation beds, Mr. Chair, we do invest some dollars in harm reduction as well across the province with various organizations, but very much are focused on funding, not only the 150 rehabilitation beds that we've committed to, but quite

likely having to go beyond that.

[17:45]

Here's one individual that has made some public comments with respect to safe injection sites. It's Tribal Chief Mark Arcand, and he says and I quote, "I don't support organizations that help our people take drugs. We would never let our people into our houses and do drugs in front of us, whether it's safe or not. The goal is to get people off of drugs and alcohol."

And we agree with that to the level that the province can be involved. And that's why this budget is bringing in another twelve and a half million dollars, \$12.4 million, in targeted initiatives, bringing up the number of rehabilitation beds that we have in the province, and finding our way to those 150 rehabilitation beds. Those add to 475 pre-treatment beds that we have; detoxification and post-treatment beds that we have in the province as well, Mr. Chair.

It also involves our provincial drug task force. It involves some of the investment I discussed earlier in the urgent care centres and some of the access points for not only folks that may have entered a life of addictions and want to make a change, but folks that may be having a mental health crisis as well, and really creating that access point for Saskatchewan residents. I would say that's the first track when it comes to addressing mental health and addictions and some of the support that needs to be in place for folks to find their way to a treatment program.

The second is to remove the drugs from our streets. That is why you're seeing unprecedented investment in our RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and our municipal police forces, Mr. Chair. That's why you saw in this budget, starting with the Speech from the Throne last year, a commitment and the subsequent investment — actually an MOU [memorandum of understanding] on the first initiative with the Minister of Policing and Corrections with Grand Chief Hardlotte from PAGC [Prince Albert Grand Council] on community Indigenous policing initiatives, Mr. Chair. That is eyes and ears in communities to remove some of these products from those communities.

The second part of that Speech from the Throne, and ultimately funding in this budget, was to create the Saskatchewan marshals services, which will be there to support our RCMP that are operating in many of our rural communities across the province, or in our large urban centres our municipal police forces, in an effort to remove the drugs from our streets and remove the people that are bringing those drugs to our streets, Mr. Chair.

And so we have a dual-track approach when it comes to, you know, what are we going to do with respect to what is a Canadian and national challenge — a continental challenge but a Canadian challenge for sure — in access to terribly toxic drugs. Those drugs are being accessed by our family members, Mr. Chair, and so we're going to provide the supports for those folks to find their way to a rehabilitation program. But we're also going to fund and support our law enforcement officials in enforcing the laws to remove this poison, to remove these toxic substances from the streets in our communities.

The Chair: — In order for us to complete at the agreed-upon time of 6 o'clock, in those hours, and still allow time for closing

comments from both sides of the House, this will be the last question and the last answer. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. With regard to that answer, this isn't an either/or scenario. Of course we agree that we need to take these dangerous drugs off the streets, that those who are peddling poison to our children in this province need to be dealt with strongly and — it's not "or;" it's not "but;" it's "and" — we need to do everything we can to ensure that in the next three days, and the three days after that, we don't continue to lose people at the rate that we're losing them in this province right now.

Mr. Chair, of course I'm a mom. Many of us in this place are parents or aunties, grandparents even. None of us want our children, anyone in our community to start using these drugs. But they do. And once, you know, if it does happen, we want to hope, we all hope that they get off those drugs as soon as possible. Of course we do.

But you know what? In order for folks to get the help they need to wait out that gap, that very difficult gap between detox and treatment — because the wait-lists here again are very long — they have to be alive. And that's what we hear from parents. That's what we hear from people who are facing this scourge in their communities. So the fact that you would look one of the pieces of the solution in the eye, and say, no, that's not for us, that's not good enough, Mr. Chair.

But my last question is this. This tired and out-of-touch government again, failing to deliver on the cost of living. We see that for families. We see that for seniors. You know, there might be some hope ahead of the budget in an election year, we've heard from the Finance minister. But not in this one, not the one that she put together this year when people are struggling. And certainly not for those in our universities who are facing, at this time, in addition to the lowest minimum wage in the country, in addition to all of the other costs, a 4 per cent increase to tuition.

Mr. Chair, we are losing young people out of this province at an alarming rate. This is one of the reasons they tell us that they are choosing to go elsewhere. Why, why did that Premier fail to deliver any relief at all in this budget for those who are facing a 4 per cent increase to tuition this year?

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. I was just discussing with the Minister of Advanced Education, of which I knew, Mr. Chair . . . With our post-secondary institutes, and by their request, we entered into a four-year funding agreement to provide certainty for the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina. We're in the third year of that funding agreement that was front-loaded, Mr. Chair, so that they could manage their way through some of the decisions that they felt they had to make.

And so that was a negotiation that was requested by those post-secondary institutes. We were happy to work with them on that. Front-loaded the funding model and are currently in discussion about how we would replace that four-year funding agreement with a multi-year funding agreement for years into the future, as it provides, as I said, that certainty for the students as well as the institutions itself.

Mr. Chair, what I would say as well is when it comes to young folks, whether they be in our post-secondary institutes, coming out of our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system, entering the workforce, or those young career folks that are starting a family in this province — the conversation, and it comes up in this House virtually every day, the first couple of questions around affordability, inflationary pressures, and how we are addressing that in Saskatchewan.

And I'd like to take the opportunity to address a few points on affordability more generally that impact that same young person, young family, young career professional, but impact us all as well across the province.

And I've used this statement, but I'll get into a little more depth on it here. In question period I've mentioned it and some information provided to me from the Minister of Finance, and it's a comparison. It's a comparison of a young family of four that may have a household income of \$75,000.

Years ago, under the NDP, that family would have paid about \$5,000 in taxes. Today under the Saskatchewan Party administration, the government here, they pay just a little less than 2,000.

How could that happen, you might ask? And I'll tell you that we as a government raised the personal exemption on their income tax. We raised as well their spousal exemption on their income tax. We raised their child exemption on their income tax. And then we lowered the income tax rate overall from where it was, and then every year we index that income tax to the tax brackets, Mr. Chair.

So what does that all mean? Well it means that that family that was paying 5,000 under the NDP, now paying less than 2,000 today, saving \$3,000 for that family not just this year, not just next year, but every single year, Mr. Chair. So they're going to . . . That \$3,000 makes life more affordable for that family of four.

This young couple, this same family of four, they know how important it is to have their children in activities — in sports, in arts, and in cultural activities. And that means that they will receive another \$300 a year — \$150 per child, 200 if one of those children has a disability — through the active families benefit, which is being emulated today by the Alberta NDP, quite frankly. They've seen the advantage in supporting young families.

How much were they getting to help with the costs of their kids' activities under the Saskatchewan NDP years ago? Zero. Zero, Mr. Chair. Zero because the active families benefit just simply didn't exist here in the province. It was a campaign promise that was made by this government — by this party, Mr. Chair, by the Saskatchewan Party — and it was a campaign promise that was kept.

So that's \$3,000 a year in savings each and every year, \$300 a year in savings due to the active families benefit, but there's more. There's more that this family would experience today. Do you know how much they would get for individualized service? Let's say one of their children might be living with autism, Mr. Chair. It was, under the NDP, zero, a big zero. There was no individualized funding under the NDP for any child that may be

living with autism, Mr. Chair.

This was another campaign promise that was made by the Saskatchewan Party, and it's a promise that was kept. It's for individualized funding — \$8,000 a year for children up to the age of five, \$6,000 a year for those children aged 6 to 11. So that's \$3,000 a year in income tax savings, \$300 a year in the active families benefit, and 6 to \$8,000 a year if one of those kids happens to be on the autism spectrum.

But there's even more than that for this family of four in Saskatchewan today. Maybe one of the parents or one of the kids might have diabetes. We now cover the cost of an insulin pump in Saskatchewan. That's up to \$6,300 every five years. We also cover the cost of the flash glucose monitors for kids under the age of 18. Again, neither of those programs existed under the members opposite when they were paying that high income tax rate. But today, thankfully, families do receive that support.

So \$3,000 in income tax for savings, \$300 with the active families benefit, 6 to \$8,000 if one of those children is on the autism spectrum, and additional dollars if one in that family has diabetes. Still more. Still more for that family.

What if one of those children is in day care? We are now bringing in \$10 day care here in the province. That's going to save a family hundreds and hundreds of dollars in each and every year.

Maybe that couple has a couple of elderly parents that are living with a low income and they might not be able to help them out. Well that elderly parent qualifies for the seniors' income plan. Now that's one program that, full credit, it did exist under the NDP. It did exist under the NDP. They paid \$90 each and every month, loyally, but it never increased one dime in 16 years under their government. Once our government took office, the seniors' income plan doubled, then it tripled, and now it has actually quadrupled. Now it's up to \$360 a month. That's up \$270 a month under the members opposite.

Maybe that same family is thinking of buying their first house. Well they are now going to qualify for just over \$1,000 under the first-time homebuyers tax credit. Again a promise made by this party, a promise kept by this party when they formed government.

Maybe one or both of those parents recently completed their own post-secondary education — this is a significant difference, given the comments this past week — \$20,000 tax incentive in tax credits that would be carried forward by those folks as they stay in the province, work in the province. That is the best youth retention program in Canada. It's the graduate retention program and it's one that the member from Saskatoon University said they would cancel. Mr. Chair, that again was another promise made by this party and a promise kept by this government.

So very few of those programs existed under the NDP. They were enhanced under this government. That is the \$1,050 to help that family buy their first home, \$3,000 to help with the cost of tuition each and every year, \$20,000 to stay and work and raise their family here with the graduate retention program, \$3,000 in income tax savings each and every year, \$300 for the active family activities each and every year, seniors' income plan increases for their parents, 6 to \$8,000 a year if one of those

children happens to be on the autism spectrum, thousands more saved in the support for insulin pumps.

[18:00]

And last fall, that last fall, that same family would have received \$1,000 in affordability tax credits — \$1,000 in affordability tax credits. Mr. Chair, that is thousands of dollars in savings and supports that have come from this Saskatchewan Party government to address, more recently affordability concerns, but over the long term, the cost of living in this province from eight different programs and tax credits that didn't, for the most part, even exist under the members opposite. So one program I would say that did exist under the members opposite but it provided just one-quarter of what it did today was that seniors' income plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, this family today, this family of four today is thousands of dollars, literally thousands and thousands of dollars in better shape than they ever were under the NDP or ever would be should the NDP ever become government again. So most importantly, what we will do on this side of the House is continue to stand up for, to stand up for these very families, this family of four, and many more like them across this province to ensure that our community, the community that they live in is affordable and to ensure that they have every opportunity to stay here as well as their children and the next generation.

The Chair: — Before I ask the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier for brief closing comments, I would ask officials to make their way off the floor please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for the time and the opportunity here today. I want to say thank you, not only to you, but the Clerks, the Pages, folks in Hansard, Sergeant-at-Arms, legislative security, the folks in broadcast services — all the people that work in front of the scenes but also behind the scenes here — to allow us this opportunity to ask questions of the Premier about something as very important and crucial to the people of this province as the choices made in the budget.

I want to say thank you also to my team. First of all, behind the scenes, those . . . I assume they're watching back in the caucus office. Small but mighty team, Mr. Chair, who have a lot of weight on their shoulders. You know, a lot riding on a very small opposition but they do an amazing, an amazing job and I don't probably tell them often enough, because you're kept rather busy in a 12-member opposition. But you know, they are working day and night, so hard for the people of this province, and we see that, and I think the people of the province appreciate that as well.

And I want to say thank you to this team — those who are here today, those who are watching back at home. I say this a lot but I mean it every time. You know, I'm not sure I would pick 12 as the number I'd want for opposition. You would probably want to have a few more and be on the other side, but if I had to pick 12 or 11, I guess, I'd pick this crew all over again, every time. These are people who care about the people of this province. They're informed, they're smart, they're funny, and they're going to make great cabinet ministers some day, Mr. Chair, and I can't wait to see that.

And I do want to thank the Premier for the debate today, for the

answers. You know, this is important. And most of the time, we can have a good joke back and forth, and I know, it sometimes gets heated on the floor of this Assembly but it should. The things that we discuss here are important. The things that we bring forward, we don't do for ourselves — as none of us should — we do for the people that we represent. And there should be a good airing of differences of opinions. So I thank him for being present today with his officials and for the exchange that we had here.

This team is focused on the things that matter to the people of this province — health care, education, the cost of living. And I know today the Premier talked about an imaginary family of four, which works okay in here. But out there, you know, the question I've been asking people is, are you better off than you were last year? Are you better off than you were five years ago? And time and time again, Mr. Chair, the answer comes back no. And that's what keeps us up at night. That's what keeps us working hard and bringing these concerns, these questions, but also those hopes and dreams that we hear from the people of this province forward because people want to be part of that brighter future here in this province. That's what this is all about.

And with due respect to the Premier — I'm not one who honestly likes to call names — but the description of old and tired and out of touch is what comes back to us time and time again in this province. And I think that it is time . . . You know sometimes governments get a little long in the tooth. I think it's time that the people of this province had a government who was working and connected to their needs and their concerns, Mr. Speaker. And that's what this team will continue to work towards.

We're going to keep working hard and listening, keep earning the trust of the people of this province, Mr. Chair. And I make this pledge: we will never, never, we will never, never take that trust that the people of this province have placed in us for granted. Thank you.

The Chair: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Leader of the Opposition for her comments. The tired, old . . . I have a very offended colleague here that is looking for an apology at some point. He's taking it very personal, Mr. Chair, kind of like our Boston Bruins fans here.

But I do want to take an opportunity to just say a couple thank yous. First and foremost, to all the building staff in this building. We couldn't conduct the business that we do each and every day without all of the building staff that come in here each and every day to make sure that we can do the business that we do. So thank you. Thank you to them.

Thank you to the officials that attended here today, officials that are working behind the scenes, all of the staff that we see in the galleries here, the ones that are back in their offices. Thank you for what you do each and every day as well. Whether you're government or opposition, you're part of making this province a better place. And when we look at some of what our province is achieving yet today, I think you can hold your head high and be very proud that you are part of building a much better province of Saskatchewan than we even had yesterday. So thank you for your effort.

Mr. Chair, I want to take the opportunity as well to thank you for not only chairing this meeting but chairing many of our exchanges back and forth, and thank you for the work that you do as an MLA in a neighbouring constituency to myself.

Thank you to the opposition members as well. The opposition, as much as we may seem like we disagree day in, day out — in particular on NHL [National Hockey League] hockey teams — but as much as we may appear to disagree, Mr. Chair, everyone that serves in this House is here for the right reasons. I truly believe that.

And the opposition has a very important role to play in a democracy, and I would say that the opposition that we have here today plays that role and they, as well, can hold their heads high for a number of reasons. They are a strong opposition and one that we face every day, and they do hold this government to account.

And I would say thank you to the Leader of the Opposition. Being a leader of any political organization, any political party — whether you sit in the opposition side or the government side — it brings with it a certain different level of challenges and, I would say a certain level of enjoyable moments as well. And remember the enjoyable moments and hopefully work through the challenges quicker than they arise. But thank you to the Leader of the Opposition as well for what she does each and every day in this House and outside of it.

Thank you to my colleagues, all the government colleagues, MLAs on the government side of the House. The Leader of the Opposition thinks she has a great team, and if she just served an hour here she'd know what a great team really looks like. And I say that in jest, Mr. Chair.

And I'm very honoured, I'm very honoured to serve with you day in, day out, whether it be in this House or more broadly across the province of Saskatchewan. And through you, I would say, as we find our way to the end of the session, please thank your families on behalf of myself personally and on behalf of your other colleagues.

As we've said today, nobody serves in this Assembly without the love and support of their family and please, when you do go home, please thank them and make sure that you're able to take some time and spend that with your respective family.

And last but not least, I'd just say thank you to, more broadly, to the people across the province of Saskatchewan, of which there are more each and every day. The recipe for success in this province, it really isn't that complicated. In what we do, in providing energy security and food security to the rest of the world, we attract investment, Mr. Chair. We attract that investment into this province. That creates jobs. It creates opportunities for people to move here. We're seeing all of that happen now.

But I would say more important than all of that, and what drives me each and every day and I'll never lose sight of, is ensuring that that opportunity is going to be there for that next generation. For my children and ultimately my grandchildren. And just trying to do the little bit that we can as a government in leaving this place a little bit better than we found it, whether that be in

growing the economy, growing the opportunity, or the subsequent services that that growth then can provide.

The line “growth that works for everyone” doesn’t work without the aforementioned growth. And that is what I would like to say thank you to more broadly, to all of the people across the province, as they most certainly are creating the environment for some tremendous growth for today and for years into the future.

And we are going to ensure that we work alongside them to ensure that that growth truly does work for everyone across what I think is not only the greatest province in Canada but the greatest place to live on earth. Thank you very much.

The Chair: — We’ll do the vote off. Is subvote (EX01), central management and services in the amount of \$6,998,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX03), communications office in the amount of \$1,094,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX04), cabinet planning in the amount of \$765,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX05), cabinet secretariat in the amount of \$512,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. The subvote (EX06), members of the Executive Council in the amount of \$152,000. This is a statutory amount. No vote is required.

Is subvote (EX07), Premier’s office in the amount of \$492,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX08), House business and research in the amount of \$248,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX10), Intergovernmental Affairs in the amount of \$3,060,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. Is subvote (EX12), Lieutenant Governor’s office in the amount of \$725,000, agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

Resolved that there be granted to His Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2023, the following sums for Executive Council: \$12,994,000.

Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[18:15]

The Chair: — This motion is carried. There being no further business before the committee, I would invite a member to move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

Mr. Hargrave: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Next sitting.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. It now being past the ordinary time of adjournment, this House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 18:17.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Dana Skoropad
Minister of Environment

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education