



SECOND SESSION — THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

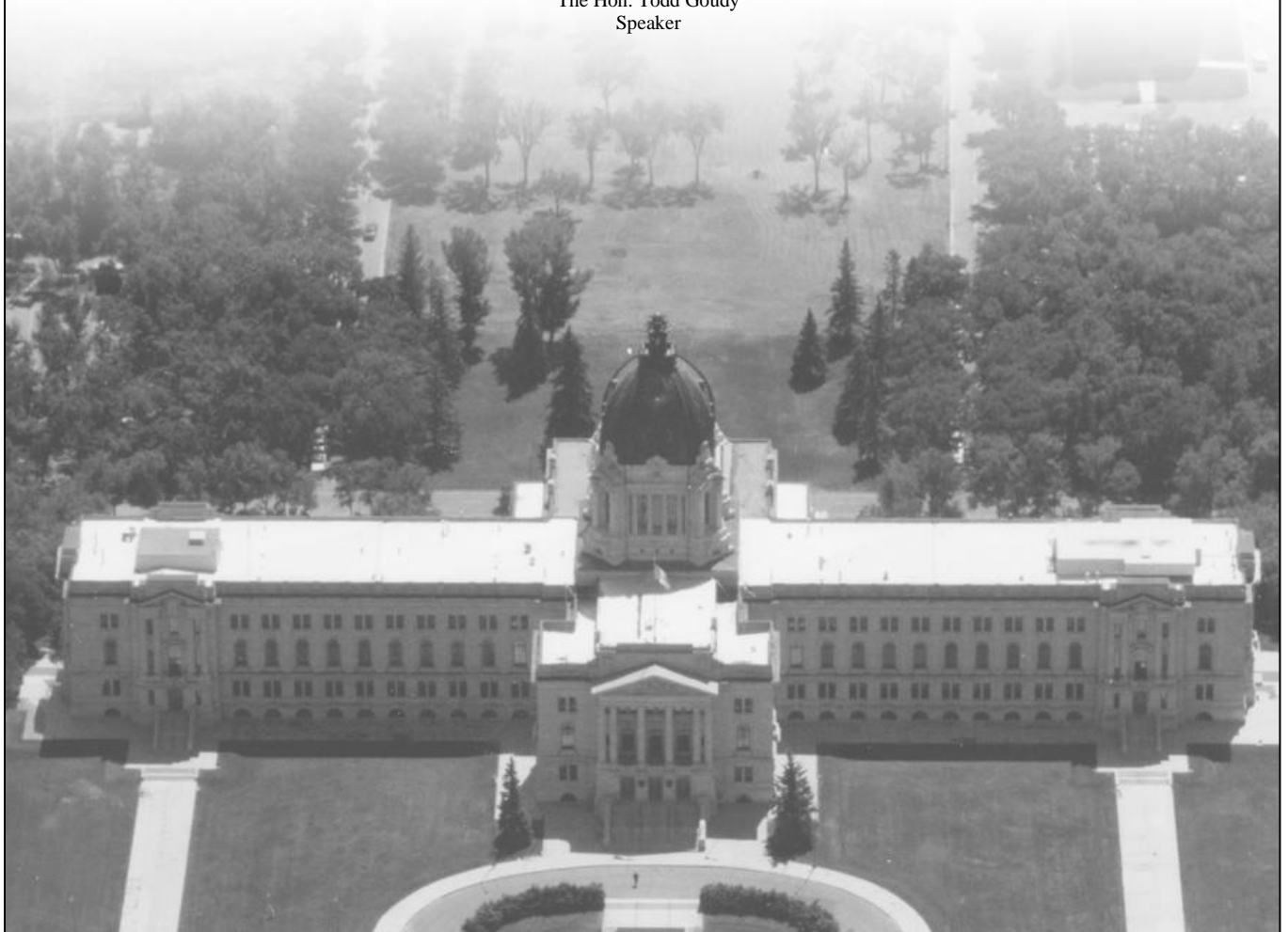
of the

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

Beaudry, Chris — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Blakley, Brent — Regina Wascana Plains (NDP)
Brar, Bhajan — Regina Pasqua (NDP)
Breckner, Kim — Saskatoon Riversdale (NDP)
Bromm, Terri — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Burki, Noor — Regina Coronation Park (NDP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan-Big Muddy (SP)
Chan, David — Yorkton (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
ChiefCalf, April — Saskatoon Westview (NDP)
Clarke, Jared — Regina Walsh Acres (NDP)
Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Crassweller, Brad — White City-Qu'Appelle (SP)
Gartner, Kim — Kindersley-Biggar (SP)
Gordon, Hugh — Saskatoon Silverspring (NDP)
Goudy, Hon. Todd — Melfort (SP)
Grewal, Tajinder — Saskatoon University-Sutherland (NDP)
Harrison, Hon. Daryl — Cannington (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hilbert, Racquel — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Housser, Sally — Regina University (NDP)
Jenson, Hon. Terry — Warman (SP)
Jorgenson, Keith — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (NDP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Kasun, Kevin — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)
Keisig, Hon. Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Kropf, Barret — Dakota-Arm River (SP)
Laliberte, Leroy — Athabasca (NDP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Martens, Hon. Jamie — Martensville-Blairmore (SP)
McBean, Don — Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis (NDP)
McLeod, Blaine — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
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)
Pratchler, Joan — Regina Rochdale (NDP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Delisle (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Hon. Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Rowden, Darlene — Batoche (SP)
Roy, Jacqueline — Regina Northeast (NDP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Schmalz, Hon. Eric — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Senger, Brittney — Saskatoon Southeast (NDP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Thorsteinson, James — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Warrington, Darcy — Saskatoon Stonebridge (NDP)
Weedmark, Kevin — Moosomin-Montmartre (SP)
Weger, Michael — Weyburn-Bengough (SP)
Wilson, Sean — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Mount Royal (NDP)
Young, Aleana — Regina South Albert (NDP)
Young, Hon. Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 34; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 27

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang
Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyk
Principal Clerk — Robert Park
Clerk Assistant — Danielle Humble-Selinger
Clerk Assistant - Committees — Miranda Gudereit

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
online within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/>

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Moe.....	1567
McPhail.....	1567
McLeod, B.	1568
Gordon.....	1569
Ross.....	1569
Warrington.....	1569
Jenson.....	1569
Senger.....	1570
Chan.....	1570
Clarke.....	1570
Keisig.....	1571
Ritchie.....	1571
Kaeding.....	1571
Conway.....	1571
Wilson.....	1571
McBean.....	1572
Harrison, D.....	1572
Speaker Goudy.....	1572

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Warrington.....	1572
Grewal.....	1572
Nippi-Albright.....	1573

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Retiring Executive of Indigenous Christian Fellowship Leaves Legacy of Hope	
Conway.....	1573
SaskAbilities Strengthens Communities through Inclusion	
Hilbert.....	1573
Saskatoon Organization Redistributes Unused Meat from Outfitters	
McBean.....	1573
Team Saskatchewan's Achievements at Canada Summer Games	
Kropf.....	1574
Inaugural Rhythm & Roots Asian Festival Brings Communities Together	
Mowat.....	1574
Melville Artist's Handcrafted Works Help Support Worthy Causes	
Kaeding.....	1574
Firefighters Awarded Premier's Commendation for Service in the North	
Martens.....	1574

QUESTION PERIOD

Provision of Health Care	
Mowat.....	1575
Moe.....	1575
Unregulated Care Provider in Moose Jaw	
Mowat.....	1575
Cockrill.....	1575
Government Response to Wildfires in the North	
Laliberte.....	1576
McLeod, T.	1576
Purchase of Water Bombers	
Gordon.....	1576
McLeod, T.	1576
Band and Music Education and Funding for Education	
Love.....	1577
Hindley.....	1577
Warrington.....	1578
Water Management	
Ritchie.....	1578
Harrison, D.....	1578
Inquiry into Government's Wildfire Response	
McPhail.....	1579
McLeod, T.	1579

Addressing Homelessness	
Blakley	1579
Jenson	1580
POINT OF ORDER	
Carr	1580
Sarauer	1580
Speaker Goudy	1580
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS	
Bill No. 44 — <i>The Co-operatives Act, 2025/Loi de 2025 sur les coopératives</i>	
McLeod, T.	1580
Bill No. 45 — <i>The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025</i>	
McLeod, T.	1580
Bill No. 609 — <i>The Saskatchewan Wildfire Strategy Act</i>	
Laliberte	1580
PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
McLeod, B.	1581
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Carr	1581
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 24 — <i>The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act</i>	
Housser	1581
Bill No. 29 — <i>The Tailgating Act/Loi sur les rassemblements d'avant-match</i>	
Mowat	1582
Bill No. 30 — <i>The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
<i>Loi modificative de 2025 sur les ordonnances alimentaires interterritoriales</i>	
Breckner	1582
Carr (referral to Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee)	1582
Bill No. 31 — <i>The Defamation Act</i>	
Housser	1582
Bill No. 32 — <i>The Defamation Consequential Amendments Act, 2025</i>	
<i>Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Defamation Act</i>	
Housser	1583
Bill No. 33 — <i>The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
Jorgenson	1583
Bill No. 35 — <i>The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
Mowat	1583
Bill No. 36 — <i>The Change of Name Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur le changement de nom</i>	
Housser	1584
Bill No. 37 — <i>The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2025/Loi modificative de 2025 sur les services de l'état civil</i>	
Housser	1584
Bill No. 38 — <i>The Building Schools Faster Act</i>	
ChiefCalf	1585
Bill No. 39 — <i>The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
<i>Loi de 2025 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Building Schools Faster Act</i>	
ChiefCalf	1585
Bill No. 40 — <i>The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
Mowat	1585
Bill No. 41 — <i>The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act</i>	
<i>Loi sur la reconnaissance du patrimoine (Nos origines multiples, notre force)</i>	
ChiefCalf	1586
Bill No. 42 — <i>The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act, 2025</i>	
Housser	1586
Bill No. 43 — <i>The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act</i>	
Mowat	1587

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave for an extended introduction, a couple of them actually.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, I would first like to introduce Saskatchewan's 11th premier, Mr. Grant Devine.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Devine had the honour of being premier in the first Progressive Conservative government here in the province of Saskatchewan for about a decade, and he continues to serve his province, serving on the Board of Governors at the University of Saskatchewan. I'd just take this opportunity not only to welcome Grant but to thank him for his public service in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I also would rise today and just welcome everyone that is attending here today and thank them for their contributions to this province. But I do want to recognize specifically a heroic group of Premier's Commendation recipients that have joined us as well. They're present in your gallery and in the west gallery as well, Mr. Speaker. These individuals represent 64 volunteer municipal fire departments and tribal council partners across the province whose type 2 firefighters heroically protected communities and supported our fellow Saskatchewan residents and families when they were in need this past fire season.

The Premier's Commendation award acknowledges the unwavering commitment of our firefighters to their fellow residents in keeping our communities and keeping our families safe. Representatives from these fire departments and organizations attended a ceremony earlier today to accept the award on behalf of all of the members who fought the fires on their team back home, Mr. Speaker.

The 2025 wildfire season, as we know, was quite unprecedented in this province and in other provinces as well, and it demanded more of Saskatchewan than most of us have ever experienced. And by the end of the season, our province faced over 500 wildfires, nearly 3 million hectares of forest was burnt, and 55 communities were affected, whether it be through evacuations or direct impact from the fires.

The severity of this wildfire season required more resources than we have seen ever before. In this time of need, I would say that we turned to you, our municipal volunteer firefighters, our firefighters from communities across the province to help combat

the expanding — and rapidly expanding — wildfires throughout the North.

Your sacrifices did not go unnoticed. It didn't go unnoticed by this government, Mr. Speaker. And it certainly didn't go unnoticed by the people that reside in Saskatchewan. We witnessed how you each worked together to help protect lives first and foremost, to protect the lives of people that lived in those impacted communities; to safeguard their not just buildings but their homes; and to keep our Saskatchewan communities safe. So to you and to your colleagues, to support staff, and to everyone that supported you in the heroic effort that you put on full display this summer, we want to thank them as well.

So congratulations to all of the recipients of the Premier's Commendation award. I'd say to each of them and to their teams, they exemplified resilience and they embodied the very spirit of what it means to be from Saskatchewan, remaining steadfast, dedicated, and courageous in the very face of danger.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all members on the floor of the Assembly to welcome these members to their Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to 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: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to also rise from my chair and echo what the Premier has stated in thanking and recognizing the incredible hard work of these folks that join us here today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, from the volunteer fire departments.

I know that you showed up in incredible ways, and in many cases on extremely short notice, for the people of northern Saskatchewan. You left your families, your loved ones, your homes behind, put yourself on the line — you and your crews. And I thank you for everything that you did this summer to battle back against what has been an unrelenting fire season in northern Saskatchewan, which I'm sure took an incredible amount of time and hours.

And I know that the scars that you might have earned through those challenges were not only physical but mental as well. And I hope that, as we remember 2025, we always remember the heroic sacrifices of people all across this province. On behalf of the official opposition, it brings me tremendous honour to welcome you to this, your provincial legislature, and thank you for your service to the people of Saskatchewan.

And I didn't tell him I was going to do it, Mr. Speaker, but just really quickly . . . As folks in the House know, I served as a municipal councillor before being given the honour to represent the people of Cumberland. And while there, I was the Chair of the fire board and had very, very strong relationships with our fire chief in the town of La Ronge, Keaton Cloud who joins us

here today in your gallery as well. I know how hard he works and the time and dedication that he's put into our local regional fire department, not only this year but also in preparation for many emergencies that we've had throughout the years in northern Saskatchewan.

And again to these folks, I know that some of you might have been a repeat in the La Ronge areas. You were up there in 2015. I remember seeing folks from Vonda up in the area. I believe there was a water cannon. There wasn't a lot of things that I remembered great of 2015 as well, but the one thing I do remember is the volunteer firefighter departments that showed up from all over the place. And again I just want to echo what the Premier said and welcome them to this, their provincial legislature.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I just want to quickly welcome a few folks in the gallery across from us here: Kari Lentowicz, Trevor Sewap, Millie Custer, and Myra Thomas. These folks are incredible folks, community leaders.

Trevor served as the fire base manager for the SPSA [Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency] in Pelican Narrows up until the end of the fire season this year. Kari has done incredible work to advocate on behalf of their communities, as well as Millie and Myra. And I just thank them for the guidance that they've given me as an elected official on this side.

And on behalf of the official opposition I want to welcome these fine folks to this, their provincial legislature here as well.

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

Blaine McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, 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.

Blaine McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to rise in the Assembly today to recognize the senior leadership of 15 Wing Moose Jaw — seated in the west gallery, right in front of the nice green background there, the blue shirts — one of Canada's most important military training centres and a source of immense pride for our province and our country and the city of Moose Jaw, which has a great integration with 15 Wing.

So I'll ask as I introduce each of them that they just give us a wave, so we can acknowledge your presence here today. And they were here today for conversations with Trade and Export Development, Advanced Education, as they move towards a rebuild of 15 Wing in Moose Jaw. There's some wonderful, wonderful infrastructure that's going to be rebuilt from the ground up there.

So leading 15 Wing is Colonel Adam Carlson, a distinguished officer whose career with the Canadian Armed Forces spans more than three decades. A former Sea King pilot with operational deployments across the globe, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the Arctic, Colonel Carlson

brings deep operational experience and strategic expertise to his role as Wing commander. And he assumed command of 15 Wing on June 12th, 2025, just a few months ago.

Supporting him is Chief Warrant Officer Rachel Fox, the Wing chief warrant officer. Chief Warrant Officer Fox joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1990 and has served with dedication both at home and abroad, including deployments to Cyprus, Afghanistan, and across Canada's North. She is a respected leader in the construction engineering trade and plays a vital role in supporting the morale, discipline, and welfare of the Wing's members.

Serving as deputy commander is Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Fullerton. Now Matthew is an accomplished aviator and an instructor. Lieutenant-Colonel Fullerton is a graduate of the Royal Military College, a Sea King pilot with nearly 1,000 flying hours, and a former A-category instructor. His operational experience includes deployments to Haiti and the Caribbean alongside service with NORAD [North American Aerospace Defence Command] in Colorado Springs.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kevin Tipper, commanding officer of 15 operations support squadron, has dedicated more than 35 years to the Royal Canadian Air Force. Throughout his career he has instructed on nearly every aircraft that has passed through Moose Jaw's pilot training program and has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. His leadership ensures the Wing's training operations run safely and effectively each and every day.

Lieutenant-Colonel Craig Cloete. The lieutenant-colonel leads the corps of Canada's pilot training system. Originally serving with the South African Air Force before joining the RCAF [Royal Canadian Air Force] in 2013, Lieutenant-Colonel Cloete brings international expertise, advanced instructional experience, and a strong academic background to one of the most important training institutions in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Lieutenant-Colonel Guillaume Paquet — Guillaume Paquet, I'm going to get it right — the commanding officer of the world-renowned 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, affectionately known as the Snowbirds. With more than 5,000 flying hours, service in long-range patrol operations, and experience as a former Snowbird solo pilot, Lieutenant-Colonel Paquet now leads one of Canada's most iconic and celebrated military teams.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Captain Jean Doyon. He is a public affairs officer, and without him the logistics of this event probably would have fallen flat. And he helped put all of that together. So he is accompanying the senior leadership team today.

Mr. Speaker, together these leaders represent the very, very best of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Their combined experience, professionalism, and commitment ensure that 15 Wing Moose Jaw continues to play a critical role in training the next generation of Canadian military aviators and in strengthening Canada's defence capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would welcome all members to welcome these esteemed members of the Royal Canadian Air Force to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Lumsden-Morse in welcoming this prestigious group of individuals from 15 Wing Moose Jaw. I think I am speaking for everyone here in the official opposition and all the people in this room. What a source of pride 15 Wing has become, has always been for the people of this province, and in fact for Canada.

And I also want to welcome Colonel Adam Carlson, Lieutenant-Colonel Paquet from the Snowbirds and thank them for their service to this country, to this province, and the pride that they bring to the people of Moose Jaw and to everyone here in Canada.

[13:45]

So I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in welcoming these fine folks to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Alana Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in the galleries, I am very pleased to be able to introduce and welcome members of Team Saskatchewan who took part in the 2025 Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Today we are joined by 49 homegrown athletes, coaches, parents, support staff, and Special Olympians from across various teams who proudly represented our province at the Summer Games. All of these individuals represented our province with pride, and I would like to thank them for coming down today so that we can celebrate their many accomplishments.

Qualifying to compete at this level is an achievement. And I know that each of you are very proud, and you should be. We are proud of each of you for striving to achieve your goals, whether individually or as a team. I hope that the memories and experiences of the 2025 Summer Games will last you a lifetime.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in warmly congratulating and welcoming these members of Team Sask to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Permission to give 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 recognize all the folks in the east and the west gallery who are athletes for the province of Saskatchewan — coaches, parents, Special Olympians. Your participation in the 2025 St. John's Summer Games was so admirable. You achieved greatness through not only your 13 gold, 14 silver, and 21 bronze medals, but you represented this province with pride.

I can tell you one of the greatest things that I get to experience as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] is when folks stop by to get Canada pins and Saskatchewan pins that they can take off to some of these events across the country and the world. So we had some athletes that were on the soccer team, and fortunately they were able to take some pins off to trade with all of the other athletes that they met while they were there. And as a former phys ed teacher, I can confidently say your participation in the Summer Games means so much to not only our friends and family across the province, but to the youth who can aspire to do great things such as yourselves.

So on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to ask all members to help me in welcoming and introducing these fine folks to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Terry Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Hon. Terry Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're pleased to have with us today, seated on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, Colin Farnan. Colin is representing the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Earlier this morning an event was held to celebrate the Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility certification recently awarded to the T.C. Douglas Building here in Regina. A plaque was unveiled to mark this achievement, reflecting our government's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusion across Saskatchewan.

The Rick Hansen Foundation accessibility certification program is a nationally recognized system that evaluates meaningful access within buildings and public spaces. Mr. Speaker, to date three government buildings have earned this certification, including the Legislative Building, the LF McIntosh Building in Prince Albert, and now the T.C. Douglas Building as of August 30th this year.

Mr. Speaker, Colin's presence today highlights the strong partnership between our government and the Rick Hansen Foundation as we continue to ensure safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces for everybody in our province. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Colin Farnan to this, his

Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize representatives of SaskAbilities who are joining us here today. Mr. Speaker, today is SaskAbilities Day in Saskatchewan, a day that is recognizing 75 years of impact and dedication supporting children and adults with disabilities across the province.

We're honoured to have members of their leadership team with us here in the House today, including board members Paul Blackstock, president; Brenda Bancescu; Michelle Hunter; Bill Schwarz; Jonathan Tremblay; and members of their staff team Emily Hurd, Jessica MacPherson, Ian Wilkinson, and Tim Switzer.

Mr. Speaker, SaskAbilities is a valued partner in helping build inclusive, supportive communities across the province. And all members will hear more about this tremendous impact in an upcoming member statement. I invite all members to join me in welcoming the delegation from SaskAbilities to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Brittney Senger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise and would like to join the member opposite in recognizing Colin in joining us in the Legislative Assembly today. Achieving Rick Hansen certification is truly an accomplishment. Really allowing that level of accessibility is something very valuable and something that, you know, we strive for across Saskatchewan in all public buildings and in all spaces.

I would also like to join in recognizing the delegation from SaskAbilities. SaskAbilities provides a tremendous amount of work and value across the province of Saskatchewan, everything from day programs and camps to some assisted living and transportation. They truly, truly do incredible work, and 75 years is quite the accomplishment.

I've had the opportunity to tour a number of their facilities and see first-hand the incredible work that they're able to provide and the value that they add to folks living with disabilities, everything from offering carpentry and services to summer camps, and even providing equipment for those living with disabilities.

So I hope everybody will join me in welcoming both Colin and the delegation from SaskAbilities.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

David Chan: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

David Chan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two individuals seated in the west gallery to this Assembly here: Dustin Brears and Dale Hintz. Dustin is a member of Yorkton City Council and he's the owner of Credence Construction and also just an all around great guy.

But today him and Dale are here on behalf of Search and Rescue Saskatchewan Association of Volunteers, or SARSAV for short. SARSAV started as a community initiative, and it's grown into now being Saskatchewan's official ground search-and-rescue organization. They operate 19 chapters with over 400 volunteers. They are operated entirely by volunteers and fundraising efforts. And I understand that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], local police forces, and other emergency agencies rely on them for the service and the work that they do. And Dustin and Dale play a strong leadership role in SARSAV.

So on behalf of the government and on behalf of all of our communities, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks for the work that you do. And I'd like to ask that all members please join me in welcoming Dustin and Dale to this, their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet I'd also like to give a shout-out to my fire chief from Yorkton, Trevor Morrissey. He leads with compassion. And he's not only an amazing leader at the fire hall, but he also leads in helping homelessness in our community and helping lead the efforts on addressing homelessness. And so I'd like all members to welcome Trevor to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Jared Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief because I know all the folks in the Assembly want to see question period in action, so I'll be quick. But I do want to just welcome a few people. First of all, the folks from Ducks Unlimited who we had the honour of meeting with this morning, so former premier Grant Devine, Michael Champion, and of course Joel Peterson from GSD Strategies.

Had a really good conversation with Ducks about conservation and the value that they bring and opportunity that there is in our province. So I want to thank them for that and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

I also want to welcome a few folks in the east gallery, some friends: Joe Muldoon up there from Nature Saskatchewan; friends Jody and Clint Blyth from the Pipestone Valley down in southeast Saskatchewan; Lorne Scott, former MLA from — oh, what would it be — Indian Head-Milestone from '91 to '99, former Environment minister, a close friend and mentor. And I'll put on the record real quick, Mr. Speaker, 444 mountain bluebirds he banded this summer. Tree swallows, 1,000; 500 purple martins. So always a good day to talk about birds.

I also forgot Dan D'Autremont up there from GSD services. So sorry about that, Dan. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly. And then the other person that I want to quickly mention is a long-time mentor and friend who I'd be remiss if I didn't mention, Trevor Herriot up in the east gallery. This is someone who has played an immense role in my life — a naturalist, a birdwatcher, a writer. He's written many, many books. I have a whole list but his most recent book, *The Economy of Sparrows*, is well worth the read. A recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, and so much more.

And I know we want to get to question period so I'll end it there. But I wanted to take the opportunity to thank those folks for

coming, and ask all members to join me in welcoming these fine folks to their Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Travis Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep it brief. I want to join with the member opposite and welcome the team from Ducks Unlimited here today, Michael Champion and board member Grant Devine. Great discussions talking about wildlife conservation, Mr. Speaker, and how Ducks can partner with the agricultural industry and keep moving the province forward.

A quick little story, Mr. Speaker. Former premier Grant Devine and his wife, Chantal, are celebrating 60 years of marriage this year, Mr. Speaker. Yeah. Absolutely. So I know everyone in here is dying to hear the secret of 60 years of marriage. And that was the first question I had to ask, Mr. Speaker. And it was very simple: just listen to your wife. So I'm going to take that advice to heart, Mr. Speaker, as well as many members in this Assembly should as well.

So join me in welcoming Michael and all of the board members of Ducks Unlimited to this, their Legislative Assembly.

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

Erika Ritchie: — Request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Erika Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will promise to keep this as brief as possible. I do want to join with the member from Walsh Acres and welcome the group from Ducks Unlimited that we had the pleasure to meet with this morning. And wow, 60 years of marriage. That's something we can all pay heed to.

But I want to also take a moment to welcome to their legislature and in the east gallery, constituents from the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena. We have Sandy and Susan Lowndes, Bruce Godhe, Shen Perron and Darrell Perron, Denessa Whitehead, Brandon Peequaquat, Terry Moose, and Wilfred Quill from the Yellow Quill First Nation.

From Moosomin-Montmartre, I'd like to invite and welcome Trevor Bravold, Lorne Scott, Clinton Blyth, and Johanna Blythe. From Last Mountain-Touchwood, I would like to welcome Brian and Brent Ulmer, Tom McDougall, Greg Van Luven, and Colleen Stueck. From Cannington we have Lane Mountney.

From Regina South Albert, Ken Burton is here. As already mentioned, from Regina Pasqua we have Joe Muldoon. Good to see you, Joe. Regina-Lakeview, Mar Craig is here. And from Melville-Saltcoats, we have Tim Balabuck.

And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

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

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to welcome a number of special guests and friends that come from Melville here today.

[14:00]

Wally Oucharek. Wally Oucharek is someone I'm going to be doing a member's statement on here soon. His wife, Joan, who is a retired public health nurse, I believe. My constituency assistant, Tim Ziola, and his wife, Kim, and their daughter Abbey, who is a pharmacy tech here at the Allan Blair clinic.

I'd like all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Meara Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a very full house, and it seems we're trying to set a record here today. But I wanted to stand up briefly to welcome my friends Bert and Ruth Adema, as well as their daughter Jocelyn, who's no stranger here.

Bert retired after 32 years at the Indigenous Christian Fellowship over in North Central this past year, Mr. Speaker. Well he says he's retired. I still see him everywhere so I'm skeptical. But I will have the great privilege of honouring him in a member's statement today.

I was just chatting with Bert and I asked him what stood out in his career. He talked about the support he's received from across the country, coast to coast, for his front-line ministry, serving the social and spiritual needs of North Central for three decades. One of the themes was that he got more than he gave, that he learned so much, particularly from Indigenous communities in that area.

They're joined today by Donna and Bert Ottenson. They're here in a supportive role. No strangers to their community, incredibly engaged, tremendous volunteers, and engaged in provincial issues. No stranger to this place, I don't think — no stranger to me — their son Nate is a talented dobro and guitar player in a bluegrass band with my partner, Nick: Hotdog Bluegrass.

So I wanted to welcome all of these fine folks to their Legislative Assembly and ask others to join me in doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Sean Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Up in your west gallery is a constituent of mine, Mary Huebert. She runs the Majestic Raptor rehabilitation clinic in Canora. They rehabilitate and release injured birds of prey, including hawks and owls. There are only a few groups that do this in the province, and I'm so proud to have her as part of my constituency. So I invite all members to welcome Mary to her Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis.

Don McBean: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I picked the right day to do an introduction, it looks like. To you and through you, I want to welcome to the Legislative Assembly Gary Wurst and Patty Kalytuk in the gallery facing us, who have driven down from Saskatoon today. I do wish to acknowledge that Gary and Patty live in the riding of Saskatoon Fairview and were pleased to hang out a bit with their favourite MLA, Ms. Mowat.

My connection with Gary and Patty has developed through my good friend Doug Fast. For some time now, Doug's been telling me about the amazing initiative that his brother-in-law Gary, with considerable support from sister Patty, have been working on. Earlier this fall, with the promise of a nice fall road trip, Doug got me pulled in to see it all first-hand. I was absolutely astounded and inspired by what I saw, as I know you will be also when I describe it in my member's statement in a moment.

For now I ask all members of the legislature to acknowledge and welcome Patty and Gary to this, their legislature.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly probably last but not least, but I will keep it brief. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome a constituent, the reeve of the RM [rural municipality] of Argyle No. 1, Reeve John Ryckman. I would like everyone to help me in welcoming him to his Legislative Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — So I had something that I thought was quite witty to say with our firefighters here. And our head Clerk, on the way down on the parade, she told me I better not say any inflammatory statements. So I didn't quite catch that until I finally got to the door and I realized, wow, that was pretty good. I'm a little slow.

But then I looked up onto the balcony and I thought, wow, that is a moving picture. And I thought, it's against the rules but maybe I could ask to take a picture. And then I realized, boy, the Speaker should follow the rules a little more. And do what I say and not as I do is probably a good . . . From a couple friends I was warned. So I appreciate that, but I will take a picture in my mind.

And I just look up there, and I think of all the volunteer firefighters across this province that served and I kept on hearing from our communities and all the communities across the province that were heading up one after the next. And I just don't want to miss the opportunity, at the very least, to say thank you for all that you've done to serve the people of the province, not just up north this summer. But you know, as I think Premier mentioned earlier, we can all sleep better knowing that you are willing to wake up at any time of the day or night to look after and protect us and our children.

So once again, thank you very much for all that you do. And that's one of the greatest pictures that I've seen since I've been here for this last seven years. So thank you again.

So we'll move to presenting petitions.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Stonebridge.

Darcy Warrington: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It brings me great pleasure as a former band teacher to rise today to present our petition calling for the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to support band education in Saskatchewan.

The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: that public schools are facing significant budgetary pressures and that band programs have reportedly already been reduced and are at risk of being eliminated due to inadequate operational funding; that music education, including band programs, are a critical part of a well-rounded public education that supports student achievement, mental health, and engagement; that research shows that music education improves cognitive development, literacy, numeracy, school attendance, and graduation rates; and that band programs provide unique opportunities for teamwork, discipline, leadership, and inclusivity, particularly benefiting students who may not engage in traditional academic or athletic programs.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to adequately fund public education, ensuring that all students in Regina and across Saskatchewan have access to band education as prescribed by the Saskatchewan arts education curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by residents from Assiniboia and Regina. I do so present.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University-Sutherland.

Tajinder Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition calling for mandatory intimate partner violence education.

The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: Saskatchewan has the highest per capita intimate partner violence — in short, IPV — also known as domestic violence. The economic impact of IPV in Canada is estimated at over \$7 billion per year. A large portion of tangible IPV costs are paid by the government for items like the criminal and civil justice system and health care system.

Annual estimated losses to employers from IPV are over 77 million in Canada. Workplace orientation would include all genders from all walks of life and all areas of the province. Employers and employees need to know the signs of IPV and where to call for help. Education is key to changing the rates of IPV.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer:

We respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately mandate education on intimate partner violence be included in the orientation process for all new employees across all workplaces in the province.

The undersigned residents are the residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Betty Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on the government to address the mental health and addictions crisis. The folks who signed this petition would like to bring to our attention: Saskatchewan has the highest suicide rate amongst the provinces, 18.1 per 100,000 people dying by suicide. The Indigenous population: Indigenous people die by suicide at a rate of 4.3 times higher than non-Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan continues to break its own records in overdose deaths and drug poisonings. One in four youth in Saskatchewan have reported having engaged in self-harm at some point, and one in four youth reported having considered suicide in the past year, with 9.7 per cent having attempted. And that the child and youth advocate in a 2022 report noted that long wait times and inadequate mental health and addiction services are leaving many children and youth without access to care when they need it.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to work with experts and community leaders on evidence-based solutions to the mental health and addictions crisis in Saskatchewan.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Aberdeen and Prince Albert. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Retiring Executive of Indigenous Christian Fellowship Leaves Legacy of Hope

Meara Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After 32 years with the Indigenous Christian Fellowship, executive director Bert Adema has retired. He has left a tremendous and lasting legacy of compassion, courage, and deep community trust. His steady presence and deep commitment to core values of justice, equality, dignity for all created a space where people feel seen, valued, and welcome, no matter their story.

Under his leadership, the ICF [Indigenous Christian Fellowship] became a true haven in the neighbourhood, a place where everyone belongs, where no question is too hard, where a warm meal, advice, a hug, or a second chance can always be found — guaranteed.

The first thing you notice about Bert, apart from his deady beard and his stylish bolo, is his warmth and incredible way with people. He lives in a beautiful way — honest, hopeful, intellectually curious, a twinkle in his eye, and a joyful laugh that he has passed on to more than one of his four talented daughters. He has truly served the social and spiritual needs of the neighbourhood with an open heart.

The ICF has hosted over 400 funerals, wakes, traditional ceremonies, Mr. Speaker. And while Bert will be the first to tell

you that hardship in North Central has grown over his three-decade career, especially where addiction and poverty are concerned, he never stopped working towards hope and social justice. He never stopped showing up on the front line. And as he steps into retirement, Bert leaves behind a beautiful legacy and a generation of people shaped, strengthened, and inspired by his example. Thank you, Bert.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Humboldt-Watrous.

SaskAbilities Strengthens Communities through Inclusion

Racquel Hilbert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to proclaim today as SaskAbilities Day, celebrating 75 years of remarkable service to children and adults with disabilities across our province.

From a grassroots organization starting in 1950, SaskAbilities has grown from a small family-led effort into a province-wide organization that now supports more than 50,000 people each year. Through programs that foster independence, create employment opportunities, improve accessibility for all, SaskAbilities has transformed lives and strengthened communities across Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, SaskAbilities is a valued partner in our government, and it plays an important role in helping to build our province where everyone has a chance to participate and belong. SaskAbilities, thank you again for your dedication to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating SaskAbilities on 75 years of dedication and compassion. You make this province a better place. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Chief Mistawasis.

Saskatoon Organization Redistributes Unused Meat from Outfitters

Don McBean: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago, Gary Wurst responded to a Kijiji offer of free goose meat in order to make his dog some special treats. And in doing so he discovered that outfitters have challenges disposing of all the meat that most hunters won't be bringing back across the border. Gary had an idea — what if he collected the meat and could distribute it to those in need?

Now three years later, he and his wife, Patty, and others have created Nature's Food Bank. In the past two years they've brought to the city over 30,000 pounds of goose meat.

I got to go to Northern Skies Outfitters near the town of Tway in the riding of Batoche. We picked up 300-plus pounds of goose, learned that the owner Mat loved the service that NFB [Nature's Food Bank] provides. And then I got to see Gary's set-up, which included five huge chest freezers in his backyard because there was no more room in the basement.

[14:15]

It is heart-burstingly inspiring to consider what Gary and Patty have done, and they're not done. This is just the start as they work toward moving beyond volunteers and out of their backyard. Nature's Food Bank will be growing. They have plans.

I am privileged to have become part of their journey. In the most serendipitous manner, Ducks Unlimited are hosting a reception today and we'll be there.

Here's to inspired minds, open hearts, and selfless dedication to those in need, making the world a better place through sweat and love. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Dakota-Arm River.

Team Saskatchewan's Achievements at Canada Summer Games

Barret Kropf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past August, the 2025 Canada Summer Games took place in St. John's, Newfoundland. Saskatchewan's contingent was made up of 488 participants, including 377 athletes representing 92 communities throughout our province. Some of those Team Sask members are seated up here in our gallery.

Mr. Speaker, Team Saskatchewan represented our province with pride, competing against the best athletes across Canada. Saskatchewan claimed 48 medals, including 13 gold, 14 silver, and 21 bronze medals. Team Sask finished 6th in the overall standings, and we're really proud of that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the honour of participating for Saskatchewan in various previous games, and I know what it takes to be able to promote a healthy, active lifestyle that enhances our vibrant quality of life and build pride throughout our province and communities. Athletes who compete at the Canada Games represent the country's next generation of national, international, Olympic, and Paralympic champions.

Participation in sport, culture, and recreation activities is a key part of building communities and developing Saskatchewan's youth. To the Team Sask members: we are proud of each of you for striving to achieve your goals, whether individually or as a team. Congratulations.

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

Inaugural Rhythm & Roots Asian Festival Brings Communities Together

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of countless individuals who volunteered at the Rhythm & Roots Asian Festival this past August at Lakeview Church in Saskatoon. This inaugural event marked an exciting new chapter in Saskatoon's cultural landscape. The first of its kind in the city, this three-day celebration of Asian heritage, culture, and creativity brought together ethnic communities from across Saskatchewan to share in the richness and diversity of Asian Canadian traditions.

With the event being free to attend, the festival offered something

for everyone — dynamic performances, traditional dances, music, art, and a bustling night market. More than a cultural showcase, Rhythm & Roots served as a platform for connection, storytelling, and collaboration, highlighting the voices of youth and emerging cultural leaders who are redefining Asian representation in our province.

I was joined by my colleagues, MLAs for Saskatoon Westview, Saskatoon Silverspring, and Saskatoon Southeast. It was a real treat to enjoy the food, take in the performances, and to address the crowd.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Filipino-Canadian Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Japanese Association, the USask [University of Saskatchewan] Filipino Students' Association, and the Filipino Heritage School on hosting the first annual Rhythm & Roots Asian Festival. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Melville Artist's Handcrafted Works Help Support Worthy Causes

Hon. Warren Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have the distinct honour of introducing to this Assembly a truly exceptional Saskatchewan-born artist, Mr. Walter Oucharek. Walter, or Wally, Oucharek is a retired educator from Melville and a proud recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for his outstanding contributions to environmental conservation. After retiring from his teaching career at Melville Comprehensive high school, he dedicated his time to his true passion — the arts.

Wally is best known for his impressive work across a wide range of mediums, including painting, stained glass, and carving, with pieces displayed throughout North America and the world. And he's a great wine maker.

One of his most fascinating pursuits though is handcrafting musical instruments from scratch to symphonic standards. He started with one violin, then two, followed by a viola, and finally handcrafting a cello. These four handcrafted instruments were featured in yearly symphonies at the Melville City Hall opera house performed by musicians from the Regina Symphony.

These concerts raised thousands of dollars for community and provincial organizations. In September of 2024 these instruments were again brought to life in Saskatoon, supporting urological health at St. Paul's Hospital, played by a distinguished group of medical professionals.

We proudly recognize Walter Oucharek for enriching our communities and his support of a number of worthy organizations. Thank you, Walter.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

Firefighters Awarded Premier's Commendation for Service in the North

Hon. Jamie Martens: — Mr. Speaker, today our government

celebrates exceptional service in public safety for those who responded to the unprecedented 2025 wildfire season. The Premier's Commendation awards recognize and honour firefighters who left their home communities to support the Saskatchewan people when they needed them the most.

The 2025 wildfire season was unlike anything else that Saskatchewan has ever faced. More than 500 wildfires swept across Saskatchewan burning close to 3 million hectares and affecting 55 communities through evacuations or direct fire impact. The scale of the crisis demanded more resources than ever.

In that moment of urgency, our government and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency turned to our firefighters to help in confronting the relentless fires, and they answered that call. The firefighting teams worked side by side with community leaders, contractors, and provincial utilities to safeguard lives, homes, cabins, and vital infrastructure.

For the long hours, the harsh conditions, the sacrifices that these firefighters made, the courage that they showed, Saskatchewan owes them a profound debt of gratitude. And to municipal and Indigenous leaders that oversaw evacuations, to provincial responders who fought the fires, to dispatchers and logistics teams who kept everything moving, and local fire departments and volunteers who answered every call, this recognition is yours. The awarded firefighters and their teams embody Saskatchewan's spirit — steady, determined, and fearless in the face of danger.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Premier's Commendation awards.

QUESTION PERIOD

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Provision of Health Care

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, in Alberta this Premier's best friend Danielle Smith has moved to privatize health care. We all know what this means. Health care workers will flee the public system and access to care will come down to who can afford to pay for it.

But that's Alberta, and this is Saskatchewan, the birthplace of medicare. People are supposed to get the health care they need regardless of the balance in their bank account or how many credit cards they have. Will the Premier commit right here, right now that he will not further privatize health care like Danielle Smith is doing? Yes or no?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Scott Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear. As a government we're going to use all of the tools and support all the initiatives that are going to provide health care services — a higher level of health care services — for patients, Mr. Speaker, regardless of where they live in the province.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone in this province has access to a primary health care provider, Mr. Speaker. We are committed to ensure that we are always focused on lowering the number of surgeries in this province. 188,000 surgeries have been privately delivered in this province, publicly funded, Mr. Speaker.

And I'd say as a policy, what I'm hearing from the members opposite is that they would remove those 188,000 surgeries, Mr. Speaker — over 10,000 this year, as we are on track to perform 100,000 surgeries this year — the most that have ever been performed in the province's history. But yes, part of those are going to be privately delivered but publicly funded surgeries to lower our wait-list and to provide access to those surgical theatres in a quicker fashion. Mr. Speaker, putting patients first each and every time; that is what this government is going to invest in.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Unregulated Care Provider in Moose Jaw

Vicki Mowat: — I guess that's a no, Mr. Speaker. And this Premier fails to recognize that public health care can be publicly delivered without a profit motive.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague from Walsh Acres stood in this House and raised the horrific case of Silvie Silvestri, who was allegedly denied care over and over by a so-called health centre in Moose Jaw. Susie had advanced ALS [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis]. She couldn't eat on her own and her health was rapidly deteriorating. She shared heartbreaking messages with her brother and put her house up for sale out of desperation to cover her health care bill.

When asked about this yesterday, the Premier couldn't find his feet, and the Health minister literally ran from reporters. Is that the state of health care in this province, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously in this House and in the rotunda yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the story that we read about Mr. Silvestri . . . over the weekend, a tragic, a tragic end to her life, Mr. Speaker. And again reiterated our government's, you know, reminder to constituents all across this province to seek and trust the advice of regulated health professionals. We have some great health care providers right across this province, whether that be physicians or nurses or many other professions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I shared yesterday, we have asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to look at options under *The Medical Profession Act*. We believe that under sections 79 and 80 of that particular Act they have some authority here, Mr. Speaker. We've also directed the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority to also look into the situation, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that this situation won't happen again.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Vicki Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the Premier and the

Minister of Health won't do their jobs and the College does not have jurisdiction here. The centre claims to have a 100 per cent success rate treating ALS. What a load of garbage, Mr. Speaker.

Today my colleague for Regina Walsh Acres has written to the Moose Jaw Police Service requesting a formal criminal investigation into this centre. Why hasn't the Premier done anything to protect people from what's going on at this clinic?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated just in my previous answer and as I indicated yesterday in the rotunda, this government has taken action, Mr. Speaker. We've asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to take a look at this, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to read an excerpt of the letter that was sent from my ministry to the CPSS [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan] today:

It is the responsibility of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan to serve and protect the public by regulating the practice of medicine and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care.

Mr. Speaker, the letter goes on to say, based on sections 79 and 80 of the Act, *The Medical Profession Act*:

I am requesting CPSS to take all appropriate steps, including opening a formal investigation into the centre for any infringement of this legislation regarding the services being rendered there.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Government Response to Wildfires in the North

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we are joined in the legislature by incredible people from the North, some of them that lost their homes in the wildfires, some of them that stayed behind putting their own health and safety at risk to defend their communities against the raging wildfires.

These people are incredible, Mr. Speaker, yet the overwhelming majority of people told me that they don't feel like they have a proper voice in wildfire management. Will the Minister of Public Safety support the creation of a formal wildfire management strategy that involves public consultation and relies on the advice of people that fought fires in the North for generations?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Policing, Corrections, and Public Safety.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And our province does have a wildfire management strategy, and it's based on best practice. And the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency relies upon the expertise of people who have been in this industry for over three decades, Mr. Speaker.

Not only do they rely upon the internal resources, but when we have an extreme fire season like we had this year, we reach out to other experts in the space, many of whom have joined us here today, Mr. Speaker, in your gallery — municipal firefighters,

volunteer firefighters, who have been doing this for years.

Mr. Speaker, our government commends and we thank those brave men and women for their assistance in battling forest fires this summer. Thank you.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Mr. Speaker, the wildfire management that this government has does not work. The people of the North feel like they don't have a voice, Mr. Speaker.

Trevor Sewap quit out of frustration as fire base supervisor for Pelican Narrows as the fire destroyed Denare Beach. He had said no one was listening, and I quote, "I've been fighting fires since before many of these people that are calling the shots were even born." Kari Lentowicz is also here today. She has an extensive background in disaster and emergency management, and she says that she's not being listened to, Mr. Speaker.

Will the minister meet with these folks about the wildfire management immediately after question period? Or better yet, will the Premier?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Policing, Corrections, and Public Safety.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And of course, as we've said many times, this government is happy to meet with community leaders, community members who were impacted by the fires, which in fact is what we have done all summer long, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

Many members on this side have gone north meeting with communities, meeting with community leaders. A dozen meetings at least, Mr. Speaker, with community leaders. We'd be happy to meet with these individuals, and I would welcome Trevor and Kari and Millie and Myra to this, their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Of course we'd be happy to meet with them.

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

Purchase of Water Bombers

Hugh Gordon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government is under an investigation by the Provincial Auditor for overspending on water bombers by nearly \$100 million. Unfathomable. And the craziest part, the contract for those bombers was sole-sourced. No competition, no opportunity to get a better bid for the taxpayer. How can the Premier justify sole-sourcing this contract, and how much extra did taxpayers have to pay for that choice?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Policing, Corrections, and Public Safety.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it should come as no surprise that the auditor, the Provincial Auditor is conducting an audit, Mr. Speaker. That is what she

does. We welcome that report, Mr. Speaker, and look forward to its results.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, we have heard members from the opposition talking about a \$100 million overspend, Mr. Speaker. That's simply ridiculous. Mr. Speaker, the contract for these water bombers was \$184 million, four water bombers delivered over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, next door in NDP [New Democratic Party] Manitoba, they paid \$80 million for the deposit on three water bombers, Mr. Speaker, and they don't even know what the final price is going to be. So for the members opposite to suggest that we could acquire four water bombers for \$80 million is nothing short of ridiculous.

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

Hugh Gordon: — That's hardly a satisfactory answer to the question when this government knows full well that, had they gone through a proper process, that they might have learned they could have saved \$100 million. And at the end of the day, the buck stops with this government and with this Premier.

We know that not only did this government not follow the proper procurement process, but in violating it they may have cost us an extra \$100 million. Imagine what could have been done with the \$100 million, Mr. Speaker, to benefit the people of Saskatchewan.

Can the Premier tell this House today which minister he intends on firing for this gross misuse of taxpayer dollars?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Policing, Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. No matter how many times the opposition repeat it, it doesn't make it so, Mr. Speaker. The allegation that there was no procurement process is simply untrue, Mr. Speaker.

There was a procurement process. It was followed in the acquisition of these planes, Mr. Speaker. They were purchased for 100 . . . I stand corrected; it was \$187 million for four water bombers, Mr. Speaker, that will be delivered over the next four years — one of which was put to work this summer, and we're thankful for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Band and Music Education and Funding for Education

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, we're joined by people from our province here today who are concerned about cuts to band education in Saskatchewan. Every student in this province deserves to have access to high-quality education, and band is an important part of that education for so many children in this province. But because of cuts to funding from this 18-year-old Sask Party government, school boards don't have the resources that they need to fully fund our kids' education.

What does the Education minister say to band parents and band students who are seeing cuts to these important programs?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current budget that we're in right now presented another increase to operating funding for school divisions across this province, Mr. Speaker, an 8.4 per cent increase in operating funding. This was on top of the 8.8 per cent increase in funding in last year's provincial budget, Mr. Speaker.

These are significant investments, hundreds of millions of dollars towards our school division partners to address a number of pressures and issues in our schools across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that's going to continue to invest in education to make sure that we are focusing on K to 3 [kindergarten to grade 3] literacy, expanding our specialized support classrooms, Mr. Speaker, hiring more teachers in the classrooms and more supports as well to ensure that our students get their best start to learn right in our Saskatchewan classrooms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Matt Love: — Mr. Speaker, the budget year that we're in saw a \$2.7 million deficit for one division right here in this city.

Now the minister should know that band and music education have benefits that are well established. I'll remind him that playing an instrument helps students reduce stress and anxiety. Studies show that band students do better in math and science, and learning an instrument teaches students the importance of perseverance and hard work. Every kid should have access to high-quality band education in this province, but a decade — a decade — of Sask Party cuts to education have put all of that at risk.

Why isn't the Education minister giving school divisions the funding they need to keep band off the chopping block?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously, we have made record investments into the education system in this province, Mr. Speaker, to our 27 school divisions. And the school boards, the school divisions will then make their decisions at budget time in terms of their own specific budgets and where those dollars are spent, Mr. Speaker.

Again, these are important investments, and I think they're appreciated by the sector, Mr. Speaker. Just looking back from earlier this spring, for example, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools said for the second year in a row the provincial budget contains positive news in terms of the increase in funding, Mr. Speaker. That's acknowledged by that school division in Saskatoon.

I've been meeting with school divisions and touring schools across the province, Mr. Speaker, talking to board members, talking to directors of education, and they're grateful and appreciative of the investments made by this government into

education. We're going to continue to do that, consult with our partners and make sure that we continue to build this education system in Saskatchewan for all of our students from all across this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Darcy Warrington: — Mr. Speaker, the cuts keep coming. I was a band teacher before I was an MLA. School boards shouldn't have to make decisions between home ec, IA [industrial arts], or band or anything else.

Bev, Sherry, Darcy, Christina, Steve, and Suzanne seated in your Assembly have also seen first-hand as band teachers and parents the value music brings to kids in schools. Kids learn how to collaborate and explore creatively. Education scholars agree kids shouldn't just have the option to play and sing music, they need and deserve opportunities with more support. For countless kids, the band room is where they fit in, where they feel safe, where they can truly be themselves. But after 18 years of Sask Party governance, we've seen band cuts in Saskatchewan schools as a result of abysmal per-student funding.

Could the minister tell these concerned parents and teachers why they should accept such a low standard for music education in our province?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that any member of this Chamber would disagree with the importance of band and every program that's offered in Saskatchewan schools, Mr. Speaker. I was a band student growing up. As a matter of fact I went home last night to watch a Christmas band concert back in Swift Current. We know that this is important to families right across this province, Mr. Speaker, to . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member, I'm going to have to ask that you let the minister respond to the question please.

Minister of Education.

Hon. Everett Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since forming government we have increased operating funding by over \$900 million to Saskatchewan's school divisions, an over 70 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker. And as part of the consultations, the meetings that I have and the discussions that I have with schools, with principals, with school board members, with divisions, we talk about where things are working well in the system and where there can be areas for more support. And these are part of the deliberations we have as part of the budget process, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a government that is committed to investing in our education system, making sure that we are giving all of our students in Saskatchewan their best start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Water Management

Erika Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, today we are joined by many people who are concerned about the Sask Party government's failure to manage and protect our shared water resources. We have people here from Yellow Quill First Nation and producers and landowners as well. One of them is Sandy Lowndes, who is being forced to take on water from her neighbours with no recourse. Her land is for all intents and purposes being expropriated so her neighbours can drain. Why is the Agriculture minister forcing landowners like Sandy to give up her property rights?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Effective water management is important to our producers and to our government. WSA [Water Security Agency] works with landowners to ensure drainage is done responsibly. WSA encourages local conservation districts to engage with impacted landowners, and it is important to note that conservation districts are elected by local landowners. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

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

Erika Ritchie: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that that's simply not the case. These folks who are here today are concerned about water management in the province, and it's all underpinned by an agriculture water management strategy that is not fit for purpose. This policy leads to conflicts between landowners, and it relies on so-called facts that just aren't true.

The government keeps saying that 86 per cent of wetlands are preserved when we know that that just is not the case. Why won't the minister go back to the drawing board and scrap this failed ag water management strategy?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This policy was built by Saskatchewan people for Saskatchewan people. It strikes a balance between landscape resiliency and economic development. WSA has engaged with over 80 stakeholder organizations and Indigenous communities, including the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], in developing this policy. This consultation will continue. And we're there for our producers each and every step of the way. Thank you.

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

Erika Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, those are just words, but they don't reflect reality. Mr. Speaker, after 18 years in office, the Sask Party government is failing to manage drainage, and they're failing to manage our wetlands. This government overstates the amount of wetlands that are left, and they enable drainage without recourse for landowners who are impacted.

What we need is a wetland conservation strategy in Saskatchewan. We're the only province without one. When will this minister catch up with the rest of the country and introduce

a wetland conservation strategy? And will he meet with these stakeholders today?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Daryl Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to put it on the record again, the member opposite said it: 86 per cent of wetlands in our province are undrained. So we know Saskatchewan producers are great stewards of the land. For comparison, Mr. Speaker, Alberta has only 30 to 40 per cent of its wetlands remaining, and Manitoba only has 25 per cent. Mr. Speaker, I await the next question.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Inquiry into Government's Wildfire Response

Jordan McPhail: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My brothers from Athabasca and Saskatoon Silverspring have stood in this House today looking to get some straight answers on the unprecedented wildfire crisis in the North. But as has been the case this entire sitting, this government refuses to be held accountable or commit to the necessary changes to prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again.

Yesterday we reviewed the supplementary estimates for the emergency wildfire response. I had literally pages upon pages of questions from my own constituents, but this government cut the time in half that we requested to go through these questions. Why does this government, at every single turn, hide from my constituents and proper accountability for this wildfire crisis?

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Policing, Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Nobody's hiding, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite is new, but he should know that supplementary estimates are to deal with supplementary estimates. They're not a fishing expedition for an inquiry that the member opposite has been calling for when in fact, Mr. Speaker, we've already contracted Meyers Norris Penny to do an independent third-party review.

It will be a comprehensive review that all of his constituents and all of the participants participating in this summer's forest fire experience, Mr. Speaker, will be able to contribute to the review so that that report can be made available and we can ensure that we are implementing best practices next summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Jordan McPhail: — Mr. Speaker, the only thing that's new is that minister's ability to dig his feet in harder and still pretend to be a rookie at his position.

Mr. Speaker, another non-answer from a government that doesn't think it owes anything to the very people that elected it. I hear from folks in the North every single day that they lost faith in this Sask Party government long ago. After 18 years of these guys, they no longer believe they have a voice.

[14:45]

To the minister: prove me wrong and launch a truly independent public inquiry into the wildfire crisis that so many are demanding. The North is watching. Will the government, will that Premier, will that minister commit to that today?

Speaker Goudy: — Before any more responses, let's keep the personal comments back and forth out of the debate please, out of the questions and comments.

Minister, please.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I've indicated today and many times today, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency is doing a full review of this fire season, Mr. Speaker. As well, Meyers Norris Penny is doing an independent fulsome review, independent from the agency, Mr. Speaker. It's a third-party interview, Mr. Speaker, that's led by experts in the industry.

The member opposite continues to call for a judicial-led inquiry, Mr. Speaker. A judge is not an expert in forest fire management, Mr. Speaker. Meyers Norris Penny has been used in British Columbia. They've been used in Jasper. They've been used in Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. These are the experts, Mr. Speaker, who do a review, a fulsome review. All of the participants . . .

[Interjections]

Speaker Goudy: — Member from Saskatoon Silverspring, I don't know if you're listening, but you're the one that we're all hearing. So please . . .

Minister.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, all of the people who were impacted by this year's forest fires will have an opportunity to contribute to that review. The materials will be reviewed and prepared so that we have a fulsome report to go into next forest fire season so that we can ensure that best practices are being implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Addressing Homelessness

Brent Blakley: — Mr. Speaker, homelessness across the province is up. You can see it in communities large and small. Homelessness in Saskatoon is up 400 per cent under this Premier's watch. And because of this government's choices, they let our houses sit vacant, our housing units sit vacant. And they've done nothing to help people with the cost of rent.

After 18 years of the Sask Party government, it's progressively getting worse. When the Minister for Social Services drives through our communities and sees people sleeping rough without supports, does he really think that this is how things should be after 18 years of the Sask Party?

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

Hon. Terry Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government is putting the people of Saskatchewan first, Mr. Speaker, the well-being of residents all across Saskatchewan — including in the cities like Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert — helping individuals live safer, healthier, and more connective lives, Mr. Speaker.

It's a complex issue, and it's one that our government is taking extremely seriously. We announced on November 19th an additional \$20 million in our provincial approach to homelessness, which is going to expand homelessness services. It's going to give certainty to our partners over three years in terms of funding. It's going to create up to 40 new emergency shelter spaces and 60 new supportive housing spaces, Mr. Speaker.

I'll say this. This is a government that remains committed, Mr. Speaker, to strengthening supports that address homelessness, partnering with communities, our Indigenous leaders, and community-based organizations to ensure the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, are kept safe and secure.

Speaker Goudy: — Why is the member on her feet?

Hon. Lori Carr: — A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — And what's your point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Lori Carr: — Mr. Speaker, during question period the member from Saskatoon Nutana said directly to the Agriculture minister, so-called facts that just aren't true.

Mr. Speaker, this is clearly unparliamentary language, and I would ask that she withdraw and apologize.

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the leader of the . . . Opposition House Leader.

Nicole Sarauer: — Opposition House Leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage you to listen to the member's question once again, compare it to the rulings that you've made over this session. I think you'll find that that language was very much within your bounds of what is considered parliamentary language. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that you find that that point of order is not well taken.

Speaker Goudy: — So actually before she stood up, I did hear the statement and I did play it through in my mind a few times. And the way it was worded is we can challenge the facts, that one side believes they're facts and other side believes they're false. So you know, that's debate. I think those are the lines that are, you know, can be crossed quite easily. But I don't think she was out of line, so it's not well taken. So thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 44 — *The Co-operatives Act, 2025* *Loi de 2025 sur les coopératives*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 44, *The Co-operatives Act, 2025*, bilingual, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It's been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 44, *The Co-operatives Act, 2025*, bilingual, be now introduced and 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?

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 45 — *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 45, *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025* be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 45, *The Co-operatives Consequential Amendments Act, 2025* be now introduced and 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?

Hon. Tim McLeod: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 609 — *The Saskatchewan Wildfire Strategy Act*

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Leroy Laliberte: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 609, *The Saskatchewan Wildfire Strategy Act* be now introduced and read for the first time.

Speaker Goudy: — It has been moved by the member from Athabasca that Bill No. 609, *The Saskatchewan Wildfire Strategy Act* be now introduced and 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.

Bill No. 24

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

[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.]

Leroy Laliberte: — At the next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Goudy: — Next sitting.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Blaine McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its second report for the thirtieth legislature, which includes the 2025-26 supplementary estimates no. 1.

I move:

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice for the thirtieth legislature be now concurred in.

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

That the second report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice for the thirtieth legislature be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Speaker Goudy: — I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Lori Carr: — I wish to order question no. 27 and 28.

Speaker Goudy: — Question no. 27 and 28 are ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Sally Housser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased today to rise to put some remarks on the record for Bill No. 24, *The Saskatchewan Internal Trade Promotion Act*. Obviously conversation around trade and tariffs has really dominated the past nine months. You know, we've talked about it lots here in the legislature. And naturally it makes a lot of sense to be able to increase trade within the borders of Canada, being able to trade east to west with our provincial partners.

You know, we agree that streamlining processes around standards and certifications makes a lot of sense. We'd also like to see obviously a prioritization of procurement and contracts with Canadian companies as opposed to the US [United States]. But this is an excellent start in that respect.

Naturally I'd be remiss if I didn't reference, in my mind, the superior bill introduced by my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale. Because it does address the one significant concern that we do have when we are streamlining certifications and standards, and that is in labour standards. We want to be able to build so many things — rail and pipe and transmission and major projects across this country — and what will help in that is for there to be able to be a movement of labour and skilled workers across this country.

What we don't want to see is a race to the bottom in terms of standards. We want occupational health and safety to remain paramount in that respect. And the risk in this respect is that basically everybody goes to the lowest standard that currently exists. We think that's the wrong way to go about that, Mr. Speaker.

But with that, I know we're going to be watching this one closely. A number of my colleagues have put many comments on the record in this respect. Again I'd encourage the members to fully read the bill put forward by my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale. But ultimately I would like to conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on this Bill No. 24.

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 Fairview.

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to enter into debate today on Bill No. 29, *The Tailgating Act*. What a year it's been for us in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not an avid sports fan, but *The Tailgating Act* is the amount of sports I can get excited about, I think.

It was quite the special experience to have the Saskatchewan Roughriders join us during the champions' parade here and come into the legislature. I was the envy of all my family, getting to interact with them in that way. And I know that they truly are Saskatchewan's team. There's nothing quite like the Riders to bring us together. Even when we disagree over politics, sports has this way of uniting us, and I think that that sense of community is something that we can all get behind.

So of course, you know, I'm not anyone to stand in the way of a good social time. I think that the changes in this Act leave out a lot of details. There's a lot of questions about how implementation would actually take place, you know, where and when folks could bring their own liquor and what the parameters are around that. Good to see that there are still regulations around the legality of it, Mr. Speaker, in terms of age and producing identification.

But overall I think that this will have a good impact on our culture. You know, I certainly think about tailgating and how tied it is to celebrations in the United States where football is even bigger than it is in Saskatchewan somehow, Mr. Speaker. I think folks will just want to ensure that people are enjoying responsibly and get home safely as well.

But with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 29. 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 Saskatoon Riversdale.

[15:00]

Kim Breckner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is all about international child support co-operation, something that we can certainly support, international co-operation on this matter. I know a lot of my colleagues have talked about how difficult it is, the costs in raising a child, you know, everything from PST [provincial sales tax] on groceries to children's clothes.

So it's important that we take these steps to be able to better enforce inter-jurisdictional child support orders. And with that I am prepared to allow this bill to move to committee.

Speaker Goudy: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale that Bill No. 30, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2025*, bilingual, be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Speaker Goudy: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

Speaker Goudy: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the leader of the government . . . Government House Leader.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Speaker Goudy: — I designate this Bill No. 30, *The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Amendment Act, 2025* to be committed to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice committee.

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 University.

Sally Housser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to enter some remarks on Bill No. 31. You know, this is a fascinating one. Talking with many of my colleagues who are in the legal profession and being married to somebody who is in that profession as well, I'm always fascinated by Acts around the law, particularly ones that deal with some of these particularly complex issues like defamation.

Obviously this bill looks at issues around tightening some of the laws for legal action against defamatory publications. It talks about damages and any subsequent defamation that occurs, as well as whether juries must rule on whether defamation occurred or not. The one issue here is kind of things that are protected are legislative proceedings — municipal, provincial, federal — and publications, and I'm sure sometimes we're probably pleased of that here in this legislature; legal proceedings and reports; and peer-reviewed academic and scientific journals.

What becomes the issue here, Mr. Speaker, is . . . And I often think of both politics and law as being similar in that they're essentially competitive linguistics. So everything hinges essentially on, what does "malicious" mean?

And defamation is so commonplace on the internet, and we want, as legislators here in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that we are putting forward legislation that is enforceable and that

has the intended effect. Otherwise if it's unenforceable, frankly it's a lot of work for a lot of people and not necessarily the best on the books. So this is something that we'd like to talk to obviously law enforcement about and many stakeholders about, particularly around defamation as it relates to online social media and the internet, the efficacy of that, and the actual possibility of being able to prosecute or have convictions or remedies in that respect.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 31, *The Defamation 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. 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 University.

Sally Houser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't repeat myself too much when we're talking about Bill No. 32 in this respect. You know, much like the old libel and slander Act, the definition of "malicious intent" often, you know, is a little vague in that respect. And I think when we're looking at legislation we might look at outlining a little more to give some guidance in that respect.

But ultimately I know I would probably leave more in-depth commentary to my colleagues that have more experience in the legal profession, and I know we will continue to consult with stakeholders. And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 32.

Speaker Goudy: — The member's 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 Churchill-Wildwood.

Keith Jorgenson: — Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. It's great to get up and talk about something that's truly Saskatchewan — credit unions. You know, in a lot of rural communities a credit union is the financial glue that holds the community together, in

many cases the only financial institution.

You know, I myself have been recently a member of two credit unions. One was on 20th Street in Saskatoon. It's now merged with another credit union, but you know, it provided a really unique service. For about 80 years it provided service in both English and Ukrainian in Saskatoon. And you know, that little credit union not only was an institution in terms of providing financial services to people, but also was a cultural hub providing support for a variety of cultural groups.

I'm a member of another credit union which in Saskatoon does tons of philanthropic lending. You know, a lot of non-profit societies and charities simply wouldn't be able to finance the purchase of buildings without credit unions. So this legislation appears to make a number of changes around how it defines the membership in credit unions, and credit union memberships can be surrendered or taken away. And so I think we do need to do some consultation with stakeholders about that prior to its passage. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate on Bill 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. 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 Fairview.

Vicki Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to enter into debate on Bill No. 35 today, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act*. This piece of legislation aims to better support the mining industry by creating rules to maximize mineral exploration.

We know that mining is an essential industry in our province. You can't think of Saskatchewan without thinking about the impact of potash and uranium, now helium and 27 out of the 34 critical minerals, Mr. Speaker. We have so many different resources. We are a province rich in resources, and so mining is critical to our entire operation here.

This piece of legislation will allow companies to apply for access and explore for minerals in areas that are considered inaccessible, and aim to attract more investment in mining. So it's certainly encouraging to see that, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have such a great deal of mining exports, resource revenues, jobs in our province that are tied to the mining sector. So it's certainly an industry we want to see keep growing.

We also need to make sure that we're talking to stakeholders, including Indigenous stakeholders. We know this government does not have the best reputation for engaging with duty-to-

consult, Mr. Speaker. So that needs to happen, and we need to see those earnest conversations taking place as part of this bigger picture.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my colleagues will have more to say on this piece of legislation, but with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 35 for today.

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 Regina University.

Sally Housser: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Pleased to rise today to enter some remarks into the record on Bill No. 36, *The Change of Name Amendment Act*.

Naturally very pleased to see a modernization of the current Act. It's always great to be updating legislation we have. In particular, this one changes name requirements so that family names no longer are limited to two components. They can have triple-barrelled surnames or more. Or if your last name is multi-component, your spouse may use just one of the components of their last name. And they can include non-Roman characters, as prescribed in the regulations.

So this is a, you know, a great modernization that reflects the increasing diversity of our province as well as the makeup of different family units. And we very much applaud that, Mr. Speaker.

Another issue with the bill is that the government . . . not an issue, but a function of the bill. The government can notify police of any change of name, and that they can also notify other provinces' vital statistics and be notified if you change your name in another province. And while on the surface, obviously this seems as a positive, in many ways this can be a help to survivors of domestic violence in that they're notified if somebody is . . . an ex-partner has changed their name.

But we do want to consult with various different stakeholders and groups in this respect, because we do not want to see a law of unintended consequences in terms of notification, i.e. if somebody was to be escaping domestic violence to another province and was notified of a name change. So that's one that we would like to continue consulting on.

The other effect of this Bill No. 36 is that only permanent residents and citizens can apply for a name change. And that seems sensible on the . . . I'm frankly curious. I always, when there's a change in legislation or an Act, I'm always looking for

the problem that this is trying to solve. I'm curious if there was a glut of temporary residents who were trying to change their name when they were in Canada. I don't know.

And then finally, and this is one that you can't change a spouse's name without their written consent. And I did not realize that, again, that that was something that was happening. But I'm certainly delighted to see that. I'm very fond of my last name, so if nobody can do it without my permission, that's delightful.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 36.

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 Regina University.

Sally Housser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again pleased to rise on Bill No. 37, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act*. Again you know, on the surface here we're delighted to see the modernization of an Act. Legislation should always be growing and changing to reflect the realities of a society as it itself grows and changes.

This bill allows the minister to appoint a registrar of vital statistics in keeping with other health registrars, and those registrars are able to make minor amendments to names, including spelling, if satisfied. They are able to check records and disclose information to public agencies unless they believe it's for profit or gain. And you know, again I'd love to see some more specifics of what constitutes belief in profit or gain.

And also to amend marriage records to protect privacy of vulnerable persons at the registrar's discretion. Again similar to Bill 36, this is one where we are very glad to see protections for vulnerable people. You know, we will continue to consult with stakeholders to ensure that, again, we do not see unintended consequences in this.

But on the surface, modernization and increased protections for vulnerable people is so critical and one of the many, many tools. I'm glad to see at least one being used to try to combat our worst-in-the-country rate of interpersonal or intimate partner violence, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of other tools that I think would be very effective as well, but this is a good start in that respect.

[15:15]

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 37.

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 Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have a chance to speak today on Bill 38, *The Building Schools Faster Act*. Now my understanding is that this bill is designed to place responsibilities on municipalities for identifying the need for new schools and the acquisition of land for new schools. If the municipalities do not find land for schools, the municipality must repay the ministry for the land.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that our province is in dire need of new schools, particularly in newer urban areas where there is a high concentration of young families and schoolchildren. However this bill only applies to building new schools. So my first red flag here is that it does not apply to the many schools in the cities and other places in our province that require repairs and renovations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in my previous role as an instructor in a teacher education program, I had the opportunity to visit numerous schools throughout Saskatoon and other areas of the province, and I know first-hand that many existing schools do require repairs.

Another concern about this bill is that it is again moving responsibilities onto municipalities that are already struggling with infrastructure needs and issues such as houselessness. And I'm aware that SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] met with the Minister of Education yesterday to emphasize that they're worried about the downloading of this responsibility on municipalities. And just a reminder that education is a provincial responsibility.

And I would also like to note that the Saskatchewan Home Builders' Association has also recently voiced a concern that this Act could result in an increased cost for building houses in new urban areas, where affordability and housing supply are already key concerns.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 38. 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. 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 Westview.

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again, this time to speak to Bill 39, *The Building Schools Faster Consequential Amendment Act*, which partners Bill 38. I have spoken to Bill 38 already but will note that Bill 39 is meant to amend *The Education Act* to support Bill 38. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 39.

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. 40

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Daryl Harrison that **Bill No. 40 — *The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025*** 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 rise in debate today on Bill No. 40, *The Animal Protection Act* of 2025.

According to the minister's second reading speech, this Act intends to address critical gaps in enforcement to establish better public accountability to reflect the higher standards that now exist in animal welfare since the Act was first introduced in 2018, as well as proposing a number of administrative challenges.

He indicates that there are a number of changes that have existed in terms of standards. It's important to protect animals and to honour these international standards that exist, especially as it results to international trade, which we know is so important, Mr. Speaker.

So far allegedly the livestock industry stakeholders do not have concerns with this bill. We will be making sure of that as well, Mr. Speaker, and doing adequate consultation to ensure that there are no unintended side effects of this legislation.

We know that the livestock industry is critical to our province. We saw that last week as well with Agribition in Regina, Mr. Speaker, so many proud producers that are part of our province, that are part of our country and really put us on the map internationally as well, Mr. Speaker. So we're incredibly proud of those folks who represent us so well on the international stage.

We'll have a lot more to dig into on this legislation, Mr. Speaker. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 40 for today.

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 Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Alana Ross that **Bill No. 41 — *The Heritage Recognition (From Many Peoples, Strength) Act/Loi sur la reconnaissance du patrimoine (Nos origines multiples, notre force)*** be now read a second time.]

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

April ChiefCalf: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased again to be on my feet today to speak on, this time, Bill 41, the heritage recognition or "from many peoples, strength" Act. Now my understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that this Act is meant to "recognize the strength Saskatchewan derives from the heritage of its many peoples." And I want to return to this point in just a moment.

Specifically this Act allows the minister through regulations to proclaim any heritage day, week, or month that they wish to recognize. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that Saskatchewan is a very multicultural province and that recognizing how this diversity shapes and benefits our province is very important. And on that point, Mr. Speaker, I am supportive of this bill.

But we also need to understand that recognizing diversity goes beyond celebrations. Now before I became an MLA, I was a university instructor and I taught courses in anti-oppressive education. And in that field we have always found that empowering diversity in our population, in our schools, in our workplaces, in our political spheres, and in our province as a whole goes beyond recognizing someone's heritage for one day or week or month. We call that the heroes-and-holidays approach in education, Mr. Speaker. And the problem is that it doesn't always tackle discrimination or the barriers that, say, Indigenous peoples or new Canadians face.

So while we are happy to see a way to celebrate and acknowledge our diverse heritage in Saskatchewan, we also want to see a province where everyone who makes this province their home can be included and empowered. We want our province to be a place where everyone can engage in work, in politics, in culture, and in industry. And we know we have had occasions where that has not been the case in our province or in this Assembly.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 41, the heritage recognition 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. 42

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Tim McLeod that **Bill No. 42 — *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act, 2025*** be now read a second time.]

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

Sally Housser: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 42, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment Act*. We are very supportive of this legislation and very supportive of the firearm commissioner's office and the role that they play in keeping people all across Saskatchewan safe.

Saskatchewan people take their guns very seriously. Obviously it's a large part of our heritage in terms of hunting. And you know, as part of a gun-owning household, safety is absolutely paramount in all respects.

Now you know, I have to confess, Mr. Speaker, my outdoorsmanship extends more to the fishing side of things, although the member from Regina Rosemont has promised to take me hunting in the not-too-distant future, and I'm very much looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker.

One thing that I would like to say here is that, you know, this legislation gives the Chief Firearms Officer, the CFO . . . It means they can designate any firearm safety instructor, plus policies and guidelines for designation — and you can't operate as an instructor without designation — and that the CFO has full inspection powers at shooting clubs and ranges.

And I have to say that support for the Chief Firearms Officer has to extend beyond legislation. You can grant the powers, but if you do not have the resources or the people to be able to cover the entire province, then again, the legislation is a little bit toothless. So that's something. If we're talking about the safety, we need to see the CFO have the resources that allow them to do their job and do their job to the best of their ability, in addition to it being enshrined in legislation.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 42, *The Saskatchewan Firearms Amendment 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. 43

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Eric Schmalz that **Bill No. 43 — *The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction 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 again today on Bill No. 43, *The Municipalities Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act*. Mr. Speaker, this bill intends to amend three existing pieces of legislation that govern how municipalities operate within the province.

A lot of folks don't really understand the feature of municipal governments. But something that I think is really interesting is that legally, municipal governments are not governments and are just created as a function or an extension of the provincial government. But that's just my like nerdy background coming in here, for anyone who's viewing at home.

So there's a lot of detail in this legislation. This background information that I have here, Mr. Speaker, is so large that I can barely pick it up. So I don't think we will be going through line by line on this legislation today unless folks want to stay here for the next several hours. But I do trust that the critic will do that work.

The minister indicates that this is the result of extensive consultation. We will certainly be doing our due diligence on the opposition side to make sure that is the case, to consult with municipal stakeholders. In the minister's second reading speech, he indicates that it's taken a lot of work to create a piece of legislation that "meets the needs of municipalities and the expectations of the public." We're certainly going to make sure that's the case, Mr. Speaker.

There is a lot of information here about supposed modernization — including accessing information on the internet, which certainly people expect in 2025 — as well as the training expectations for officials that are involved in the municipal level of government. So a number of the changes can be classified under modernization, improving transparency, or providing tools for enforcement of bylaws or tax enforcement.

We'll be having a really close look at this, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are a number of issues with our municipalities right now. One of those is the downloading of responsibility for housing and homelessness, as we've mentioned before in question period. Has arisen within my home city of Saskatoon where they've produced a report to this effect showing that this is directly tied to cost increases, cost pressures on the municipal government, and the fact that we're having a 12 per cent property tax increase over two years.

So just a reminder to the government that we only have one taxpayer, that this downloading of responsibility impacts citizens, and that ultimately they have a responsibility to those people as well. So I want to remind them of that. Make sure that these changes reflect the role that municipalities have; that these citizens stand up and take up responsibility on behalf of their municipalities, take leadership on behalf of their municipalities, and do that important advocacy; and to respect the roles that those people have as well and the work that takes place there.

We'll have a close look at this, Mr. Speaker. And I know the critic will have a lot more questions. But with that, I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 43 for today.

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 Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Lori Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:30.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Health

Hon. Daryl Harrison
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation

Hon. Everett Hindley
Minister of Education

Hon. Terry Jenson
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Travis Keisig
Minister of Environment

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Highways
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement
Minister Responsible for the
Global Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Tim McLeod
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

Hon. Jim Reiter
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance
Minister of Immigration and Career Training
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Alana Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

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

Hon. Colleen Young
Minister of Energy and Resources