



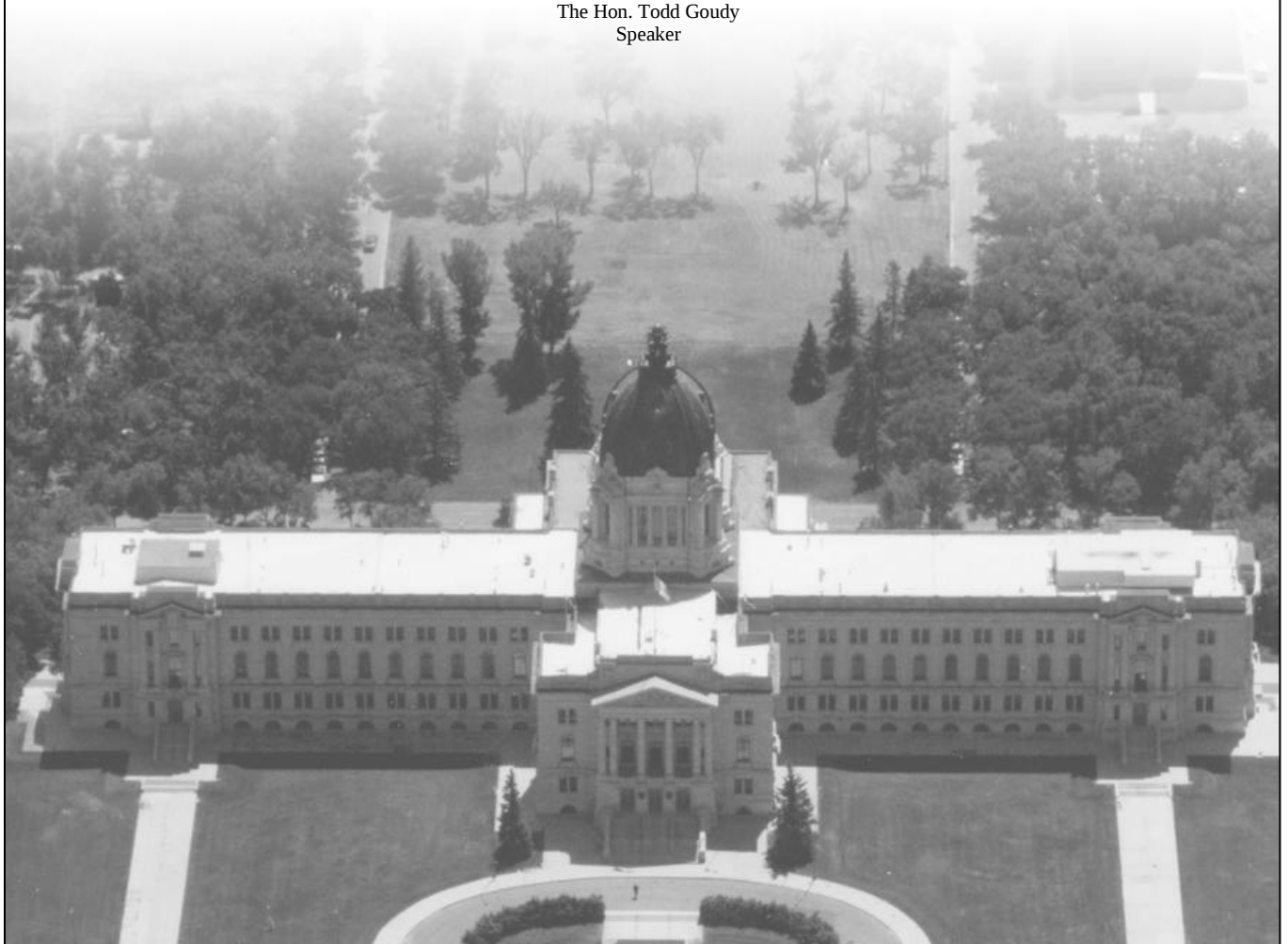
SECOND SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Todd Goudy
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
2nd Session — 30th Legislature

Lieutenant Governor — Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, S.O.M.

Speaker — Hon. Todd Goudy
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

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Brar, Bhajan — Regina Pasqua (NDP)
Breckner, Kim — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)
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Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
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Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
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Jorgenson, Keith — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (NDP)
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Keisig, Hon. Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Kropf, Barret — Dakota-Arm River (SP)
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McBean, Don — Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis (NDP)
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McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
McPhail, Jordan — Cumberland (NDP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Patterson, Megan — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)
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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery, I am honoured to introduce to the Assembly Her Excellency Sarantogos Erdenetsogt, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Canada, who is undertaking her first official visit to Saskatchewan.

Her Excellency has been a distinguished career diplomat for nearly three decades, previously serving as Mongolia's ambassador to the Republic of Korea and in senior leadership roles with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ulaanbaatar. She is joined today by Mr. Amarsaikhan Dashpurev, the minister-councillor and deputy chief of mission, and Ariun Adiya, the councillor with the embassy of Mongolia.

Their visit highlights the growing partnership between Saskatchewan and Mongolia, particularly in agriculture, education, mining, and innovation. Delegations from Mongolia participate in our province's major agricultural events such as Ag in Motion and the Canadian Western Agribition. And our institutions continue to collaborate on research, climate resilience, and agricultural development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in extending a warm Saskatchewan welcome to Her Excellency and the Mongolian delegation as we continue building strong, productive relationships between our province and Mongolia.

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

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the delegation from Mongolia and echo my colleague's words in looking forward to deepening ties between our province and your country. And I hope you enjoy Agribition and all the province has to offer. Thank you.

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Betty Nippi-Albright: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the leadership from Peter Ballantyne

Cree Nation to their legislature, including councillor for Deschambault Lake, Walter Ballantyne. They are joined by one of their esteemed members that I will be saying more about in my member's statement, former cabinet minister Joan Beatty, who is also here with us sitting on the floor. I also want to extend my heartfelt welcome to Joan who has served us proud in this Assembly.

While I'm on my feet I also want to welcome another former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and cabinet minister Sandra Morin, who has always been an ally. Thank you, Sandra.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and welcome Yellow Quill First Nation leaders and community members that are here, and also the others from the North that come to celebrate Joan. So I welcome, and I ask all members to join me in welcoming, these folks to their Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister for Advanced Education.

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming Joan and Sandra, Joan Beatty and Sandra Morin, to their Legislative Assembly. I enjoyed very much serving with them in the House at the same time.

Joan and I attended BILLD [Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development]. We were amongst the first Saskatchewan MLAs to attend BILLD in Madison, Wisconsin and had a great time. And Sandra Morin and I, we solved many problems together. Some were on the beach in Regina Beach as well, so outside the legislature. But two members that have added greatly to this Legislative Assembly, and I ask all members to welcome them back to theirs.

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

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with my colleague from Saskatoon Centre as well as the member opposite to welcome Sandra Morin to her Legislative Assembly. Sandra served as the MLA for Regina Walsh Acres from 2003 to 2011 and served as a minister for Youth, Culture and Recreation. She has been just a wonderful mentor to me as I have taken on this role, and we've spent a fair bit of time chatting about issues and ideas. And I very much have appreciated her insight and guidance as I have become the MLA for Regina Walsh Acres.

And I just want to take a moment to thank her for her work in this province, not only in the legislature but also through many community organizations. I think about language and the work she's done here in Regina to support multilingualism and celebrate that. And I get to see her when we go to the SAIL [Saskatchewan Association of International Languages] event at the U of R [University of Regina] where multiple cultural groups present and sing and speak in a celebration of multiculturalism in this province.

So I ask all members to join me in welcoming Sandra Morin to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Eric Schmalz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to quickly rise to my feet, to you and through you, and welcome delegates from Yellow Quill Cree Nation as well as Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation here in the House today and to ask all members to join me in welcoming them here today. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity today to welcome a few folks that are seated on the floor with us today. We have Dr. Brenda Anderson. Brenda is the associate professor in women's and gender studies and religious studies at Luther College at the University of Regina.

And we also have Michelle Deschambault with us as well, and Michelle's mother, Dr. Elder Lorna Standingready. So Elder Lorna is an Elder-in-Residence at Luther College at U of R. She graduated with a business degree in the year 2000 from the U of R, and she was honoured with a honorary doctorate from St. Andrew's Theological College in Saskatoon for her lifetime work in reconciliation.

These are just some of the many roles and involvements, as I'm going to get into a little bit more in my member's statement, but I would like to welcome all three to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Chris Beaudry: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome the delegation from Yellow Quill. I have the great opportunity of coaching some of the children from Yellow Quill in baseball, softball, and hockey, and also have the rare opportunity to play with some of the folks in a little bit of rec hockey from Yellow Quill. So it's good to see you here today, and I hope we see each other on the ice on the weekend.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a real honour to welcome a couple very young seniors that I'm very proud to represent that have joined us here today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Gladys Roddy and Linda Andrews have joined us here today. These are incredible leaders in our community. They have the courage as well to speak up about the precarity that so many seniors, so many community members face with respect to rent, Mr. Speaker. So we thank them for their voice on this front. It's a pleasure to have them here. I ask all members to provide a very warm welcome to Gladys and Linda.

While on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I want to join in to welcome very briefly to Elder Lorna Standingready. This is a remarkable leader and woman, somebody that's taught me personally and taught so many, given so much back to her community, her province, and her country. And it's a real honour to have Elder Lorna

Standingready here today, along with her daughter Michelle, who is a wonderful person as well, and Brenda. And I ask all members to join in a very warm welcome.

Just 10 more introductions, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet. No, just two more. Joan Beatty, Sandra Morin, awesome to have you here. It was a pleasure to serve with you both, and just wonderful to have you here in your Assembly where you served so honourably.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Jamie Martens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to introduce today Sutter Danychuk. He is the president of, I would say, arguably the best constituency, which is Martensville-Blairmore. But this young man is an incredible asset to have. He also sits on, I believe, four other boards as member at large across this province, as well as EDAs [electoral district association]. So anything to do with politics, this young man knows what he's talking about and gives me updates all the time.

So I would like to ask all members to welcome Sutter Danychuk to his legislature.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — I request leave for an extended introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Jordan McPhail: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to rise from my chair and recognize — and has been recognized, so I'll join some of the other members here — the former MLA that has held my seat here, Joan Beatty.

I went and checked out some of the video archives when I knew you were coming to the legislature. And I've got to say, the way that you stood for northern people and represented the North is a true testament to the strength and resilience that you have growing up in the North and a proud member of PBCN [Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation]. And it's an honour to be able to have the chair that you've once sat in, and I hope I do you proud each and every day.

And Sandra, welcome as well. Just because I can, while I'm on my feet, I will say that Sandra, after meeting you a few times here, you're my favourite MLA from Regina Walsh Acres.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I do want to recognize the leadership here from PBCN as well, Chief Peter Beatty. I've got to know you over the years. Incredible leadership, and that was on full display this summer as your communities, Denare Beach, Pelican Narrows, Deschambault Lake were all affected, Southend included, in the response to this year's wildfires.

Peter Beatty, Chief Peter A. Beatty, has been a chief and involved in elected politics quite literally for as long as I've been alive, Mr. Speaker. He's done incredible work. And he's joined here with his councillors Justin and Walter. And I thank you both for

the leadership that you've shown, the guidance that you give me as an elected leader alongside you.

And last but certainly not least, I want to recognize a good friend of mine in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Aman Mosazghi. He's a psychotherapist in northern Saskatchewan, a recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, has worked tirelessly in mental health and addictions as part of the Embracing Life initiative that was part of northern Saskatchewan. Just does incredible work with youth and everybody — a true community leader. Honoured to call him my friend.

And I ask that members join me in welcoming all of these fine folks to this, their provincial legislature, here today.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from White City-Qu'Appelle.

Brad Crassweller: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in the west gallery, I'd like to introduce Matthew McStravick. Matthew's from the U of R, very involved in the campus there, and he's here to have a meeting later on with Minister Cheveldayoff and myself. So I just want to welcome Matthew to his Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Stonebridge.

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek leave for an extended introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome a constituent and a friend, Betty Cone. She's joined today by her daughter Caralee and her granddaughter Bailie. Unfortunately today they are not joined by Betty's spouse, Laurie, who unfortunately passed away in late October.

They have many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that they've dedicated themselves to over the last number of years since retiring. Very dedicated with the church, baseball, curling. Surely they're cheering on Mike McEwen as he goes for Saskatchewan representing us in the Olympics.

But all that being said, I've had the pleasure to know Betty and Laurie for some time now. Laurie was battling dementia and Alzheimer's, and those are illnesses that are unfortunately too close to too many of us in this room. So I certainly empathize with how difficult it is to deal with a loved one who's going through dementia and Alzheimer's.

[13:45]

That being said, it's a real pleasure to have them in the Assembly today. I'd ask all members to welcome Betty, Caralee, and Bailie to this, their Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to all members of this Assembly, I would like to echo all of the welcomes that have been provided here today, whether it be to former leaders, whether it be to current community leaders, or international leaders, Mr. Speaker, or just in general everyone that has joined us here today.

I also want to add to that list, to introduce five individuals, Mr. Speaker, starting with Amelia, Eliza, and Ilena Moe. Now Ilena got impatient with her uncle and had to leave with her mother, Mr. Speaker, as he was taking too long to get to his feet. They brought along their mother, who is out tending to Ilena right now, Mr. Speaker, is Alisha Moe. And, Mr. Speaker, last but certainly not least is — as you know, I have a large family; I'm at the one end, the oldest of the family — but my youngest and my little brother, Tyrel, who has joined us here today.

Again, Mr. Speaker, through you and to you, I ask all members to welcome Tyrel, Alisha, and their children Amelia, Eliza, and Ilena to their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to have Tyrel Moe here in the Assembly. Families are very important. I don't know if he'd consider candidacy for us in the next election, Mr. Speaker, but that'd be pretty awesome, Moe v. Moe, Mr. Speaker.

But I came to my feet to give special recognition to Jannet Shanks, who's seated with my constituents here today. She had stepped out because she was helping a couple of our other constituents that were here. This is a remarkable community leader, the constituency assistant in our community, who extends care and support to those that are reaching out day in, day out. She does that through our office.

She's fully integrated through the community and gives back in so many ways, and has for so many years through the abilities community and the community around the acquired Brain Injury Association. Somebody that is always there to volunteer and to give back. A tremendous athlete as well, Mr. Speaker, who helps out blind bowling and many different organizations.

And was the first to put up her hand, Mr. Speaker, when we were dealing with evacuees that had basic needs that weren't being met back in the spring, Mr. Speaker, to say, hey, we can help organize, being a place that can take donations and get those out to the community. And I got to work back and forth with Jannet on that front. She had those donations coming into that office and organized, and then back out the door with us as teams of MLAs and volunteers each and every day. She's a real force for good, and I'm very lucky to work with her.

And I ask all members to welcome Jannet Shanks to her Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — And I wanted to certainly welcome Her Excellency and the delegation from Mongolia again here today. We had a great time of visiting. And it brought back memories, seeing on the list of who was going to be visiting this week, a lot of our agricultural connections.

But her predecessor made such an impact on me that I woke up this morning and his name was on my mind. And nice to see your connections back to Mongolia and the good work that you do here. Mongolia and Saskatchewan have many of the same similarities — agricultural, very kind and humble people, if I can say, for Saskatchewan, too. I can certainly say that for Mongolia.

And we hope that you have a great week here in Saskatchewan, that you make many wonderful connections. And certainly send greetings back to Mongolia from here to Adiya as well. So thank you for being here.

We will move from that to petitions.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to present a petition to call on the Saskatchewan government to take immediate action to stand up for Indigenous children and all vulnerable students by advocating for the full restoration of funding previously supported by Jordan's principle.

Jordan's principle was established to ensure that First Nations children have equitable access to the services they need, including supports in schools. The recent loss of this federal funding will leave a significant gap in Saskatchewan classrooms, especially for Indigenous students who rely on inclusive education supports to thrive.

Funding cuts by the federal government have led to the layoff of 80 educational assistants from Saskatoon Public Schools, with more funding shortfalls expected this fall. Instead of stepping up to fill this gap, the 2025-26 provincial budget reduces education funding, budgeting \$4.4 billion less than what was actually spent the previous year. This is an alarming move at a time when our schools are already stretched to the breaking point due to chronic underfunding and short-staffing.

The prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan stand up for Saskatchewan and advocate for the restoration of federal Jordan's principle funding to support Indigenous students in schools; commit to sustainable, predictable, and equitable provincial funding for inclusive education across Saskatchewan; ensure education support workers have the resources and staffing they need to keep safe; and support every student's learning journey.

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

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Jacqueline Roy: — Merci, monsieur le Président.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

I rise today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to fix the crisis in health care. The undersigned residents wish to bring to our attention: that Saskatchewan still has the longest wait times for knee and hip replacement surgery, that it is unacceptable that women in this province are being forced to travel out of province still for routine breast cancer diagnostic care, and that Saskatchewan people deserve adequate access to health care where and when they need it.

I'll now 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 address the short-staffing crisis in health care and work with health care workers on solutions to improve patient care.

The undersigned residents are from Saskatoon. I do so present.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

Bhajan Brar: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly to address the affordability crisis.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that inflation is the highest it has been in more than three decades; that according to Angus Reid, 84 per cent of Saskatchewan people are feeling stressed about money, the highest such rate of financial insecurity in Canada; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022; that the Sask Party government's power, PST [provincial sales tax], and tax hike makes life more expensive.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.

This petition has been signed by the residents of Regina. I do present. Thank you.

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

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to renew the federal-provincial child care agreement.

The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following. The federal government renewed its \$10-a-day child care agreement with 11 provinces and territories until 2031. Saskatchewan is one of two provinces that have not renewed the agreement. Child care operators and parents have voiced their concern. They know that affordable and accessible child care is critical for families, our economy, for jobs, and our future. Licensed child care centres have contributed to the local economy by providing local jobs, opportunities for professional development, and by allowing parents to join or rejoin the workforce. And without access to affordable and accessible child

care, families will be forced to leave the workforce, which will have impacts on our economy and communities.

With that, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately renew the federal-provincial child care agreement to save jobs, help families, and boost our economy.

The signatories to this petition reside in Saskatoon. I do so submit.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the Legislative Assembly today to present this petition to implement rent control now.

The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan tenants are currently experiencing the highest level of rent increases in the country; that rent in Saskatchewan has risen by 4 per cent in the last year alone, far outpacing wage growth and putting more pressure on families, seniors, students, and low-income residents; that without rent control, landlords can implement unchecked rent hikes, making housing increasingly unaffordable and unstable; that with rent control residents can budget more effectively, potentially putting them in a position to save for a down payment on their first home; and that provinces such as British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island have already implemented rent control measures to protect tenants and maintain housing affordability.

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adopt fair and effective rent control legislation that limits annual rent increases, ensures housing stability, and protects tenants from being priced out of their homes.

The signatories to this petition live in Fort Qu'Appelle, Emerald Park, and White City. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Kindersley-Biggar.

Canadian Western Agribition Showcases the Best of Saskatchewan

Kim Gartner: — Mr. Speaker, it's a great day in Saskatchewan. Canadian Western Agribition is back in Regina. The ceremonial Burning of the Brand earlier today kicked off what is the biggest livestock show in Canada.

For 54 years, Agribition has showcased the livestock and agribusinesses that represent the very best of the industry. It is an

international hub of agricultural excellence, with leaders from around the world coming together to do business, network, and learn. Mr. Speaker, Agribition continues to grow, hosting over 1,200 international guests from over 69 countries in 2024. It's events like Agribition that truly highlight the fact that Saskatchewan has the food, fuel, and fertilizer that the world needs.

Mr. Speaker, Agribition adds over 116 million to Saskatchewan's economy annually. With events ranging from livestock shows and auctions to the Maple Leaf Circuit Finals Rodeo, trade show, and student educational activities, there's something for everyone. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to check it out and learn more about Saskatchewan's world-class agricultural sector. The dedication and passion of Saskatchewan's ranchers, farmers, and agribusinesses is clear in events like Agribition.

Thank you to the team, volunteers, producers, exhibitors, and attendees for making this year's Canadian Western Agribition possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Western Agribition kicked off today here in Regina for its 54th year. This is the place to be this week. Livestock producers from across Canada and around the world have converged on Regina for Agribition for more than half a century. They come to gain expertise, build relationships, and do business with Saskatchewan's remarkable livestock producers and ag manufacturers, innovators, and industry leaders.

Agribition is a very proud showcase of Saskatchewan as a leader in livestock practices, technology, breeding, and genetics. As a livestock competition and sale, the show is iconic. Agribition is the best beef show on the continent.

The show also delivers invaluable programming for students with where their food comes from, and it's home to the renowned Maple Leaf Finals pro rodeo, where incredible athletes compete. I can't wait to get over to the show, along with my colleagues, and family, and friends throughout the week.

I want to thank CEO [chief executive officer] Shaun Kindopp and the whole team at CWA [Canadian Western Agribition] for the incredible work that they put into the show that celebrates some of the best of Saskatchewan.

I ask all members to join with me to thank them, all the organizers, all the volunteers, all the producers, and participants for making it such a success, and something that we're all so very proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Santa Claus Parade Full of Christmas Spirit

Megan Patterson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm so excited to tell you about last night's Moose Jaw Santa Claus Parade hosted by the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Club.

[14:00]

It was such an amazing evening full of lights, cheer, and holiday spirit. There were dozens of floats and hundreds of people walking and volunteering. There were air, army, and sea cadets, and floats hosted by local businesses such as Dance Images, John Deere, Rocky Mountain Equipment, and AgriLink. There were floats hosted by local organizations such as the Shriners, the Kinsmen Club, the scouts, and the Flying Fins, just to name a few.

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers, and the thousands who came out to watch. Thank you to the Moose Jaw Co-op for donating cookies and Tim Hortons for donating hot chocolate. Thank you to the Temple Gardens Centre for allowing us to gather there for snacks and to light the tree after the parade. Thank you to the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Club for all you do for our community. I am so proud to have had our very own Deputy Premier, three ministers, and five MLAs from this side of the House in the parade.

Christmas is a great opportunity to think of what we are grateful for. I am grateful for the amazing people in the city of Moose Jaw, and for being part of a team that supports each other, so we can all continue to support safe, strong, and secure communities all across the province.

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

First Nation Woman Transformed the Legislative Assembly

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, on September 4th Saskatchewan marked 120 years. In all that time, only three First Nation women have ever been elected to this Assembly. I am one of them. I stand here on the shoulders of the very first, Joan Beatty.

When she entered this Chamber, she carried with her integrity, compassion, and courage. She made it possible to see herself here, in a place where few believed it was possible. She broke barriers, shattered expectations, and showed our daughters, our sisters, and our grandmothers that they belong in these seats too. Her leadership was transformative. She brought Indigenous values into a space that often resists change.

She left a lasting legacy woven into this very building — the Indigenous artwork and murals that grace the Legislative Building and the beaver pelt with the beaded picture of our province. These are not just symbols. They are the daily reminders of who we are and of the truth this legislature must hold. Being a First Nation woman in mainstream politics is not easy. Joan Beatty showed us that it can be done with dignity, with strength, and with love for her people.

This afternoon, in partnership with her Nation, we will hold a reception to honour Joan Beatty to ensure her legacy continues to inspire future generations. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Joan Beatty for all she has done for this province and for being the first First Nation woman to be elected in provincial politics. Gichi-miigwech. Miigwech.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Yorkton Santa Claus Parade Celebrates Christmas

David Chan: — Mr. Speaker, what an incredible day we had yesterday in Yorkton as our community came together for the 2025 Legacy Co-op Santa Claus Parade. The spirit of Christmas was alive and unmistakable along Broadway Street where families, children, and neighbours lined the sidewalks smiling, waving, and celebrating side by side. It was a wonderful reminder of why Yorkton is such a special place.

We also had some special guests last night. I was honoured and delighted to welcome the Premier and nine of my MLA colleagues who joined the parade this year. Yorkton puts on one of the best Christmas parades anywhere, and I was proud to have my colleagues witness first-hand the warmth, dedication, and community spirit that is so characteristic of Yorkton.

I also want to recognize the Yorkton Business Improvement District executive director, Kaitlyn Kitzen, and the parade committee for their tremendous work in bringing all of this together. This year saw a record-breaking 78 floats registered, thanks to their hard work and thanks to the incredible showing from our community. To every business, organization, community group, and resident who took the time to create a float, you brought light, joy, and excitement to thousands, especially to the children. Thank you for helping make the season bright.

Mr. Speaker, what a day for Yorkton. May the same spirit of warmth, generosity, and cheer fill our homes and hearts throughout the Christmas season.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Accomplished Elder Continues to Inspire

Brent Blakley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A while back I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Elder Lorna Standingready and talk a little bit about her life. Elder Lorna was born in the Fort Qu'Appelle hospital and spent her first years as a child living in, as she calls it, Big Bush on Peepeekisis First Nation. Her family lived off the land, and that's where Elder Lorna developed her deep respect for nature and all living things.

At age six she was taken from her home and spent the next 10 years at Indian residential schools in Prince Albert, Portage la Prairie, and Birtle, Manitoba. Elder Lorna was married at 18 and worked several jobs doing farm labour, and in 1969 she came to Regina and started working as a family care worker with the Regina Native Women's Association, doing advocacy work for Indigenous women.

Over the years Elder Lorna has done community work and volunteered for over 40 organizations. Lorna Standingready is currently the Elder-in-Residence at Luther College at the University of Regina. She also does good work for a number of other organizations, including Caring Hearts and Ranch Ehrlo. Elder Lorna continues to inspire and pass on the life lessons, words that have been shared with her.

I've highlighted in this just a few of her recognitions and accomplishments. She's really amazing. Please help me

acknowledge Dr. Elder Lorna Standingready and the work she continues to do.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

Opposition Information on Housing Investment

Kevin Kasun: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's incumbent on us as elected members to make sure we're bringing accurate information to the public discourse.

Last week the NDP [New Democratic Party] put out a news release on investment in residential construction to try and justify the rent control policy. The only issue is, Mr. Speaker, every single number the NDP put out was wrong. The NDP tried to run down Saskatchewan's economy by claiming new housing investments had only grown by 98 per cent. Mr. Speaker, they were off by 40 per cent. In reality, Saskatchewan's housing investment has grown by 138 per cent. We are first in the nation when it comes to housing starts.

These errors should come as no surprise from the NDP who mix up revenue and expense in their election platform. But the NDP will do anything to try to justify their ill-conceived policies like rent control, which would dry up investment and lead to housing shortages. According to the CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation], rent control reduces housing quality, decreases housing supply, and leads to poor maintenance on rental units.

Will the leader of the NDP apologize for putting out factually incorrect information to the Saskatchewan people? Have the lost and reckless NDP changed their ways? We're about to find out.

QUESTION PERIOD

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Rent Control, Cost of Living, and Affordability

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let's revisit the facts. Rent has gone up in Saskatchewan for 40 months straight. Every single day hard-working employed people in Saskatchewan come forward with heartbreaking stories of having to choose between heating and eating and paying rent.

Now the Sask Party has rejected widespread calls for rent control, claiming it would hurt investment. And yet PEI [Prince Edward Island], Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and yes, even BC [British Columbia], Mr. Speaker, they all have rent control. And guess what? They have all outpaced the Sask Party government in new residential building investment since this Premier took office.

If rent control is so bad, Mr. Speaker, why are the provinces that are doing it demonstrably better than Saskatchewan, getting more houses built?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, because the statistics prove otherwise. The member opposite was talking about . . . I don't

know where she got her statistics from, Mr. Speaker, but we're using CMHC and Rentals.ca.

Wherever you look, Mr. Speaker — first of all, on CMHC — it clearly shows that we're doing better than most of the country. Saskatchewan year over year for housing starts, a 71 per cent increase; NDP BC with rent control, a reduction of 21 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, that clearly shows everywhere this has been tried, rent controls end up doing the exact opposite because investment dries up. People, corporations, individual people that build houses and rent houses out don't want to be somewhere where there's rent controls, Mr. Speaker. It dries up investment, and the exact opposite of what they're trying to achieve happens.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again the facts: Ontario, BC, Quebec, PEI, Manitoba all getting more houses built than this Premier in his term in office.

But perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it's more that this government is focused on defending big corporate, out-of-province landlords over the interests of the 300,000 renters here in Saskatchewan. Those people are piling on debt. Families, newcomers, seniors — they have the highest financial anxiety right here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Who, who is this Premier really interested in working for? The 300,000 Saskatchewan renters whom rent control would help, or the out-of-province, corporate landlords who bankroll his government?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, before I go back to the statistics that would prove that that simply isn't the case, here's a quote from Rental Housing Saskatchewan:

Rent control, despite good intentions, has consistently been shown to reduce rental supply, limit investment, and worsen affordability over time, especially for the very renters it aims to protect.

That's been the case, Mr. Speaker, across the country, across North America, around the world. It dries up investment, which means less housing starts, which means higher rents for people, Mr. Speaker.

Again with the statistics, Mr. Speaker, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation are where these housing starts are coming from. I read year over year. Year to date, Saskatchewan — a 50.8 per cent increase in housing starts, Mr. Speaker. NDP British Columbia with rent control, minus 4 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, that's the case over and over, whichever statistics you look at. Mr. Speaker, the exact opposite. Might be well-intentioned, but it dries up investment which leads to fewer housing starts, which leads to more pressures and long-term increases.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina South

Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member is quoting words from others because he has nothing to say for himself. He has nothing to say to, again, the 300,000 renters in Saskatchewan, who have seen their rent go up for 40 consecutive months.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's clear. After 18 years of this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government, they're not interested in listening to people about rent, and they're not interested in listening to people who have concerns about the cost of food. As rent skyrockets and the Sask Party sits on its hands, people can't afford to buy food.

Can the Premier tell this House what percentage of Saskatchewan people say they're drawing down savings or borrowing money just to put food in the fridge?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite in her preamble for those last series of questions, Mr. Speaker, said that I was reading quotes because I couldn't speak for myself. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to speak for myself.

The simple fact of the matter is it's simple economics, Mr. Speaker. The reason I was reading those quotes in is because those folks are experts, economists from all around the world who tell us that rent control does not work because it simply dries up investment. Investors aren't going to put their money where they can't get a reasonable return on their investment, Mr. Speaker.

That's why this government is not going to introduce rent control. Instead we're going to have the secondary suite incentive so that we can create more units, the first-time homebuyers, which we've increased by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're opposed to rent control.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That was a simple straightforward question to the Premier about how many people in Saskatchewan can't afford groceries. And the answer is four in ten. Four in ten people are borrowing money or spending their savings to afford food. There is no excuse for that in a province as wealthy as Saskatchewan. It's a higher number than anywhere else in Canada.

And yet, and yet, Mr. Speaker, despite this we see a Sask Party government that is taxing food. They're taxing kids' clothing. They're taxing tires. They're taxing carbon. They're taxing the homes of wildfire victims, Mr. Speaker. You need it; they tax it.

This is a government that loves to defend their past actions and rehash election campaign promises, but they have nothing to say to people who are choosing between heating and eating, who are seeing the rent go up every single month.

[14:15]

So a simple question to that government: will you scrap your PST hikes on, well, basically everything and put that money back where it belongs, in the pockets of hard-working Saskatchewan people?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Jim Reiter: — First of all, the simple answer, Mr. Speaker, is there has been no PST hikes on anything. The members opposite, every day in this House, they get up and they say there's PST on groceries. There is not PST on milk. There is not PST on bread. There is not PST on milk, not PST on eggs. Mr. Speaker, there's not PST on any of those groceries.

And as far as affordability, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan, we recognize the pressures families are feeling. Groceries have increased, just like they have across the nation and around the world. We recognize those. That's why we put two and a half billion dollars' worth of affordability measures in each and every budget, Mr. Speaker.

That's why a year ago, roughly a year ago, Mr. Speaker, the election campaign was largely fought on affordability measures. We put our platform forward. The NDP put their platform forward. We have met every single promise that we made in that platform, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to make affordability key to our province.

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

Incidents in Seniors' Care Homes

Keith Jorgenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I will give this government credit for one thing. They're great at multi-tasking. They manage to fail folks when it comes to affordability, and they've managed to fail seniors too, Mr. Speaker.

Today we're joined by the family of Laurie Cone: his wife, Betty, daughter Caralee, granddaughter Bailie. The Cone family lost Laurie tragically a little over a month ago, Mr. Speaker. Just 36 hours, 36 hours after the family moved him into an SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority]-run facility in Saskatoon, Laurie wandered away, broke his hip, and died a short time later of complications from that fall.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second time I'm up in this legislature in this period of about eight months, asking the minister about a senior who wandered away from a facility and then died.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit right now to make sure that no other senior will die like this under her watch?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Seniors.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the family for joining us here today. Any time we put our loved ones in a facility, we fully expect that they're going to be taken care of, and this is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. And that's what I have to say.

We have procedures in place. Rules are supposed to be followed. And I understand that this case is being looked into. And if

anything comes out of it that needs to be changed within that facility — or any other facilities we have — because of what they find, those changes will be made.

And I just extend my condolences to the family, and truly I feel for them, Mr. Speaker.

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

Keith Jorgenson: — Mr. Speaker, again this is the second time in the period of eight months that almost the identical thing has happened.

Mr. Speaker, Laurie had Alzheimer's. His condition got worse. His family reached out for help. They advocated and pushed for him to get the care that he needed. When they finally received word that there was a temporary bed available at a home in my riding, Preston Special Care Home, they thought that Laurie would be properly looked after. Little did they know that this facility was understaffed and unable to care for somebody who was known to wander.

What will the minister undertake, what actions will she undertake specifically to make sure that this never happens again, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Seniors.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my previous answer I said that this situation was unacceptable. I said that the matter is being looked into. If there are any changes that need to have to take place because of this incident, this is a government that will absolutely do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Keith Jorgenson: — Again, Mr. Speaker, second time in eight months. The last time was unacceptable as well. What actions were taken last time to make sure that Mr. Cone wasn't able to leave his facility and die?

The family has travelled here from Saskatoon, asking for an investigation and accountability, Mr. Speaker. After about a month and a half they've been asking for information about this investigation and received no information, Mr. Speaker. In fact the only things they've learned have been through the media.

Will the minister agree to meet with the family today and provide them with specific and concrete information about this investigation?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Seniors.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I will meet with the family today. And if there are any outcomes that have come from that investigation so far, I'd be more than happy to share them. And if they're not forthcoming today because it's still taking place, then I will share them in the future, Mr. Speaker. But I would be more than happy to meet with them today.

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

Government Priorities for Major Infrastructure Projects

Sally Housser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week we learned that a major potash facility is going to be built in the United States instead of here at home in Canada. It's disappointing news, but it's not a surprise.

The federal government has failed for years to ensure our ports can provide the capacity and reliability our exporters need to get products to market, and this Premier has failed to make the case that improving performance of our West Coast ports is essential to Saskatchewan's prosperity.

How does the Sask Party defend their record of failing to get the infrastructure our economy needs?

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

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Saskatchewan continues to have the strongest economy in Canada. You know what, we're very curious to hear that potash demand is increasing that significant, Mr. Speaker.

However what we do hear . . . What we're very disappointed in is the NDP driving investment out of Canada. What we're very disappointed in is the NDP government of BC picking winners and losers, Mr. Speaker. What we're very disappointed in is crickets from this opposition, not reaching out to their colleagues in BC to indicate that the BC coast is the country's coast; the country's ports, not BC's ports.

We certainly are emboldened by the fact that we export 70 per cent of what we produce here, Mr. Speaker, but we need access to port capacity. That is not what we're getting with an NDP BC led government, Mr. Speaker, of which we see zero, zero response from this opposition reaching out to their members across the way.

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

Sally Housser: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand how this government loves to point fingers because after 18 years, they have not been able to get the job done. Respect for our potash industry, respect for our potash workers means reaching out and talking to the federal government who can actually accomplish something, get our product to market.

Mr. Speaker, we need a rail system that performs and delivers, we need our ports to be competitive, and we need to know where this government's priorities lie. But how is that possible when they have not released their public project priority list? Will we see that list released from the government today?

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

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to take any lessons from the NDP right now on major projects

that unfortunately again, as we see in BC, have taken decades — decades — to even get permits pulled to be able to build or even be able to expand.

Mr. Speaker, you know what the unfortunate part that we now see with the opposition here is that their demand, their request to have lists. Lists apparently are very important, that apparently only the federal government can approve projects in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Look outside the door is what I would tell the opposition, Mr. Speaker. Every day there are major projects going on that are getting built, that are getting expanded on in this province. We will be taking no lessons from the opposition as to what their priority . . . believes that we need to make our priority, Mr. Speaker.

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

Pest Control at Regina Hospital

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've seen and heard multiple reports now of a cockroach infestation at the Regina General Hospital. This is obviously very concerning, Mr. Speaker, and only adds to the complete chaos that we see in health care after 18 years of this Sask Party government.

Two questions, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of this cockroach infestation? And what action has he taken to fix the situation at Regina's General Hospital?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously cockroaches in a hospital or a health care setting are unacceptable. Back in mid-October, cockroaches were found in two rooms at the Mother Baby Unit at the Regina General Hospital. Steps were taken immediately. Those rooms were closed and, Mr. Speaker, constant monitoring has happened since. And no further evidence of cockroaches in those units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the member for Regina Northeast spoke to a constituent who was horrified after he saw containers filled with mouse feces while cared for in a high-risk ward at the Regina General Hospital in September. So this is a hospital, again. We shouldn't be seeing cockroach infestations or mouse feces in the very places that patients are being cared for.

Instead of downplaying these concerns, what is the minister going to do to fix these health care concerns and make sure they don't happen again in hospitals in this province?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my previous answer to the member opposite, pests like this are unacceptable in a health care setting where we want

to put patients first each and every single day. I spoke with the Saskatchewan Health Authority very recently about this. The Saskatchewan Health Authority has a contract for pest control services. Work is done weekly, Mr. Speaker, and that work continues on to make sure that our health care facilities are pest free and ready for patients.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Emergency Hotel Stays and Provincial Approach to Homelessness

Brent Blakley: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government doesn't seem to care about cockroaches in hospitals, and they don't seem to care about cockroaches in hotels. The Coachman Inn right here in Regina is infested with cockroaches and bedbugs, and yet the Minister for Social Services continues to send at-risk clients to spend the night there. Why does the minister think it's acceptable to send clients to a hotel they know is unsafe?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I've been apprised by my ministry that as of today there are no social services clients at the Coachman. And I think this speaks to a larger issue and an announcement that we made last week, Mr. Speaker, on the provincial approach to homelessness: a \$20 million expansion and renewal of the original provincial approach to homelessness, which was a \$40.2 million investment. It's foundational funding. The \$20 million in terms of an expansion and renewal is going to create additional shelter spaces. It's also going to create additional supportive housing spaces, Mr. Speaker.

This is something that is taking place multi-ministry, through the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue we take extremely seriously, and it's one that we're going to keep working diligently on with our partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can't claim to be taking this issue seriously. If he did he would have acted in July of 2024. That's when one of his ministry's top officials noted in writing that he was:

Not sure that this hotel should be on our list if this is the conditions of the hotel, and it sounds like it's known in Regina to not be a great hotel.

Why did the minister fail to listen to his official's advice over a year ago and stop sending people to this unsafe, unhealthy hotel?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I alluded to last week, when it comes to individuals that are in crisis, this is a government that will not let somebody suffer. If it's a matter of leaving an individual on the street or finding a

roof to put over their head, we will always endeavour to put that roof over that individual's head, Mr. Speaker.

You know, when it comes to individuals that are in crisis and individuals that are needing help, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that works very closely with our government partners — federal as well as municipal. We also work with Indigenous partners, our community-based organizations who do outstanding work across this province in this field, Mr. Speaker.

We just finished making an additional \$20 million investment last week in the provincial approach to homelessness, Mr. Speaker, which is going to increase the number of shelter spaces. It's going to increase the number of opportunities for individuals to acquire supportive housing spaces. This is work that's going to continue to ensure that each individual, Mr. Speaker, is safe and secure in Saskatchewan.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Brent Blakley: — Mr. Speaker, the minister has a duty to the people of this province. When people are in crisis, you don't send them to a hotel with these conditions. After 18 years of Sask Party mismanagement, this is what we're left with — cockroaches, bedbugs, and a minister who denies there's even a problem.

[14:30]

Does the minister really think it's okay for vulnerable people to be placed in hotels with bugs, drugs, and God knows what else?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I've said before, this is an unacceptable situation. And this is why our ministry is working extremely hard to ensure that we're doing what we can and we're doing as much as we can for individuals that maybe find themselves vulnerable, or even worse, in crisis, Mr. Speaker.

You know, when it comes to individuals that are in this state, this is why we have made, government-wide, a \$98 million investment into working with homelessness and in working with our municipal partners, working with our mental health and addictions treatment centres, Mr. Speaker. We've made significant investments and we will continue to make those investments on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan to keep them safe and secure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Access to Addictions Treatment

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, another day goes by and this minister still has not disclosed the wait-list for addictions treatment. That minister should know. She is the minister responsible. She should be able to answer the question.

Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is in a drug crisis. Both Regina and Saskatoon continue to see drug alerts. People need to be able to

access care when they need it. They've been talking about central intake systems for two years. Two years.

We know these wait-lists are updated daily. Mr. Speaker, how many people are on wait-lists for in-patient treatment? And how many people are waiting to access care?

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

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as part of our mental health and addictions plan, part of that is a central intake system. First we started with trying to ensure that we were getting more spaces open within the system, and as we've canvassed previously in this House, we are adding an additional 500 spaces to that. We already have just about 300 of those spaces in place and of course with the goal of getting to those 500 as soon as we can, Mr. Speaker.

So we look forward to all of those spaces being open, evaluating exactly what is in our system, and what needs to come next.

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I'll ask again. How many people in this province are waiting to get into in-patient treatment to treat substance use disorders?

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

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As she talked about in her first question, we are introducing a central intake system. What that central intake system will do is it will help us do exactly what she's asking for, Mr. Speaker.

With that system, we'll be able to have a coordinated effort amongst all of our facilities to be able to track the number of individuals that are able to use the spaces that we are introducing, Mr. Speaker. Unlike when the NDP had the opportunity to serve — they were closing facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 608 — *The Rent Control Act, 2025*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 608, *The Rent Control Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon Westview that Bill No. 608, *The Rent Control Act, 2025* be now read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

Speaker Goudy: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

April ChiefCalf: — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 40 — *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks I will move second reading of *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*. *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025* amends eight existing provisions and establishes five new sections.

Much has evolved since the Act first came into force in 2018. Animal welfare and enforcement policies in Canada continue evolving to adapt to changing trade requirements and public expectations. Companies are developing stronger environmental, social, and governance policies that require higher standards of animal welfare. To support this, we are proposing amendments that will strengthen the Act and create more transparency and public accountability. During consultation, responses from stakeholders were overall favourable.

The following changes will strengthen the Act: creation of animal welfare inspector positions; authority to obtain telewarrants to relieve animal distress; authority to establish agreements with the Government of Canada, provincial governments, other ministries, local authorities, municipalities, and Indigenous communities for the purposes of enforcement; support other provincial legislation on humane euthanasia to respond to animal disease events and public safety; and clarify disposition of animals and veterinarians' ability to relieve animal distress under the Act.

The following changes are administrative in nature and will enhance public transparency and accountability: establishing a code of conduct for animal protection officers and animal welfare inspectors; establishing a chief officer position to oversee officer conduct; establishing an administrative agreement for animal protection agencies to enforce the Act; providing the authority to create an appeals board to adjudicate matters of animal disposition and owner liabilities for expenses; establishing guidelines on the use, receiving, and disclosure of information by designating agencies; and expanding the definition of animal protection officers to include police members as defined in *The Police Act, 1990*.

To date, livestock industry stakeholders have been supportive of this approach and have had little to no concerns with the proposed changes, and no major impacts to the province's livestock producers and animal owners are anticipated.

There is one set of regulations under the existing Act. The current regulations will need amendments and prescribing certain

provisions to accommodate changes in the Act. Regulations for the code of conduct and cost of care will be established to support the Act's provisions. The ministry is ready to engage with stakeholders to further discuss these matters and bring forward the regulations in 2026. It is anticipated that the new Act and regulations could come into force as early as January 1st, 2027.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025* will address some of the critical gaps in enforcement to establish better public accountability while balancing regulatory approaches and evolving animal welfare requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 40, *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and my thanks to the minister for his introductory comments on Bill 40. It's my privilege to put some of our own on the record in regards to *The Animal Protection Amendment Act*.

Having listened closely to the minister's comments, it's clear that Saskatchewan people take the care of their animals very seriously, and that's something I think we can all agree on here in the Assembly. And the housekeeping and modernization aspects of this piece of legislation I think are incredibly important. You know, the minister noted that he'd heard little to no concerns about this. Of course the critic will dig into that with stakeholders to make sure that's the case.

And I heard the minister again talk about the potential for having this bill and the regulations in place by January 2027. Again, you know, Mr. Speaker, I just remark that with the important work of legislating that all members have here in this Assembly, doing that consultation work in advance — which I imagine has happened — but in particular when we get into the details that are so often covered off by the regulations, I think it's incumbent on legislators to make sure that that work is done well in advance of the legislation being introduced. Because boy, do I have a great deal of respect for those legislative drafters and all the people who work so hard behind the scenes to ensure that the legislation matches the policies and intent of the province as it moves forward.

You know, the minister also made some comments about this new piece of legislation looking to address gaps in accountability and transparency that currently exist. And boy, if on this side of the House we don't support that with a hearty "hear, hear," not just for this piece of legislation, but also when it comes to the issue of foreign farm landownership and so many other things that we discuss here in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

With that, the critic's going to be consulting with stakeholders to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The critic's going to be consulting with many stakeholders, even more stakeholders as he's heckling his own member as she's trying to put comments on the record.

But no, Mr. Speaker, we support modernizing the Act, getting in line with other jurisdictions. I thank the minister again for his comments and we'll move to adjourn debate on Bill 40.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 41 — *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act/Loi sur la reconnaissance du patrimoine (Nos origines multiples, notre force)*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to move second reading of Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

Diversity is a source of great strength for our province. It is important to recognize the unique heritages of Saskatchewan's many peoples and to celebrate how they continue to contribute to the cultural mosaic of our province.

We have heard from a number of communities that they want to see their heritage months enshrined in law and automatically recognized each year. The "from many peoples, strength" Act will do exactly that. It will create a framework under which these days, weeks, and month will be enshrined in law and will automatically be recognized each year.

Examples of the heritage recognitions that will be enshrined in law under the new framework include African Heritage Month in February, le Mois de la Francophonie [Translation: Month of La Francophonie] in March, Filipino Canadian Heritage Month in June, Hellenic Heritage Month in March, Hindu Heritage Month in November, Hungarian Heritage Month in October, Islamic History and Heritage Month in October, Jewish Heritage Month in May, Sri Lankan Heritage Month in April, and Ukrainian Heritage Month in September.

We have been working with representatives of over a dozen communities to develop this framework. For practical purposes, our engagement so far has been focused on groups that have previously requested proclamations in the past. Since introducing Bill 41 last Thursday, we have already heard from additional groups who are interested in participating in the new framework. I encourage all other cultural or faith groups who are interested in participating to contact my office, and I would be pleased to meet with them and start collaborating.

The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive as communities across Saskatchewan appreciate the value of recognizing their unique heritages and reaffirming our shared commitment to multiculturalism. While we have provided the option of choosing a specific day or week, so far all groups have chosen a month, consistent with proclamations in the past. Months are not exclusive to any group because we only have 12 months to work with. Similarly, days and weeks are not exclusive. There can be overlap as it is currently the case in

proclamations.

By including all heritage recognitions under a unified framework, we are not only able to accommodate more recognitions and do so more quickly, we also send a strong signal of unity within our broader cultural mosaic. Mr. Speaker, what more fitting a name for enshrining heritage recognition in the law than our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength."

[14:45]

I look forward to finalizing the stand-alone documents specific to each individual community's heritage recognition so that they can be added to the new framework after the legislation receives Royal Assent next year. Mr. Speaker, I now move second reading of Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved that Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina South Albert.

Aleana Young: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My thanks to the minister for those introductory comments on Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

I think maybe to start with, Mr. Speaker, one of the things we were pleased to see in the initial canvass of this legislation is that previous heritage Acts will not be repealed. That was certainly a concern out there when discussion of this bill first began.

And it's really encouraging to hear the minister's comments that, since the introduction of this bill, that other communities, other ethnic groups have reached out looking to celebrate their lives here in Saskatchewan, the differences that we have, things that we should celebrate, as well as coming together to recognize those important values that we share here in Saskatchewan.

With diversity here in Saskatchewan just continuing to grow at such a rapid pace, we do look forward to celebrating these different communities, continuing to call on the minister when appropriate to recognize significant cultural groups as they may come forward and may wish to be recognized and celebrated in this Assembly or outside of it, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I know many of my colleagues will have other comments to put on the record in regards to this bill, some of what preceded it, and perhaps some of the outcomes that we'll be looking for alongside the many important stakeholders in the province who will be looking to this bill to again celebrate those differences that make us unique and allow us to embrace those values that we all hold and all share here in Saskatchewan.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave further canvassing of this to my much more able colleagues, and move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 41, *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Warren Kaeding that **Bill No. 24 — *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Matt Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise and put a few remarks on the record related to Bill No. 24, *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*.

You know, before I get to some of the things that's in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, I'll just take a little trip down some recent history of what really instigated this. You know, there's nothing like a . . . I wouldn't even say ambiguous, but a very direct threat to our nation's sovereignty to get something like this moving.

And what we have is our largest trading partner, our neighbours to the south, who, you know, their current president has decided to threaten things like making Canada the 51st state and talking about, you know, imposing things on our free and sovereign nation that should not be talked about by a neighbour, by a friend, by our closest trading partner.

But here we are. Lots of things have been unpredictable, I would say, in trade relationships in the last year or so. But I would say that, you know, it's becoming predictably unpredictable as far as the comments coming from south of the border. Nonetheless some of the tariffs that have been imposed on our country by America and by China have certainly served as a bit of a wake-up call.

And so here we are in this legislation, looking at what can be done to improve interprovincial trade. And this is something that I think is long overdue. I think that we probably can agree on that on both sides of this Assembly, that there's a lot that could have been done in the past. But again, you know, wake-up call. Like the rhetoric and not just the tariffs themselves, but you know, some of the threats coming from south of the border and some of those on this side of the border that have taken up those threats, I think again has served as that wake-up call to say that we need to look at what we can do to improve trade relationships within Canada.

And so I understand that that is the intent of the government with this bill. And I reviewed the legislation and reviewed the minister's comments at second reading. And as far as his explanation of mutual recognition and looking at some of the red tape reduction that might be needed to ensure that, you know, a good or a service that meets a standard or classification, regulation in other provinces would be accepted here, and that

that's part of a nationwide trend to ensure that we can trade more freely within provinces . . . And you know, I think that that's a good thing.

That's certainly something that we've engaged with stakeholders here in Saskatchewan, across the country. Our shadow minister for Trade and Export is engaging in those conversations, as is our leader and several other of my colleagues. And so we know that that's important.

But we also know that there's perhaps some things in this legislation that are being missed. And I know that my colleague has brought forward a private member's bill that I think is going to address some of those things that are missed in this legislation, in Bill 24, in particular the protections for working people. What we don't want to see, Mr. Speaker, is a so-called race to the bottom, where working conditions and protections when it comes to occupational health and safety are being relaxed or diminished, you know, in a way that could start in one province and quickly, you know, go downhill from there.

And I think that we have good reason for that, Mr. Speaker. I think that when we look at the protections for our working people across Canada, and if we just look at our neighbours to the west in Alberta and what they've done in terms of showing a real lack of respect to the rights of working people by invoking the notwithstanding clause on teachers and imposing a contract, I think unfortunately it just shows not the kind of respect and protections for working people that we would choose to uphold here.

And so for that reason, you know, I do have questions about Bill 24 and about what will be done to protect OH & S [occupational health and safety] as well as other protections and rights for workers. It's one of the questions that I have about this legislation that certainly, I think, is addressed in the private member's bill brought forward by my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale.

But at this time, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks, leave it there. I think that there's lots to support here, lots that we can agree can be done to strengthen interprovincial trade, but I will voice my preference for the bill brought forward on this side of the House.

At this time, I will move that we adjourn debate on Bill 24, *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 29

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Alana Ross that **Bill No. 29 — *The Tailgating Act/Loi sur les rassemblements d'avant-match*** be now read a second time.]

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

Matt Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, if there's a bill that I think I'm maybe destined to speak about in this Chamber, this might be it.

Looking at the incredible season of football that we've had in this province and how much fun we all had . . . I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but I would say that that was probably the most fun day at work, when we had the Grey Cup champion Saskatchewan Roughriders here concluding their parade at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building. And we had members from both sides and the staff here at the building, thousands of members of the public gathered outside. What a fun day that was to recognize true excellence on the gridiron or the season that we had with the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

That was uniquely fun for me due to two interactions that I had. And I wanted to take a minute to just put those on the record here. You know, there was a lot going on outside, and you know, we all saw the photos, and I noticed you got your hat back. But there were two interactions I had in the rotunda with two players that were particularly kind of heartwarming, I suppose.

One was quarterback Trevor Harris. I had a quick moment to just say thank you for the season, and I expressed how much my 12-year-old son would have wanted to be there to meet him. And he said, well give me your phone. And I said, well I'm trusting you here. I've never met this guy face to face, and I opened up my phone and I handed it to him. And he opened the camera app and he turned it toward him and he recorded a message to my son, which was pretty cool. So I was able to send that home, and you know, my 12-year-old son, Tom, was ecstatic to receive that message. So I want to thank Trevor for that.

And then I was chatting with long snapper Jorgen Hus, Saskatoon guy, graduate of St. Joe's collegiate in Saskatoon. Made a career in the NFL [National Football League], has been a long snapper for the Roughriders for a number of years. And he took my phone and recorded a message to my youngest son, Myles, just congratulating on his flag football season and saying, way to go from the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

These are the kinds of community members that we were so lucky to celebrate here at the end of that parade last week. And I just wanted to share those two examples as we had a chance, you know, last week to honour the season that they had. And here we are today, you know, debating Bill 29, the tailgating Act.

You know, it's pretty exciting when we look at what the Roughriders were able to do this year. But when we look at what they are able to do in the context of Canadian football, this is the greatest football province in our country and this is the greatest franchise in the league. And the football culture that the Saskatchewan Roughriders have been able to build, it goes throughout all football organizations. Whether it's from, you know, minor football, youth football, high school football, women's football, it's throughout the province, and we're so thankful for that. And you know, I'm hopeful that this legislation will help to develop that culture and build it in a positive way moving forward.

I think of how exciting it was to have CEO Craig Reynolds here on the day that this bill was introduced, and then to come back with Gainer and sit up in your gallery to have Green and White Day proclaimed here. You know, it's been a real run for the

Saskatchewan Roughriders in the legislature. I'm not sure that I've seen this much Roughrider activity here in the five years that I've been here than I have in the last couple of weeks. But you know, it's a pretty exciting time.

And so I think that there are always a number of things that we need to consider when we're talking about, you know, things like tailgating and changes to permitting and alcohol, things like that. I think that it's being done in a thoughtful way. I know that there is still lots of work to come in the regulations and how this will be enacted. But certainly, you know, on this side of the Assembly and I know on the other side as well, we're very proud of our Roughriders. We're very proud of the season that they've put together and that continuation of excellence to continue with this team and this province.

So at this time, you know, looking forward to seeing some of the details in regulation. But I'll voice support for the Riders for all that they're doing, and I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 29, *The Tailgating Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 30

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 30 — *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter in briefly here today on Bill No. 30, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2025*.

This is all about international child support co-operation. Of course that's something that we support. It's critical that we're able to enforce child support and make sure that families, children, parents that are due child support are able to receive that child support, make sure we have all the tools to make sure that that's enforceable.

The Hague 2007 Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support applies and is law here in Saskatchewan, and this creates an agreement with foreign countries to enforce collection of child support. It's critical that a parent and a child receive the support that they're owed, and it's critical that we make sure that they have the tools and the legislation as a province to make sure that happens, to make sure we have the enforcement on that front.

I know our lead, our critic, our shadow minister has been engaged in consultation and will continue to, to make sure that this legislation is as effective as it can be on this front, Mr. Speaker. And with that being said, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 30.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

[15:00]

Bill No. 31

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 31 — *The Defamation Act*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 31, this is with respect to *The Defamation Act*, and the government shares that this is a tightening of laws for legal action against defamatory publications, Mr. Speaker. It identifies a few other pieces.

What I know is our Justice lead, our shadow minister, has reviewed this Act, will continue to, will continue to work with stakeholders on this front and make sure that what the government's aiming to do is effective and that it makes sense and that it respects rights, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll leave that consultation . . . I'd invite anyone through the legal community on this front that has expertise to share that perspective with our team, with our Justice shadow minister, Mr. Speaker. And certainly it'll be our aim to make sure that any legislation that's advanced makes sense and is effective in its aims, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 31.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Request leave for an introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — The member has requested leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Trent Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, as I was speaking to the last piece of legislation, I noticed this distinguished, dapper leader walk into his Assembly. Seated in the Chamber looking

dapper, looking distinguished, you know, he's obviously one heck of a hockey player, Mr. Speaker, but also a federal minister. And it's my honour and privilege to welcome Buckley Belanger to his Assembly here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his service and his leadership.

We all in this Assembly got to know Buckley over his many years of service as both an MLA and a cabinet minister. I saw his heart for many years as a colleague working to make this province that we all love a better place. It's an absolute pleasure to have MP [Member of Parliament] and cabinet minister Belanger join us here today, Mr. Speaker. We know that this is someone who's committed deeply to the North, committed deeply to this province, and committed deeply to this country.

And I ask all members to join with me to welcome our good friend, a pretty decent hockey player, and a real strong public servant, Buckley Belanger, to his Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request leave for an introduction.

Speaker Goudy: — Requested leave for an introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join the member from Mount Royal in welcoming our esteemed colleague and friend Buckley Belanger back to this, his Legislative Assembly. Of course Mr. Belanger is now a Secretary of State with the federal government, and we thank him very much for his service.

I've had the honour of working with him through the summer in our respective roles, and it's been just a true pleasure working with him. As the member from Mount Royal indicated, his passion and commitment to the people in the North is unmatched, and we thank him very much for that. I haven't seen him play hockey, Mr. Speaker, so I can't say . . . All I would say is I'm certain he is better than the member from Mount Royal. But we do thank him and welcome him back to his Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — And I must say, I had an opportunity to watch the member who moved from Saskatchewan down to Ottawa, in the Chamber down in Ottawa, and he certainly hasn't changed. He still uses his wit and does a great job in serving the people of Saskatchewan. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to join my colleague and also the minister in welcoming my good friend, and it's good to have him here. I know they speak a lot about his hockey skills, Mr. Speaker. Well I was up in Ile-a-la-Crosse and visiting, and one of the stories that I shared, everywhere I went, they spoke about Buckley's hockey skills. And I said, well you know, he can shoot and hit and score like an NHL [National Hockey League] player, but I don't know how he's able to do that from the bench, Mr. Speaker.

It's good to see him here today, Mr. Speaker. And like I said before, he had served the good people of Athabasca for 26 years, and it's nice to have him here at the Assembly. Again I just want to say thank you to both the minister and my colleague for welcoming Buckley to his Assembly, and I invite all members again to do the same, to welcome this good man to his Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eric Schmalz: — We can't lose 2 to 1, Mr. Speaker. We've got to be equal on all sides, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to rise and join on this occasion to welcome Secretary of State Belanger to his Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity this past summer to visit him in Ottawa, have conversations with several mayors and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] delegates regarding infrastructure in our province, Mr. Speaker. And as far as a voice for rural Saskatchewan, we appreciate Mr. Belanger's efforts.

The best part of today and him being in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is he can't make fun of me in this House. So I'm happy to see him there today and ask all members to welcome him here today. Thanks.

Speaker Goudy: — All right. Back at it.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 32

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 32** — *The Defamation Consequential Amendments Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Defamation Act* be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Regina Mount Royal.

Trent Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter — and it'll be real brief — with respect to Bill No. 32. This is *The Defamation Consequential Amendments Act, 2025*. It supports the previous legislation, Bill 31, that I just spoke to. All the same comments on that front, Mr. Speaker.

Our lead, our Justice shadow minister, is engaged in those consultations. We invite submissions and the perspective of those with expertise on this front because obviously it will be our aim to make sure that what's brought forward in the Act is common sense and effective in its aims, Mr. Speaker.

So with that being said, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 33

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 33** — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025* be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring.

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet today to address Bill No. 33, *The Credit Union Amendment Act*. I think we can all agree in this Assembly, the importance and the significant historical contributions that our credit unions have provided to this province. They were instrumental during the Great Depression in not just helping to rebuild the Saskatchewan economy, but also to help shape and fashion the development of our agricultural sector, our small-town communities, and rural life in general in this province.

And they continue to make an essential contribution to life in rural Saskatchewan and in urban Saskatchewan by ensuring inclusion through its community ownership, its membership, its participation, and the role that it plays from a financial perspective in giving people opportunities, financially and otherwise, they wouldn't maybe perhaps have had through our traditional chartered banking system. And we recognize that and we support that.

It truly is great to see an institution that is from the people, by the people, and giving back to the people on a daily basis. The participation in the communities in which they serve, how they support in a number of charitable ways, the jobs that they create, and the way that they also ensure that, you know, the hard-earned dollars of people who work and run businesses in this province get reinvested and shared and expand the growth and contribute to our economy.

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, this bill just seeks to clear up the rules with respect to memberships with credit unions, providing clarity with respect to when they can be terminated, setting a timeline of two years of inactivity in order to proceed with perhaps terminating such a membership, sending notices to members of a credit union about that inactivity that is leading to the termination of their membership, providing them information if it happens to be the case, and further steps that they need to take to appeal those decisions.

Those all seem rather straightforward. They seem to be ones that I think we generally would approve of, helping to bring more clarity to *The Credit Union Act* and for its members as well. It also seeks to ensure that when there are terminated members' funds left in account, that those funds are dealt with in a responsible way. And I think that we would generally support as well.

We're going to continue to discuss this with our stakeholders, of course. And our critic, I'm sure, will have more to provide as we get closer towards the end of this debate. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 33.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 34

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 34 — *The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to rise and enter some remarks here on Bill No. 34, *The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act*. You know, looking through the bill here, we're adding two different types of interpersonal violence, namely the patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour and cyberstalking and online harassment, which I think is a good step in recognizing that these are forms of violence here in the province of Saskatchewan.

I do, however, want to put onto the record as well that for years the Sask Party government has had the worst record in Canada for intimate partner violence and gender-based homicide, as well as severe crimes, and it's only getting worse. I look to a news release here in the province of Saskatchewan where the 2025 domestic violence death review report found that Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of domestic violence and domestic homicide here in Canada.

And you know, I've had the opportunity to serve in this House for just over a year here now, Mr. Speaker, and I can say that I've seen a little bit of the work of this government in other files. And I can say that in response to this very large crisis here in Saskatchewan, I don't have confidence so far from what I've seen from this government and that minister, and that's why we've called for an IPV [intimate partner violence] strategy from the Minister of Justice.

You know, in my early days of being elected as the member of Cumberland, I got to sit down with a good friend of mine who's been doing incredible work with Piwapan Women's Centre in La Ronge and talk about many of the different challenges that women and men in northern Saskatchewan are facing in fleeing domestic violence. And it's again why so many people on this side of the House, we've been involved in those conversations with people on how to flee domestic violence, and some of the acts of violence that we see here now added through this legislation if and when it passes.

And so for me, I have confidence in the many conversations that our team is having with people to bring meaningful change here to the province of Saskatchewan. This is a good step in the right direction. But I know that there needs to be much, much more done, and I know that our shadow minister will have a lot more to say on this front as well.

But for now I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 34, *The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 35

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Colleen Young that **Bill No. 35 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2025*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silverspring.

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet here to join in the debate for *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2025*, Bill No. 35. You know, I'll say right off from the start that I think all the members on this side agree with the intent of this Act. We support the exploration, the development of our mining industry in this province. And I think what this Act does is to ensure there's a little bit more clarity, a little bit more certainty, and a little bit more stability with respect to how this province engages with that.

[15:15]

I think we would all agree — I know that certainly all my colleagues on this side agree — on the tremendous opportunity in the mining sector in this province. There is loads and loads of opportunity. There's an entirely new economy waiting to be had for the people of this province, and so we would support any activity and any bill proposed that would help to ensure that that happened.

Bill No. 35 looks to establish the rules for designated subsurface development areas to maximize mineral exploration and extraction. For certain, I think we can agree with that. That is a noble endeavour. It also looks to ensure that all the rights of property owners are respected; that if there's any proceeds from that, that that is dealt with in a responsible way.

But I think it also ensures, you know, that we can continue to do exploration without missing out on vital opportunities unnecessarily, and I think that's an important aspect moving forward. So those of us on this side will certainly be supporting that part of this bill for sure.

The only other note I would like to add for the record is, in ensuring that this is done in a responsible fashion, it is also incumbent upon the government to ensure that all parties, that all stakeholders are adequately consulted, including our folks from the North and our First Nations communities. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would seek to adjourn debate on Bill No. 35.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 36

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 36 — *The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur le changement de nom*** be now read a second time.]

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's an honour to rise here today and enter in some brief remarks on Bill No. 36, *The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025*.

You know, in looking at the bill very quickly, it allows only permanent residents and citizens to be able to change their names, which does make me a little bit curious as to, you know, how often temporary residents of Saskatchewan were attempting to change their names and the reasons why they would be doing that.

I know that in part of the processes of this bill's passage, we're going to have to be reaching out to many stakeholders. And I encourage the government to do the same, of reaching out to the stakeholders and look at the processes that would need to be there to notify the police and making sure that that's done safely and responsibly.

You know, just a few moments ago we were talking about domestic violence here in the province of Saskatchewan. We need to make sure that as people are changing their names, that when they do notify the police that they're able to do that, again that respects the privacy, and also making sure that we're doing these things safely and responsibly.

I know that there's going to be, you know, as our province we . . . You know, we had also talked about this earlier today, about the beauty of the diversity of this place that we call home here in the province of Saskatchewan. And we welcome the greater freedom to respect the people's cultural and religious naming practices.

You know, for myself I've got a family that also comes in from the Philippines. And it wasn't until we were filling out our passport applications that my wife found out that her birth certificate was not exactly as she remembered it and put it onto her driver's licence. There was a small "c-e" that was added in there. And it was due to her mother's maiden name wouldn't quite fit onto the full application, so she typed as much of it as she could in, and then the Philippines had added a "c-e."

And so when we were going through that passport application, we found some pretty cool things in the way our families passed on the names. I know I'm not allowed to say my name in the Chamber here, but again you know, following up my father, grandfather is a very interesting way of . . . the way my family has decided to pass on the name through different generations. So it's interesting to see some of the things that have come up here through *The Change of Name Amendment Act*.

I know some of my colleagues may have some further comment on it, but for now I will move to adjourn the debate on Bill No. 36, *The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill that **Bill No. 37 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur les services de l'état civil*** be now read a second time.]

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

Matt Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be fairly brief with my comments on Bill 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*. Of course many of the changes brought forward here with these amendments are also related to the previous bill debated, Bill 36, to facilitate name changes and things like that. I think that there's a number of things here in this legislation, Mr. Speaker, that are certainly in to protect vulnerable people and how they engage with things like name changes.

I read through the legislation and the Health minister's comments at second reading. And certainly I understand the good intent here to protect folks when it comes to things like alerting a request for a name change, no longer requiring that alert to go to a spouse or previous spouse or obviously when there's safety and privacy involved. I think that those are positive changes.

I understand that also some of the changes here are intended to support a diverse population. And as we heard from the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport earlier, certainly we agree that, you know, "from many peoples, strength" as our provincial motto, it's so important that that's reflected in all legislation I think is fair to say. And so if we need to make changes in amendments to *The Vital Statistics Act*, certainly I think in the interest of protecting our diversity as our strength and protecting folks who might be vulnerable to, you know, when it comes to privacy and sharing of information, that I would see these as positive changes.

Certainly look forward to hearing comments from my colleagues in opposition and our lead on this when it comes time. I'm sure we'll have further questions, but at this time I'll move that we adjourn debate on Bill 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 38

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Everett Hindley that **Bill No. 38 — *The Building Schools Faster Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to enter into debate today on Bill No. 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act*.

This bill applies to new builds rather than replacements or repairs. And it delineates that school divisions are responsible for identifying the need for new schools, although the minister can set guidelines for when new schools are needed. It leaves municipalities as being the responsible party for acquiring land to build schools on, although the minister can order municipalities to acquire land. And if they don't, the government can withhold revenues equal to the market rate of the land with 60 days' notice. It ensures that before buying land, municipalities and school divisions must present the minister with a contribution agreement for cost, timeline, land needs, and so on. And if the land is found to not be used for a school site, they may need to pay the ministry as a result.

In this particular bill, Mr. Speaker, of course it's encouraging to think about the idea of schools being built faster. I know we all know of projects that have taken extraordinarily long from start to finish to take place. I think some of that has to do with the centralization of SaskBuilds in the procurement process. And you know, we've heard about this in the health care field as well, how it's actually slowed down new projects as well, sort of having to funnel everything through SaskBuilds. So I'm curious about how this legislation's going to interact with that current process or if it's aside from it altogether.

I do know that although this legislation is talking about new builds, we certainly have a lot of schools that need repair as well. And those schools are in dire need of attention as well from this government — so many different schools in poor condition. I think about the école Monique Rousseau school in Saskatoon that literally had its roof crumbling on top of students. That was only two years ago, Mr. Speaker. As well as this past September, after asking and asking, we finally did a freedom-of-information request to find out the conditions of schools and found out that 13 schools across our province are in critical condition, which is as serious as it sounds, Mr. Speaker.

And so it shows that the Monique Rousseau situation is not a one-off situation. It's something that needs attention from this government. Those repairs need attention. And it's not simply that there are 13 schools, in fact that 132 schools actually ranked as having poor condition, so you know, needing significant repairs as well. And this facility condition index isn't arbitrary. It's a well-respected, well-known process, the FCI [facility condition index], among experts in their field. So it's not like, hey, take our word for it. It's take the word of people whose job is literally assessing the condition of these facilities.

So when these are government-owned facilities we have a responsibility to make sure that they are upheld, upkept. And we know that ultimately what we're talking here about is our students' learning conditions, which are our kids and our nephews and our grandkids. And they need to have acceptable places to work and to learn. And if they don't have that, they're not going to be able to focus on their education. We all know the importance of education, and we can't learn if we don't have the

facilities to make that happen, Mr. Speaker.

I'm interested in seeing how all this plays out. I know there is a concern right now in Saskatoon that we've heard from the city council quite a few times around acquiring land in the Brighton area for a new joint-use high school. There are incredible challenges with land acquisition, and so it certainly makes sense to try and clarify the process.

But municipalities simply do not have the same resources as the provincial government as well. So I know that the critic will be and already is quite engaged in this process, but it certainly seems like something that's quite topical from my perspective and from the meetings I've had with stakeholders.

We need to make sure that this is being done right, that municipalities are well equipped to do these acquisitions, but also that there's a reasonable expectation on behalf of the ministry and the government, you know, when you see some of these penalizing measures, making sure that municipalities do in fact have the resources to make that happen, that it's a reasonable request of the municipality as we're looking at the whole process. So these things, I think, need to be considered.

Many more of my colleagues will get into some of the details as they come about. But with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Bill No. 39

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Everett Hindley that **Bill No. 39 — *The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée *The Building Schools Faster Act**** be now read a second time.]

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

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to enter into debate on Bill No. 39, *The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act, 2025*.

As we know, when we have an Act that follows and makes consequential amendments, it is making changes to other pieces of legislation that have to change because we are changing the Act itself. I think most of my comments on Bill 39 can be observed from my comments on Bill No. 38, so with that I would move to adjourn debate on this bill.

Speaker Goudy: — It's been moved by the member to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried. I recognize the Government House

Leader.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To facilitate the work of committees I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:29.]

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